

# Transcript

March 11, 2025, 2:03PM

FD

**FTU, DFS (DFS)** 0:47

Those of you online here us get an Amen out there.

Oh, OK.

They're all muted.

Never mind.

Thank you.

All right. Well, according to the agenda, I get to call this meeting in order.

And take for all you got. Roger, you've got Nicky. Gary, are you on the line?

You raise your hand.

And Claudine.

Here's cherry.

Thank you, ma'am.

Claudine, I think you're in there.

I think this is for your CP is.

All right. Yep. And we'll count that as her.

We'll find out.

You all could check and see if that.

See if there is bloody.

Here.

I'd like to thank you all again for having us come in person to see you again, to catch up with these folks. And it's just, you know, it is in person versus sitting on a screen easier for the first time since only on the other side.

So it is great to be here in person and thrilled to hear about what all's been going on.

Thank you, Laura.

Welcome, everybody, and welcome to Special Info, Nicole Reed.

Who's the first time she's in person?

I really appreciate her being person, seeing our facilities.

I will be brief and I just wanted to point out couple of things.

Number one, we just come on the hills of the MasterCard incident.

And it wouldn't be more proud of the work of the Office of the Medical Examiner as well as the Department of Sciences. The main issue in the master health incident,

such as the one we have.

At least identification.

We weren't able to scientifically identify the 60 to 70 victims within four days, taking into account that the victims came first. Eighteen came in the early mornings of the following day.

The incident occurred at approximately 9:50.

First victims arrived here at 4:00 AM Monday and all are 17 and so on.

Within four days, we were able to identify all the victims.

Mainly via digital fingerprint.

But more important than that, with the assistance of the Forensic biology unit, the Department of Forensic Sciences, we were able to not only identify positively identified victims, but at the risk of being a little bit graphic, a significant percentage of the victims were fragmented and the biology unit.

Took on the task of doing rapid DNA and.

We were able to reassociate the vectors.

And that way, vast majority of the victims were returned to their loved ones.

In fact, if we could say the forensic biology Unit's still working, the divers are still in the river.

My understanding is they will cease operations.

Later this week on Thursday, but throughout.

The passing of the day.

They could find it.

Biological remains and the biology unit is assisting us in matching the the DNA of victims with those biological remains.

He's worth of note that some families have requested the return of those so they can have.

A sum for this position.

For the families who have chosen.

Doctor Who would have a dignified burial of any followed biological remains as soon as she processes fetch.

What it highlights the importance of having an integrated system where people communicate with each other. Scientists communicate with each other and work as a team in when there is a an incident such as this one, it was emotionally draining for a lot of our people. Very intense but.

At the same time, very important.

A couple of weeks after that, we attended the American Academy of Forensic Science.

Access together with agencies.

At a total of 40% patients, I don't know if we still have a brochure that we could share with the members of the Scientific Advisory Board that we put together for each attendee of the Academy. We have presentations, we have posters and we have workshops and that is.

The a good step into.

Integrating the Department of Forensic Science into the.

Scientific community, yeah.

What's trying to be hope?

That.

It continues.

To save amount of enthusiasm and I just wanted to highlight those two issues, I tend to get along with it, but I'll give it back to Laura who is going to talk about the SAP business section.

So last meeting, we kinda ended by just generally talking about outreach and how we did some of our communications kind of a group discussion where you all were picking our brain.

So we decided to go ahead and put together just a quick presentation to get it down on paper.

Since you all have something to refer back to and know which one of us was telling you about which item you have questions.

But it is something that we would like to do going forward is if there is something where you wanna pick our brains.

Let us know and then we can present at the next meeting.

Take full advantage of our experience.

It is very diverse.

And very extensive.

So we'd love to hear from you.

So we can do these.

But I do have PowerPoint on the stakeholders.

Outreach folders and outreach and thank you to Jerry who actually put it all together.

Uh oh, Eric, thank you the PowerPoint.

No, but I'll I'll send it.

