

TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION - AGENDA

April 23rd, 2010 - 9:30 A.M.

Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas
221 E. Las Colinas Blvd.
Irving, TX 75039
Phone: (972) 556-0800
Fax: (972) 556-0729

During this meeting, the Commission may consider and take action on the following items. The Commission shall have morning breaks and a brief lunch break:

Review and adopt minutes from January 29, 2010, meeting.

Nominations for committees and investigation panels:

Forensic Development Committee:

Kerrigan
Farley
Hamilton

Legislative Committee:

Hampton
Adams
Evans

Complaint Screening Committee:

Peerwani
Bradley
Eisenberg

Investigative Panel for Willingham/Willis case:

Peerwani
Kerrigan
Bradley

Investigative Panel for Moon case:

Eisenberg

Evans

Farley

Invited testimony on laboratory testing backlogs. (FSC Presentation-John Bradley, State Lab-DPS, Local Lab-HPD, Private Lab-Orchid Cellmark).

Creation of general counsel position (Leigh Tomlin and Lance Evans).

Update on website (Leigh Tomlin).

Report and consider recommendations from Complaints Screening Committee on pending complaints. Discuss and take action on pending complaints.

Report and consider recommendations from Investigation Panels (Willingham/Willis and Moon). Discuss and take action on pending investigations.

Discuss and consider policy regarding anonymous complaints.

Report and consider recommendations from Forensic Development Committee. Discuss and take action on those recommendations, including: Guiding Principles for use by laboratories; rescheduling roundtable discussions, scheduling pre-roundtable meetings and FSC participation in forensic science seminar.

Report and consider recommendations from Legislative Committee.

Discuss and consider records retention policy.

Discuss and consider media policy.

Discuss and consider legislative hearings policy.

Report on House Committee hearing.

Amendment to Policies and Procedures regarding public comment at meetings (see attached proposal).

Hear public comments.

Consider proposed items for July meeting agenda.

Proposed amendment to Policies and Procedures:

12.0 Public Comment

(a) The FSC shall include “public comment” as a topic on the agenda for each regularly scheduled meeting of the full FSC. The FSC reserves the right to eliminate, reduce or postpone the public comment period if deemed necessary due to time constraints or other exigent circumstances.

(b) During the public comment period, any member of the public, subject to the restrictions of this policy, may address the Commission regarding any matter related to the business of the Commission. Persons who attend or participate in the Commission meeting are expected to act in a manner that is respectful of the conduct of public business and conducive to orderly and polite public discourse. Public comment will typically occur at the end of the FSC meeting.

(c) Members of the public shall complete a public participation form before the FSC meeting and deliver the form to the FSC coordinator.

(d) Each speaker generally shall be provided three minutes to present public comment. The Commission reserves the right to expand or reduce the time allotted to each speaker and/or to set an overall time limit for the public comment period, dependant upon the particular circumstances and requirements of each meeting.

(e) Pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, relating to open meetings, the Commission may respond to an inquiry regarding a subject not listed on the agenda only with:

- (1) a statement of specific factual information in response to the inquiry; or
- (2) a recitation of existing policy in response to the inquiry.

Any deliberation or of decision about a subject not listed on the agenda must be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a subsequent meeting.

(f) Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments to the FSC at any time.