

**MINUTES OF FORENSIC LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FLAC) MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.**

**Maryland State Police  
Forensic Sciences Division  
221 Milford Mill Road  
Pikesville, MD 21208**

**Members in Attendance:**

Renee Webster, DHMH, OHCQ, Assistant Director (Chairperson)  
Yale Caplan, Ph.D., American Academy of Forensic Sciences  
Irv Litofsky, Director, Baltimore County Police Department Forensic Services Section  
Karin Athanas, American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)  
Dan Katz, Director, Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division  
Lorraine Doucette, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

*Quorum was established with 6 of 8 FLAC members in attendance.*

**Members not in Attendance:**

Lilia Mijares, Ph.D., University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Rana DellaRocco, Director, Baltimore Police Department Laboratory

**OHCQ Staff:**

Tia Tate, Ph.D., OHCQ, Coordinator, Forensic Laboratories Program  
Paul Celli, OHCQ, Public Health Administrator, Clinical and Forensic Laboratories

**Non-members in Attendance:**

Teresa Long, Laboratory Director, Howard County Police Department Forensic Services Section  
Brittney Bryant, Accreditation Officer, A2LA  
Karolyn Tontarski, Quality Manager, Montgomery County  
Pamela Shaw, Forensic Scientist, Baltimore Police Department  
Cassandra Burke, QA Officer, Baltimore County Police Forensic Services Section  
Lori Dodson, Director of Laboratory Compliance, Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission  
Patrick Jameson, Executive Director, Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission  
Ken Jones, Deputy Director, Baltimore Police Department  
Theresa DeAngelo, QA Officer, Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division  
Francis Chiafari, Director, Montgomery County Police Dept. Crime Laboratory

**Minutes Organized by Agenda Items**

**Welcome and General Announcements**

Renee Webster, OHCQ Assistant Director (Chairperson), called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed the committee members and others in attendance, and announced that a Quorum had been established for today's meeting.

FLAC members reviewed the minutes from the February 8, 2017 meeting. Ms. Athanas moved to approve the minutes Mr. Katz seconded the motion and the FLAC minutes from February 8, 2017 were approved.

### **Updates on the ASCLD/LAB and ANAB Merger**

**ANAB has not provided a new member to the FLAC so an update of the merger could not take place. However, members did provide accounts of their experiences during this transition period.**

Ms. Burke mentioned that she had several difficulties in submitting documents to ANAB for their accreditation survey. She also said that there were two systems used to submit documentation making submission difficult. After several attempts to troubleshoot these issues, she contacted ANAB who told her that due to lack of an assessor their laboratory assessment would be postponed.

Ms. DeAngelo mentioned that the online checklist was emailed late to the Maryland State Police Laboratory. She was also unable to get a hold of anyone at ANAB after reaching out through email. Mr. Katz mentioned that they would be assessed against the old ASCLD/LAB requirements. Mr. Litofsky mentioned that December 2018 was the deadline to be in compliance with the new merged ANAB and ASCLD/LAB standards.

### **Letter of Exception Criteria**

Mr. Katz mentioned that he was informed of someone who was unable to testify because she was not certified by the Office of Health Care Quality. She wasn't aware that she needed a letter of exception to testify. Mr. Katz said that he was not sure who was aware of the Letter of Exception (Public Defenders vs Private attorneys). Mr. Litofsky suggested applicants should have performed proficiency testing within a reasonable amount of time of their application submission. OHCQ will be looking at options to improve the approval of letters of permit exception.

### **Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission**

Ms. Lori Dodson and Mr. Patrick Jameson, Executive Director of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission were present and discussed the various stages of the commission from the amount of growers to anticipated issues that may arise in the laboratories. Ms. DeAngelo and Ms. Shaw expressed concerns of THC testing in their laboratories. Mr. Jameson and Ms. Dodson would like to be informed if Medical Cannabis makes its way into the forensic laboratories. FLAC asked them to come to the next meeting to provide an additional update once the program becomes operational. Their contact information is listed below:

*mmcc.maryland.gov*

*lori.dodson1@maryland.gov*

*patrick.jameson@maryland.gov*

## **Other Items**

Ms. Webster opened the floor to any other concerns. Ms. Shaw mentioned the ANAB Crosswalk in COMAR was unclear. OHCQ has been working with ANAB to get a new crosswalk.

Ms. Webster said there weren't any reports for legislation to be discussed. Ms. Long said that on October 1, 2017 House bill 255 went into effect. Sexual Assault Evidence kits must be given to law enforcement within 30 days and Jane Doe kits are required to be stored for 20 years.

## **Date and Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Ms. Webster proposed the next meeting be held the end of January or the beginning of February 2018.

Agenda items for discussion will include (but not limited to) Letter of Exception Criteria, ASCLD/LAB and ANAB merger, and possible legislation. The next meeting will be held at MSP in Pikesville. Mr. Litofsky motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Doucette seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.