No better is it here.

Yeah. Yeah, it's also.

I integrated it into this overall.

OK.

Thank you.

My copy is not sunk in.

Not a morning person.

It takes me till about ten 10:30 to start coming alive.

OK.

So if we can go to the next slide.

This is Nikki's earning a call. Do you know?

Now that you guys have met me, I usually go by Nikki, but a lot of times more formal if it's court formal stuff, it's Nicole.

So either one I'll answer too.

Yeah. Well, good morning, everybody.

It's pleasure to be here and actually see you guys in person versus being on the other side and watching from the screen.

So like Laura said, I view our role here as to be to help and be resources for you guys for different ideas and different things that you might want to consider doing.

Obviously you know parenthesis isn't A1 size fits all, so it'd be something that we do that we wanna share with you and you might find a way to adapt it to your stakeholders in your community. But one of the things in Wisconsin I've been in my role.

As administrator of the crime lab system in the state of Wisconsin since.

2017 and so one of the things when we kind of hit the ground running was the joke was always well, you know, we bring it to the crime lab. Magic happened.

You give us a report, right?

And what is it you do all day, right.

There was this mystery.

What we learned was if you don't drive a narrative, somebody will fill it for you and then you're spending extra time overcoming this assumption's impulse and all these things that were happening.

So we said, OK, the first actually our first symposium we did was in 2019 and our joke was.

Right. He was behind the curtain. Not a mystery.

It's not magic, it's science.

And we talked about that and we were nervous. 'cause. We're like, boy, I hope people show up.

I hope people come to our party 'cause they don't.

And so we started off really small.

We thought if we got 60 stakeholders, wouldn't that be great?

And so when we look to get a venue, if you've been to the state of Wisconsin, there's an area called the Wisconsin Dells that's very much a tourist area that has larger conference rooms.

But we didn't want to get.

We had to keep ourselves modest.

Right. It shouldn't be too bold.

So we said, OK, we'll sign up for a hundred person conference and we can fill it with 60 people.

That's a win.

Well, I think we had registration open three days, we were full.

We were shocked.

And so we actually were looking at what we could do to expand it. And our first symposium in 19 had 150 people at it, which was great.

And we invited law enforcement, force prosecutors and defense.

That's where we kind of started, which is also really fun because that group of people.

Sitting in room together, everyone's very, very tight lipped, quiet and not, you know this rating at all, but it was important from our perspective for everyone to hear the same thing at the same time so that we weren't playing that weird telephone game, right. And so it.

Was an absolute success and I remember sitting next to one of my colleagues.

She's in our counterpart of our agency called the Division of Criminal Investigations.

She's a special agent.

And she said this is fantastic. I said, well, I'm just like it came and she looked at me.

She goes.

You're crazy. Like people who love to come to this. And so we're like, oh, OK, sounds good.

Well then, of course, the pandemic hit 2020 happened.

You didn't hold it.

Because we had, you know, some things on the books that we had to back out of. So in 2021, though, it was still going on, we knew we wanted to get out there because again, absence of information, people drawing narrative. So we did it virtually and we ended up having 300 people attend virtually. And that brought in judges because judges have crazy calendars. They couldn't come in person. They couldn't give us two full days in person. There was no way, but we did two half days virtually from 8:00 to noon. And again, it's a crime lab staff talking about the work they're doing. And of course, then we'd always integrate some cool cases that we could talk about that had been through the educated through.

The process, which draws people in right here about the stuff that you do and hear about it in action.

And at that point too, we had folks in academia from around Wisconsin started to reach out and want to get involved and and learn more. And so we planned our in person one in 2022 and it was still about 250 people attended, but we.

Were starting to understand is doing a cadence.

Of in person and virtual every other year was great because it allowed us to hit more people, right?

And and we would tailor our message system a little differently.

We tried to come up with themes.

We decided we are theme.

What we do is theme.

