



Jami Cook
SECRETARY

ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LABORATORY

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
STATE OF ARKANSAS



Kermit B. Channell II
DIRECTOR

Arkansas State Crime Laboratory Board Meeting April 10th, 2020

The following Board members were present (GoToMeeting):

- Chuck Graham
- Josh Farmer
- Judge Davis
- Chief Elliott
- Sheriff Helder

The following persons were present:

- Director Kermit Channell
- Assistant Director Cindy Moran
- Ryan Black, Quality Assurance Manager
- Beverly Pannell, Administrative Assistant
- Dr. Charles Kokes, Chief Medical Examiner

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chuck Graham, and Beverly Pannell took roll. Five board members were present and a quorum was made

Approval of Minutes

Motion to adopt the minutes was made by Chief Elliott and seconded by Judge Davis. No discussion took place, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Crime Lab Update

- Financial:

As one of 52 miscellaneous agencies, we all took a 13% budget cut. This is concerning to the laboratory.

- Asset Forfeiture Fund (1VM): This fund brought in a little more last year; I'm hoping it stays constant because that goes into general revenue and helps us operate. The lab received 20% of everything over \$20,000.00.
- ACT 65: This is our civil filing fee. We receive \$25.00 from all civil filing which was originally projected to bring in \$1.7 into our general revenue.

- Caseload Status:
 - Lowell Laboratory: We currently have four drug chemists however we need, based on the caseload; we need at least five or six in total. We are currently getting about 550 to 600 cases in a month. We bring back cases from Lowell to Little Rock to help the backlog. We are also bringing back non toxicology and drug evidence to the Little Rock lab, enabling law enforcement agencies the ability to stay in their communities.
 - Little Rock Laboratory:
 - Latent prints are doing great. Overall, they're turnaround time is 35 days for homicides. They are working cases as they're coming in the door.
 - Digital evidence still doing well computers are about a 60-day turn on time mobile devices 51 days and I think you see that's a little bit more elevated. Digital Evidence, just as a reminder is now housed at ASP.
 - Physical Evidence: We have a new supervisor in that section in physical evidence. Trace is doing well with arson cases with a 35-day turnaround time and up to date with GSR and hair comparisons for DNA suitability. I want to say one thing about the property crimes because of the budget cuts, we work contracting out to private vendors.
 - DNA: We recently lost one analyst. We have four DNA analysts that have been loaned out to the Public Health Lab for COVID-19 testing.
 - Drugs: Heroin and fentanyl are on the rise.
 - Medical Examiner's Section: Dr. Kokes gave an update of the status of the office and the number of cases received by the lab. He also indicated that the transports of case have decreased.
- New Business:
 - Cindy gave an overview of the seized drug and overdose stats for the state.
 - Dr. Kokes presented his annual medical examiner report.
 - Covid-19 status of the lab regarding how we were currently doing shift work in the laboratory.
- Meeting was adjourned.