

# Illinois Forensic Science Commission- FIGG Subcommittee

## Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2025, 1 p.m. meeting

- I. Call to order  
Dr. Cris Hughes, subcommittee chairperson, called the meeting to order.
- II. Roll-call  
The following people were present:
  1. Ponni Arunkumar,\* FS Commission Member, subcommittee member
  2. Claire Dragovich, FS Commission Member, subcommittee member
  3. Cris Hughes, FS Commission Member, subcommittee chairperson
  4. Jeanne Richeal, FS Commission Member, subcommittee member
  5. Amy Watroba, Executive Director-Forensic Science Commission
  6. Robin Woolery, Director Designee, subcommittee member(\*indicates individual who joined meeting after roll call)
- III. Discussion/Approval of Minutes from Meeting on March 21, 2025
  1. The minutes from the March 21, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.
- IV. Discussion Topics- Review/discussion of presentations from guest speakers and discussion of subcommittee goals and next steps.
  1. The subcommittee continued discussion from the last meeting about presentations provided by subject matter experts in various aspects of FIGG and identified law enforcement agencies who have used FIGG and coroners as additional stakeholders that could speak at future meetings.
  2. The subcommittee discussed the types of information the subcommittee may include in resource documents for law enforcement agencies about the use of FIGG, including guidance related to the use of vendor labs for generation of STR profiles in cases that ultimately also may utilize FIGG and the importance of ensuring that any profiles can be uploaded to CODIS at the national level and to Illinois's SDIS (Standard 17). The subcommittee discussed possible types of resource documents, including a decision tree, FAQ document, checklists, a short brochure with a link to the Commission's webpage, and more detailed informational documents and resources that could be housed on the Commission webpage. The Commission's webpage could serve as a hub for neutral information about FIGG for all Illinois agencies. The information provided should corroborate what CODIS labs in Illinois already are communicating to law enforcement partners when they reach out regarding

the option of pursuing FIGG in cases. The documents also should stress the importance of early communication with an agency's Illinois CODIS lab to ensure that STR profiles are not developed at a private lab that cannot be uploaded to SDIS in Illinois.

3. The subcommittee discussed the fact that it is easier for law enforcement agencies to identify cases that may be suitable for FIGG (unsolved violent crimes with entered CODIS profiles that have not resulted in a hit) and for those agencies to then consult with their CODIS lab to determine how much extract is left, ratios in mixture, quality of samples, and which samples or items might be prioritized for FIGG based on the case question they are seeking to answer. Illinois labs already assist agencies by completing vendor questionnaires about remaining DNA extract, but if agencies send evidence to vendor labs that has not already been tested by a CODIS lab in Illinois, other issues can arise. Early communication with the Illinois operational CODIS lab is essential to avoid downstream issues with STR profiles that may be developed. It also is important to communicate with the applicable prosecutor's office early to see if the case is prosecutable.
4. Ms. Dragovich indicated that DuPage Lab previously had unresolved cases with profiles that did not associate in CODIS where FIGG was utilized. Dr. Hughes indicated that ISP DCI identified approximately 585 cases from LIMS where a DNA profile has been searched in CODIS with no hit. Approximately 255 of the cases are ISP cold case homicides.
5. The subcommittee discussed providing information for law enforcement agencies regarding what to look for when choosing a FIGG vendor/lab. Some points to highlight might be accreditation, data security, and whether the FIGG vendor outsources the lab work.
6. The subcommittee discussed being mindful of not overwhelming law enforcement agencies with information when creating FIGG resources for the Commission's webpage. Housing the resources on the Commission's webpage makes them accessible to all agencies in Illinois and makes it easier for the subcommittee to update the documents as needed. Ms. Watroba noted that the subcommittee should ask the Commission to empower them to update FIGG materials as needed without the need for Commission approval, similar to the approach taken with the 2-hour collection window document related to DUI.
7. The subcommittee decided to start work on resource documents in the shared workspace. Ms. Watroba will submit a request for ISP DCI Cold Case to share the FIGG triaging tool they have developed for use in their cases. Dr. Hughes

shared a flowchart from a recent Ontario report as an example of a case flow document the subcommittee might want to create.

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

VIII. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll and will be held via Web Ex.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:53 p.m.