So we kind of got away from some of those things, but now we've gone as far as to invite legislative staff and having aides, and it's called our service agencies in Wisconsin because they're the ones who drive a lot of what we can and can't do. So what?

Better than to educate them first hand. I have driving that narrative than than doing that so.

We just held our in person last in person. One was in October.

Of the Green Bay, we had about 300 attendees.

It was very well attended and then now we're in the midst of just kicking off the planning for our our virtual one that will hold this fall.

So we do the odd years virtually even years in person, and it's really been wonderful. And we're now trying to integrate two different attendees, getting feedback for topics they want to hear about as well as can we do collaborative.

Presentations on different cases we might have worked together. Different things we're working on.

So that's kind of what the evolution of our Crime lab symposium.

Would you be so kind as to share some of the topics?

Yeah. Oh, absolutely.

So last falls, we just brought online a bunch of LCMS additional testing and toxicology that we can do.

So we walked through the validation really high level, right.

Like, we're not in the Super weeds, but a high level our validation and talked about what this means to them, how it's gonna impact them in their cases and things of that nature.

We've of course, over the years on the star mix stuff, right and getting people up to speed on that.

The big case presentation last year, which actually took like 3 hours to get through, but it was awesome was the evolution of a cold case.

And what was so cool about this is you had the investigators, you had the attorneys, and you had the crime lab staff of their presenting.

So this was like the evolution of DNA, right?

Like RFLP the Strs into genetic genealogy.

So that one was really liked, they liked that one a lot.

We are starting to do more with like firearms unit and things like that.

That we don't have our country fully validated yet, but just kind of giving people glimpses.

We get a lot of dauberkirring in Wisconsin, so we're trying to educate people on things in anticipation of what could come in a Daubert.

What other topics do we have that?

Oh well, we have a part of our fig group in Wisconsin.

We call it the whisker.

The Wisconsin Identity Resolution team we have a friend's guide apologist on that group and he is phenomenal.

And so he actually talked.

Thank you for presentation from his perspective as Doctor Jordan Carson, not of Oshkosh and working with the crime labs on ID things and things that agent.

So that was really cool.

He got we we have people review each doc and let us know feedback and key I think

blew it out of the water.

Everybody really enjoyed hearing Doctor Carson talk, so he and Nicole case evolution were the ones that kind of got the highest reviews.

I I think that's an excellent idea.

That BFS can benefit from it, and one question comes to mind in the sense that we are a unique jurisdiction.

But Wisconsin as well, I mean, I was wondering if if we can extend the invitation, let's say.

Colleagues from Virginia, Maryland and what happened?

Because I I think it's part and parcel of what we do.

And and the second question is.

Uh. Uh.

Do you have the capability of offering, for example, attorneys, credit union legal education because that I think that will attract people as well. Excellent question.

We do so one of the things that we do when we're putting our agenda together is ensuring that we can get clues for attorneys as well as law enforcement. So they get credit for attending and the judges for their hours. So we work with so.

We're our parent organizations, Department of Justice, which actually.

Like a one stop shop to get approvals for this stuff, which is easy. We could reach out to our friends on the legal side.

Approve your agenda for Cles for that.

And then we have the Training Standards Bureau for law enforcement, who approves the the education credits for law enforcement.

We do have to reach out to the state courts to get approval, but we have a really good working relationship with their Director of Education over there.

So yes, absolutely. With credit, I think the more people you invite, the better. I think it's wonderful. I think it shows collaboration and partnerships which are really important.

The other thing I'll mention is we're having the virtual virtual one this year, which is free of cost.

So like we throw it out and had our our friends and colleagues crossed forensic science world even pop in and listen to talks and different things that are going on.

So it doesn't.

It's not.

The virtual one is kinda nice.



You're not limited by like the graphic location reporters.

So we tend to see higher numbers with those.

Like I said, we do the two half days. Nobody wants to sit in two full days of virtual.

That's too much to sit through, but if you're done by noon and then you can balance your other workload in the midst of it, I think it really has been a it's well received by the by the group and and one last question for me, the first one.

