

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Drugs Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2026, 12:00 p.m. meeting

- I. Call to order
Subcommittee Chairperson Jillian Baker called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Web Ex.

- II. Roll call
The following people were present:
 1. Jillian Baker, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Chairperson
 2. Jenna Cervantes, Subcommittee Member
 3. Jason George, Subcommittee Member
 4. Gail Gutierrez, Subcommittee Member
 5. Gina Havlik, Subcommittee Member
 6. Eryn Maltese, Subcommittee Member
 7. Brianna Simpson, Subcommittee Member
 8. Peter St. Andre, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
 9. Amy Watroba, Executive Director-Forensic Science Commission

- III. Approval of minutes from February 17, 2026 meeting
 1. The minutes from the February 17, 2026 meeting were approved.

- IV. Chairperson Report
 1. Ms. Baker summarized the information she shared about the subcommittee's work at the March 11th Commission Meeting. The Commission voted at the meeting to allow the subcommittee to publish information on the Commission website about drugs the labs are seeing and reporting in Illinois.

- V. Emerging Drug Working Group Report
 1. Ms. Havlik reported no updates, as the working group has not met since the last subcommittee meeting.

- VI. Legislative Update
 1. Ms. Watroba added the 4 bills discussed at the last subcommittee meeting to the legislation tracking chart on the Commission's general TEAMs page. There have been no significant developments with respect to any of those bills since the last meeting.

VII. Old Business

1. Reconciling the Illinois Controlled Substances Act with the Federal Register.

Mr. George explained how he used AI tools to help put together an initial Excel spreadsheet with information about substances that are controlled in Illinois and those that are controlled federally for comparison. He will share the spreadsheet on the TEAMs channel for review and input/suggestions. AI was unable to use the Illinois Controlled Substances Act for this project, so it used the Administrative Code. Subcommittee members discussed whether to add substances that are federally scheduled as emergencies to the spreadsheet. The subcommittee also discussed the impact of Illinois's statute which controls by chemical class on this comparison project. There were approximately 10 substances controlled federally that are not controlled in Illinois and approximately 23 substances that are controlled in Illinois that are not controlled federally. Sometimes specific dosage units accounted for the difference. This spreadsheet is a work in progress and will continue to be tweaked and checked. It was noted that the group may need to compare what is listed in the Admin Code to compare to the ILCSA since prosecutors are hesitant to prosecute based only on the Admin Code.

2. Sharing information related to emerging drugs.

The subcommittee first discussed the information it would like to compile and share on the Commission's website, which is information about compounds labs have identified. Discussion ensued about what kind of information and statistics the labs want to collect and how to go about compiling and sharing that information across lab systems. This information will show trends and could be of value to stakeholders. The idea of including a disclaimer making clear the parameters of what is being shared was discussed. The idea of reporting more generally (ranking most reported) versus reporting exact numbers was discussed. The data could be compiled and then used to create the more generalized report. The subcommittee discussed creating a test report with January and February data to figure out the mechanics of compiling the data across lab systems.

The subcommittee next discussed tracking emerging drugs in case work that the labs are not reporting. Ms. Havlik shared a sample spreadsheet they created as a starting point and solicited feedback from the lab systems on the type of information to input and the frequency of inputs. The issue of locational data was discussed, specifically the idea of identifying the county. The subcommittee discussed what information about the drugs would be of most value to stakeholders or legislators down the road. Ms. Baker shared an

example of a spreadsheet used to track fentanyl related compounds. The subcommittee discussed strategies for how each lab system could input data into a shared spreadsheet and the goals of the data collection. The type of information that legislators often ask for when being asked to add a new substance to the ILCSA was discussed. The idea of identifying percentages of cases where compounds are observed was discussed.

The subcommittee decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

VIII. New Business

1. Commission statement/recommendation regarding analysis of Kratom and related natural & synthetic compounds.

Ms. Baker noted that there are two bills related to Kratom currently pending this session. The subcommittee discussed ways to be more proactive on legislation related to controlled substances. Ms. Watroba explained the process of utilizing the Commission to issue statements and how timing of Commission meetings impacts the process. The subcommittee also discussed how the labs could work collaboratively outside the Commission to create fact sheets which could be used to directly communicate with legislators or the legislature at hearings on bills. The labs will work on a fact sheet for Kratom and the subcommittee can discuss possible next steps at the next meeting.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

X. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will be held via Web Ex on April 7, 2026 at 1 p.m. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m.