

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Drugs Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 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. Gail Gutierrez, Subcommittee Member*
4. Gina Havlik, Subcommittee Member
5. Eryn Maltese, Subcommittee Member
6. Olivia Michalik, 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. Discussion/Approval of minutes from May 28, 2026 meeting

1. The minutes from the May 28, 2026, meeting were approved.

IV. Chairperson Report

1. Ms. Baker reported that the Forensic Science Commission held its meeting on June 10th and she shared the work of the subcommittee at that meeting.

V. Emerging Drug Working Group Report

1. Ms. Havlik and Ms. Baker shared that the group met once since the last meeting and also has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

VI. Legislative Update

1. Summary: Ms. Watroba provided a summary of SB 3222 (IL Hemp Act) which was signed into law and SB 3322 which passed both houses but has not been signed into law.
2. Illinois Hemp Act: The subcommittee discussed the summary document from the Illinois Department of Agriculture Informational Bulletin from June of 2026 (Illinois Hemp Act overview). The IL Hemp Act is more than 600 pages

long and will take time to review and digest. As part of the Act, the Industrial Hemp Act will be repealed as of November 12, 2026. Ms. Baker created a word document in the shared space outlining the new law and subcommittee members can make comments or additions to the document. The subcommittee will continue to review and resume discussion at future meetings. Discussion ensued about potential interaction and/or recommendations for the legislature. Members also discussed the role of labs to identify what they find and lawyers to them decide what lab findings mean within the legal landscape and statutes. Members will keep eyes open for any additional resource materials or presentations from the legal community interpreting the new law.

VII. Old Business

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

The subcommittee discussed the updated spreadsheet. The goal of completing this project is to identify compounds that are not controlled in Illinois to use for legislative recommendations. The subcommittee discussed the possibility of using this data to support a recommendation for recommending controlling fentanyl by structure. There is language in SB 1773 that proposed doing so.

2. Sharing information related to emerging drugs.

Ms. Havlik provided an update on the public-facing quarterly report. The subcommittee discussed reconciling nomenclature issues. The subcommittee discussed using a pie chart to show how often the top 10 drugs are seen in comparison to each other. Ms. Watroba will work on possible disclaimer language for the quarterly list.

3. Analysis of Kratom and related natural and synthetic compounds.

The fact that Kratom alkaloids were temporarily federally scheduled was brought up. The lab systems will discuss the topic in the ED WG. Ms. Baker brought up SB 3160 and HB 4737, which both addressed Kratom, and a document saved to the shared space which summarizes state legislation related to Kratom. Ms. Baker suggested that Ohio's legislative scheme for controlling Kratom might be worth looking at. It's hard to predict if Illinois will move toward controlling Kratom. If the legislation reconciling federal controlled substances with the Illinois Controlled Substances Act moves forward, then Kratom may be auto-controlled in the future in line with the federal statutes.

VIII. New Business

The subcommittee discussed possible priorities for the next legislative session including: recommendations for language to schedule fentanyl by structure and language for Kratom legislation.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

X. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:06 p.m.