You had.

What topics did you choose in order to make it attractive to yeah to a stakeholder?

So we tried to hit what was current, right?

What's out there in the the media world, right?

Things that are going on.

So I think that was really important as well as some of the legal challenges.

Things we were encountering in a in an attempt to get ahead of it.

So there a lot of challenges the firearms world were happening.

So we had a firearms examiners talk about what it is.

They actually do.

We we had a partnership between a presentation between our lead trace evidence examiner and a criminal investigator that does like arson cases. And so they talked to in Wisconsin, our trace evidence examiners also do fire re analysis so that they're all in one.

And so that was really interesting.

To show how they work together and the things that they're looking for and and and how how to package evidence, right. So like some of the stuff might seem a little like, you know, a judge might not want to hear how to package evidence, but people in that.

Room need to hear how to package fire debris evidence, right?

So you're trying to hit. That is an interesting point.

We did talk at one point of doing different paths, if you will, to contracts.

It there's pros and cons to doing that you have to have people present to do you know we do these breakouts.

And things like that we decided against going that route and tried to make sure our talks kind of hit everybody's needs for all those cle's and things of that nature.

Probabilistic genotyping and starmix was really big there.

There was a whole breakout session for people to go through the training that our staff were giving, so we did that and then a lot with our crime scene response team.

What is that they do?

What is it?

They can train people on so in Wisconsin we have 570 plus agencies we serve.

Some are, you know, the City of Milwaukee and the city of Madison, and some are these little tiny, you know, jurisdictions all over the state. And so they their knowledge on how to handle some of these big cases is all over the map.

And so we needed to make sure they had a basic understanding of what it is the the crime lab does when we go on scenes versus what what we need them to do or what what we need, you know, controlling scenes and holding them and you know please. Don't try to go too much.

Things like that.

I said last question.

Yeah. No, that's great question if.

But we were envisioning was to have groups of stakeholders.

Individual, let's say judges.

Or the Public Defenders office, United States Attorney's office, and so on and so forth.

I think the idea of a superposition is better because you can.

Congregate, everybody.

My question to you is a simple one. Let's say we set a goal to do it in this calendar year.

Say, October, November, what would be your advice based on your experience?

Should we go first virtual or in person?

It might. I guess that's a great question. As I'm thinking of it now.

Knowing what I know now, I would probably start virtually.

I think you're actually gonna get more people engaged because they're gonna feel you out and wanna know what this is really all about.

What are you gonna cover and what are you not gonna cover, right.

And I think virtually is less scary versus physically going and sitting in a room and not knowing like you know is, is this my adversary sitting across from me kind of a mentality.

Like I said, there's certain times like that that room.

But that picture in that room, that's from October, you know, we crack a joke and then everybody just look at you and you're like, what, tough crowd, right?

You know, like, because you have all these people in the room that are kind of losing

viewpoints at times, right?

But it was good because we talked at one point of doing individuals and our fear was it's gonna turn into the telephone game again.

They're gonna say they heard it one way, and this group heard it a different way, even though we would know.

It was said the same way, but it's that context.

Piece so that was why we decided.

Alright, everybody in the room together, everybody hearing the conversation.

We had a really cool talk this year that was neat about friction, rich detail, evidence through digital means, right?

People taking pictures of their hands and their fingers and talking cases.

We solved through those and it that one you could have heard of pin drop people are really interested in what that was all about.

So I do think though to test the waters, to see the level of engagement virtual does help.

It it brings.

Down a little.

It's not as scary or intimidating, and with the hope then, that I do believe, kinda like Laura will say, I do believe you in person is good for a lot of things, especially the relationship building elements.

But to start knowing what we know now, I probably would have led with virtual just for people to get a feel for what it was all about.

It's good.

And I would be remiss if I don't say if I forgotten, if I open the remarks that.

Obviously friction bridge also got accredited.

Yeah. And we have this roundtri as well as Molly.

Rickshaw bridge department.

