

FORENSIC LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FLAC)
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 6 2021 – 10am – 12pm

Office of Health Care Quality (Meeting held via telephone)
7120 Samuel Morse Drive
2nd Floor
Columbia, MD 21046

Members in Attendance:

Renee Webster, Deputy Director, OHCQ (Chairperson)
Dan Katz, Director, Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division
Yale Caplan, Ph.D., American Academy of Forensic Sciences
Lorraine Doucette, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Melissa Kennedy, Accreditation Director ANAB
Lilia Mijares, Professor Univ of MD
Kristen Lease, Prince George's County Police Department
Rana Dellarocco, Forensic Director, Baltimore Police Dept.

Members not in Attendance:

Brittney Rollison, A2LA

OHCQ Staff:

Paul Celli, Public Health Administrator for Clinical and Forensic Laboratories
Chris D'Amario., Coordinator of Forensic Laboratories Program
Renee Webster, Deputy Director, Federal Programs

Non-members in attendance:

Rachel Lucas, Baltimore County Police Department
Andrew Bohan, A2LA Accreditation

MINUTES ORGANIZED BY AGENDA ITEMS

I. Welcome and General Announcements

Renee Webster called the meeting to order at 10:05am, welcomed the committee members and others in attendance

II. ANAB Announcements/Updates

Covid Impact – Remote survey still a possibility.
ABFT – No changes. Closed door discussions.

III. A2LA Announcements/Updates

Andrew Bohan updated the committee regarding Covid remote survey and risk assessments. Changed Proficiency Testing Policy. Doesn't effect Forensic Industry. Partnership with Power DMS , program requirements added to software.

IV. General Forensic Announcements

Chris D'Amario annual report documentation to be completed by labs will be out by the end of October to be completed by the years end.

Renee reported Forensic Genealogy Bill regulations writing has not begun a workgroup can be put together regarding licensing individual genealogists. FLAC needs to establish SNP best practices and minimum qualifications for genealogists.

Dan Katz added that he wants to be on the workgroup along with as many Forensic DNA staff as possible. Ray Wickenheiser former Montgomery County Lab Director is interested in being a resource. Lorraine will reach out to Shannon Dixon genetic counselor at UM School of Medicine.

V. Letters of Exception

Renee reported that we need to correlate and change the discrepancy between the definition and COMAR requirements of Letter of Exception.

VI. New Business

Dan Katz, MSP, legislation bill coming regarding Chief Medical Examiner antemortem toxicologist. Also a prefilled bill regarding marijuana hemp, including additional THC components. Independent investigation of police involved deaths, AG office created an independent division in charge of this in Maryland. Put in the law they can use MSP as a resource. Bloodstain pattern analysis and trajectory determination need to be addressed as possible disciplines. They have no “real” oversight at this time. It can be argued that this is not crime scene but a forensic analysis.

Kristin Lease and Rana Dellarocco agree with Dan it should be covered as forensic analysis. Renee and Chris will bring it up to OHCQ AG. Renee added OHCQ has looked at further expanding positions for the forensic genealogy program with supplemental budget.

FLAC’s next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 9, 2022

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am