

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Drugs Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2026, 1:00 p.m. meeting

- I. Call to order
Subcommittee Chairperson Jillian Baker called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 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*denotes individual who joined after roll call

- III. Approval of minutes from March 17, 2026 meeting
 1. The minutes from the March 17, 2026 meeting were approved with one noted typographical correction.

- IV. Chairperson Report
 1. Ms. Baker indicated that the Commission has not met since the last subcommittee meeting.

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

- VI. Legislative Update
 1. Ms. Watroba shared the Commission's legislative tracking chart from the and shared updates on the 4 bills discussed at the last subcommittee meeting. 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 summarized the work he has been doing to use AI to compare the substances controlled on the Federal Register against the substances controlled by the Illinois Controlled Substances Act. He noted a few areas where substances will need to be added (i.e. examples provided in ILCSA for controlled chemical classes). He will continue working on this project. Ms. Baker stated that she identified only one federally controlled substance that appears to not be in the ILCSA (Brivaracetam). Ms. Cervantes stated that she posted a few compounds on the shared space that she found after conducting a random search. The subcommittee decided to let Mr. George finish the second round of comparisons before adding the noted compounds to the list.

2. Sharing information related to emerging drugs.

The subcommittee first discussed the tracking of substances reported by laboratories. NIRCL shared a NFLIS report in workspace. The subcommittee discussed how the different lab systems enter some information differently (i.e. when multiple compounds are identified) and how those differences might be reconciled to compile data across lab systems. NFLIS also processes data as an alternative route, but that option might involve a time delay. The subcommittee discussed how to sort the information compiled for the entire state (rank vs. specific numbers). The subcommittee decided to rank and then use notes or highlights to note any noteworthy changes.

The subcommittee discussed compiling data on emerging drugs that are not reported. Ms. Havlik shared an updated template for a spreadsheet and the subcommittee discussed additional proposed changes. The subcommittee discussed adding disclaimer-type language on the spreadsheet to make it clear that the compounds noted are just indicated to avoid any misconception that the substances listed were identified and noting the limitations and intent to use this for informational purposes only. The purpose of compiling the data is to loosely track trends of primarily non-controlled substances of abuse in part to have information for the legislature if they consider controlling an emerging substance in the future. There is the option of homing in on a substance that is initially identified through this sampling/data collection and doing a more comprehensive tracking of a particular substance that may be of interest to the legislature.

3. Possible action or recommendation regarding analysis of Kratom and related natural and synthetic compounds.

Ms. Baker shared a fact sheet about Kratom that a group has been working on. It does not appear that the Kratom bills will move forward this legislative session, however there is value in providing information to the legislature about Kratom and Kratom-related compounds. The subcommittee reviewed the fact sheet. The subcommittee envisions creating other fact sheets in the future and this will serve as a good template. The subcommittee will collaborate on the fact sheet and then there is the option to utilize the Commission as a means to publish or share it. The subcommittee will take a look at the document in the shared space and it will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

X. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will be held via Web Ex on April 30, 2026 at 1 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2 p.m.