And they went through their evaluation or assessment last December.

So this is the third presentation within.

12 months.

Period. You should work with.

Note also that was a biology unit for chemistry where we acquired it again with.

So.

Everybody's working hard.

I have a question later.

All those disciplines, but we can take it later.

I want to still take.

Any other questions?

When we when doing your symposium, do you bring in vendors, forensic vendors to help cover the cost of your symposium?

Then we did one year. So we did do that in 2022.

Like what?

The vendor that came in that was, I think the most impact was actually the ATF with Nivin because there was a bunch of Nivin discussions and this was we had recently made the decision to take nyban out of our crime labs.

So that wasn't exactly perceived by some of the law enforcement partners.

So having the ETF there directly to explain.

What their goals were and what they were trying to do really helped.

So we have done that. The only reason we didn't do it for the last person in 24 is so we did make some money and there was this kind of little pot of money. But

Wisconsin has appropriation rules where you can only spend it on really limited.

Things. So now we have this like pot of money that's just sitting there and and been kind of going back and forth for our budget team.

But what can we use this for now? Yep.

And so as a result, we decided for 24 because we still haven't worked through all the details of the money for 22.

That's good for other vendors.

We charge. I think it's like \$125.00 to attend a person that covers breakfast and lunch and those, you know, Costco.

So it's really, really negligible for a lot of agencies.

And then we say this is actually at a casino up in the Green Bay area.

So we stay at like, you know, the appropriate government rate type places that the lodging is really, really simple.

Nearby.

But we have, we've done it.

It's just.

It ended up being a little more work for us on the back end than we thought it was going to be.

And you know, we were all excited.

Like, oh, we're gonna spend this on, you know, anything.

And the answer was no, you really can't.

It's very, very small amount of things and so like one would think it would cover sending people to training because it's a training fund and the answer is it isn't.

So we're really limited on what we spend this money.

A good question.

We did have a bodique. The ATF came.

To leads, I think was there.

We had a few.

There was like 10 vendors total. I want to say can you recycle it to?

Scholarships for those small agencies.

That maybe not have the money. That would be good for the job.

That's a good idea.

That might be able to send folks.

A lot of time what they'll do now, though, is they'll say, well, we'll just wait till next year when it's virtual and we'll send people 'cause it's free when it's virtual, so they'll just say, oh, we'll send it to the virtual one.

But that's not a bad call for people to come in person.

The other thing we've talked about doing, so we do in Wisconsin.

Got cranes in processing school for our Crime scene unit puts it on.

It's three times a year. We hold them, and so there's been a request to have that running almost in tandem with the home building kicker is the amount of staff it would take for us to run both pretty significant and. And then of course, as any of you.

Know that would be when you get all the pricing calls because ports, right?

Everybody is busy.

Then we have to go somewhere.

So logistically, we're trying to figure that out.

Up to yes.

So I'll switch to the.

Go to next slide please.

I apologize.

I've had a cold for about a month, almost over.

So in Kentucky, we did something called the first Fridays.

They don't do it anymore because we get some backlogs and slippery management.

Basically said, it's bad if you're taking.

Like 3/4 of an inch.

These people need to be on the bench, cause so much of it was biology and firearms focused, but it went well.

It really surprised us.

We just kind of threw out and said, you know, we'll take up to 50 people first fifty call in.

And we'll get your name on the list.

Then you know, we'll take you through the basics. Umm, and answer your questions, give you 2 of the crime lab.

But it was about a a four hour.

Course where they come in and said it was like a large group came out of one prosecutor's.

We really kind of focus it on that, but give them a really good idea of, you know, what the lab does, what it can do, what it can't do, what it will do and what it won't do.

And those are four very separate and distinct categories.

So we'd go through that.

Louisville Metro Lexing Police Department.

Ksp.

Of course, they all have their different academies and we would go teach a course with them.

And and a lot of that was they're not going to retain it.

You know they're going to.

