

Minutes of meeting of March 11, 2025 meeting

The meeting convened at 9:32 a.m.

Participating in the meeting were Daniel Renstrom, DESPP-Forensic Lab; Megan Olt, DESPP-Forensic Lab; Mandy Young, DESPP-Forensic Lab; Elizabeth Tugie, Department of Correction; Robert Meredith, OCPD; Todd Bussert, Office of the Chief Public Defender; Detective Joseph Sanford, DESPP; and Michael Gailor, Division of Criminal Justice.

The minutes of the meeting on December 11, 2024 were unanimously approved.

The lab reported that as of March 1, 2025, a total of 138,566 convicted offender samples have been submitted to the lab; 650 between December 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025. Of these samples, approximately 7667 were determined to be duplicate submissions. One hundred thirty one thousand five hundred fifty-nine are searching in CODIS. Approximately 143 convicted offender samples are waiting to be processed/entered into CODIS. There are approximately 26,425 profiles in the Forensic Index. The lab reported that 12,250 investigations have been aided so far by 13,039 confirmed hits. Approximately 105 candidate matches are under evaluation. The average time it takes to send out notification of the hit once it has been obtained is 11 days.

The Sex Offender Registry Unit reported that 55 new offenders to the sex offender registry and 189 new offenders were added to the deadly weapon registry between October 2024 and January 2025. The unit obtained 24 biological samples from sex offenders for the purpose of developing a DNA profile and 8 samples from persons on the deadly weapon registry.

The Department of Correction reported it has collected 323 samples in the year to date, 390 since the last Oversight Committee Meeting on December 11, 2024. DOC also reported that 105 collections are pending and that 55 inmates have refused to provide a sample.

The representative from the Judicial Department was unable to attend but reported that from October through December 2024, it sent out 242 initial and 112 warning letters in probation cases. It noted it sent out 36 initial and 23 warning letters in non-probation cases. Judicial sent 14 memos to DOC asking them to collect a sample and 8 requests for arrest warrants to the State Police. It also indicated it had received 4 requests under the Interstate Compact to take samples. In total, Judicial collected 245 samples. Finally, Judicial reported it is in the process of ordering more kits.

With respect to other business, the Committee decided that, because it did not involve profiles in the Data Bank, a proposal to compare profiles obtained from samples forwarded to the lab from the Medical Examiner's Office to forensic profiles was not something on which it would opine.

The Committee went into executive session at 9:53 a.m. to discuss and consider records of, personally identifiable DNA information contained in the Data Bank. The Committee came out of executive session at 9:57 a.m. and reported that, as a result of the discussions that occurred in executive session, the following actions would be taken:

Sample 3/12/25-A shall be purged from the Data Bank.

Sample 3/12/25-B shall be purged from the Data Bank.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.