Basically, they're not going to they're not going to retain all this, but they are going to remember that they have a contact and we stress throughout that that reach out.

If you've got a question, rather get it on the front end and have it on the back end.

But if you do have a report, you don't understand it. Don't try to guess. Call us up.

We'll walk through it. So it really kind of stressed that communication piece and that was very successful.

For the annual prosecutors conference.

I'm bad.

I'd go take a table.

I'd send it up in the bedroom area, the little box if I was stepping away or busy with somebody, had a little comment cards on there.

You want me to contact you or find something out?

Put it on there.

They loved it to the point where one year I didn't make it.

I don't know what I had going on and I they were like, where were you? We were looking for you. And like, I'm still here.

You still call me?

You still e-mail me, but they like that one-on-one interaction where they didn't have to put it into writing. If you bump into me when they had a free segment and they really enjoyed that.

So that is something I highly recommend that you do have another site.

Gary found a picture from one of the prosecutors conferences.

They do give out awards.

It is our current attorney general.

But this is something that they do every year. They actually have two the prosecutors conferences.

One is by the Attorney General's office and the other is their association.

Prosecutors. So there's one in the spring and one in the fall. And like I said, I showed up at both, which was really nice.

As a result, I was invited to attend many of the judges, colleges. They would pick a topic.

And so when you come in and explain what's going on in toxicology and where you're switching from urine to blood on such and such sample or why you're not gonna test for this anymore?

We come in and talk to us and that was nice because it wasn't really just me giving a lecture. It was me.

It was almost like this, just sitting and talking and letting all the judges in the state kind of ask questions.

And that was very nice.

So the judges, colleges are actually kind of hard to get into, I found.

They care about how it appears.

Seriously, you have to be a certain level to come in.

State police that I worked for were kind of like how'd you get in there?

Like I just talked to them and I get to know them.

So that was that. One can be kind of hard to do.

Again, if prosecutors confessions, I would actually get up and speak.

We have something coming on.

Rapid DNA. Some of the Saki initiatives, things like that coming in.

They would actually ask me to come in and do an hour to an hour and a half update on the lab.

And then something that we actually had to sit down and do for a more complicated agencies, local metro is the Louisville's the largest city in whatever reason. They think that the only ones that have murders.

Refresh. Yep. So they come in like we, you know, we should be able to prioritize which case you work next. And I'm like, no, actually, you have to do that.

They also we used to do only one drug sample at a time and 1:00 you got to pick your highest highest penalty.

Highest charge usually got penalty charge drug exhibit.

We would only work that one unless we got out of the backlog.

We started working up to three and we support three charges in Louisville said.

Oh, how can I want to do that?

It's too much work for us.

We don't want to do that.

We're just going to keep sending one and I'm like that's, you know, I knew that.

And they're like, but we may send what they tend to do, dump it all in a bag and pour the Louisville lab to go through and figure out which one is the highest charge to go for.

So now they're like, they're gonna automatically buy our lab policy, have to go through in phase three.

So we had to make an MOU.

With Global Metro that we're not going to do year 3 and that's your choice.

Also some other items that if there's a case you want.

Bumped up.

Then you're going to have to do this, and if you.

You have a homicide and you didn't bring the evidence in for 11 months and four months.

You're going to have to take a no will not put my name on that line.

That I'm your delay 'cause. We used to hear about lab results labs behind.

One point had a tempt order came down from Cincinnati area coming down.

She was driving it down.

And they were Police Department was calling real quick.

We need to bring some evidence in.



And ended up they had not turned down, so it came in after I got the door.  
Though sometimes that works if you've got a problem.  
Agents really just sit down and hammer it out and say these. This is what I, you know, we're willing to do.  
Can do. Can't do, will do. Won't do.  
Four separate days and I walked through that with each time we had to do that.  
Which one of these are we on?  
Uh.  
That's really kind of some of the stuff we did.  
We are looking at a formal program Jeremy keeps wanting to do it and hasn't been able to, but I have.  
I keep saying I hired, but still have my finger in the middle of it all.  
There is an employee there that really wants to do some outreach stuff, and so I'm gonna get some information from you and say see if you can get this.  
I'll get started and take it off with Jeremy so.  
And the virtual like we can always share the link with you guys for the virtual, yes.  
So that's Kentucky on the next slide.  
Mary, you ready?

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 34:55  
Yes, I am. Can everyone hear me?

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 34:57  
Yes, yes.

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 34:59  
OK.  
Good morning.  
I miss being there this time.  
Wasn't able to do that, but I'm glad I could at least join virtually and get to see, as Nikki said, from the other side, which is definitely different.  
So the ones are the topics that I'm sharing today aren't necessarily ones that I have in my laboratory.  
Because I haven't been in the laboratory for 20 years, but some of them that I did put on in here happened 20 years ago and they're still ongoing, but a lot of these are

through my work, through the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, when we're trying to work.

With Practitioner Labs to do their own outreach and community engagement and kind of educational and training kind of initiatives.

So I quickly put them together, but on the 1st bullet looking at Community lab.

Visitations. I would say that these probably happen most often during national forensic science week, and I believe CFSO has in the past even kind of put them up on their website to promote them after national forensic Science week.

But I've also seen them happen throughout the year, once a year.

**FD FTU, DFS (DFS) 36:21**

Yeah.

**RJ Ropero Miller, Jeri 36:23**

So that individuals are brought into the laboratory, even community and public, to A to an extent. But one of the things you struggle with with lab visitations is their ability to are you to be able to get them into the areas that are normally closed off.

So another.

Thing that I have seen and that is in that upper left hand corner.

The QR codes.

Is the Idaho State forensic Science Services has actually put six or seven separate videos onto YouTube and they use these to to point people to to learn about different disciplines within their laboratory. And they did it originally for a national forensic Science Week campaign, but they were so.

Popular that they've kept them up there.

And so that is one, the second bullet is state commissions and being able to have publicly available what I'm calling transparency reports. But when the state commissions are working with with the laboratories and everything I have seen where they put out a report afterwards to publicly say what?

Went on there and the lower left hand corner. This is 1 from.

Texas.

State Commission that they did on firearms and it's a really nice formal type of report and I'm seeing some that are more informal, but the the point there is to be able to provide back to the Community, you know that those kind of those kind of things are.

Going on with the help of the state commissions.

Another thing I see is media engagement.

You don't normally think about media engagement with your laboratories, but I first saw this with the Houston.

The Houston Forensic Science Services and their belief really is very similar to what Nikki said.

If you have something that you want to share, if you get it out there, then you get to tell.

Your own story based on your perspective based on knowledge that no one else is going to have.

And Houston has gotten very proactive with this.

So whether it's good news or bad news, they will ring up their media and talk them through a story.

Routine stakeholder sessions.

We've heard about the symposiums, but some other ways that the laboratories are having routine type of sessions.

With their community and stakeholders are to just have a lab activity kind of session regularly.

So whether that's once a year, whether it's quarterly, just they have their stakeholders that they are inviting to some type of meeting that they're, you know they have a planned agenda and they're, you know, communicating with their stakeholders.

I've also seen social media and online collaborative platforms being used.

As a way to interact with the Community, especially your, you know your jurisdiction and your, you know, whether it's the state or whatever, but around you, but also on a national scale and then more traditional is just to put out a newsletter or a blog, but those can.

Be very time intensive.

So I haven't really seen a whole lot of them, but they they have been out there.

And then the final one is just what I call.

Stakeholder surveys or listening sessions.

So whether you're putting a survey or something out just to get a pulse of what people are thinking as far as your stakeholders, what they would like to know from you.

Or to have it more of a listening session where you invite them in, you get their topics hopefully before hand so that you can prepare a little bit and these can be

very general sessions.

Or they can be topic driven and they don't necessarily happen routinely.

Sometimes they it's some way that laboratories have done when they have a special topic that they want to engage with their community and get information from them.

So the flip side of things.

Next slide.

And then really on this one, as far as outreach and stakeholder campaigns, this all of this information was taken from the CFSO or the the Consortium for forensic Science Organizations website.

They do have an outreach type website.

I will say that it's hidden under the national Forensic Science Week.

So it's not necessarily where you would go to learn about?

You know, kinda mechanisms of doing outreach, but one thing that I found very interesting and you know I have observed it myself is just really thinking about the outreach you are doing and making sure that you're not always doing outreach that you're trying to do one size F.

All I very much believe with Nikki bringing the different types of stakeholders together for a symposium.

Works really well.

Back 20 years ago, we were doing that in North Carolina for medical examiners and in addition to inviting the stakeholders, since we were getting continuing education too, we made it a point.

Or I should say the chief medical examiner made it a point that all of the staff could attend that symposium as well, and we're able to get continuing education.

More like an in service type training, but this slide is really about.

Thinking about the outreach you're doing and that it not always one-size-fits-all.

So if you're, you know is your, is your audience more of the political type, institutional, public, organizational, because the messaging may be a little bit different based on you know that outreach engagement you're trying to do.

And I think that's my last slide.

Any questions?

**FD** FTU, DFS (DFS) 43:11

Yes, I do have a couple of questions, if you don't mind. Jerry, let me go to Laura 1st and and this question is for all the members of the Scientific Advisory Board. I think

DFS in DC needs to do a lot of outreach, education, communications with the St. And so on.

The idea of a symposium is a great idea.

Laura's idea.

About approximately once a month in a more.

Smaller setting.

It's also a great idea.

I'm asking you, as members of the Advisory Board, what will be your advice for DFS.

My thought would be that we can do both based on what DFS in the district has withstood.

This obviously a stakeholders in the last three years, but what would be your advice?

Jerry, you want to answer?

RJ

**Ropero Miller, Jeri** 44:10

I can start it, but I'm sure that there's more to add. I really do like your idea of doing both.

I was pretty amazed with the 1st Science Advisory Board because DC is a unique jurisdiction, but the amount of ENGAGERS engaged. Excuse me, stakeholders that are in your core kind of group that you have access to and you you know you have even. Groups within the government that actively look at communication. I think if you were going to have the smaller sessions, maybe not all of them are invited every time, but I do see that you could get into really detailed kind of conversations with that core stakeholder group that would.

Be more of an informal if you will type of event that.

You don't have to necessarily have as much.

Planning going on as trying to get ready for a symposium of 350, but again going to the symposium just allows people that wouldn't normally understand your procedures of doing things.

Is very helpful as well, and that is one reason why we, the chief medical examiner for our symposium, invited the staff.

Because you really see what's going on in that office from, you know, the part that you're involved.

With but seeing a case go from the very beginning to the end was very helpful.

And so that's why he chose to do it that way.

Yeah, I would say.

It isn't useful to do both, but I think on the on the stakeholder relationships, they ought to be more regular. I have seen routine meetings with prosecutors and gotta do this every month.

It almost becomes perfunctory.

You want to build a relationship and let the meeting stem from those. Rather than saying, here's what we're going to tell you now here's what we're going to tell you now.

We've done both in Harris County.

My slides will reflect a little of that, but.

I think personal relationships can do as much as.

Big conference sessions where you're teaching gotta find a way to do a lot of listening.

That's, I think more difficult at times.

Because now you're talking about personal relationships with leaders may or may not want one, and find in situations where they need you, those are opportunities.

And when things go wrong in your lap for you to be able to reach back out to them.

Let me explain what's going on.

I those are difficult but essential ways of promoting your laboratory so that you can buffer situations where you're not always in complete control.

Thank you, Roger.

I'd like to add that so I would do both if possible, so you have to make symposium, which is what we'd be interested in doing the first Fridays concept was really to capture.

Did you get any?

You know, sergeants, to be delivering evidence.

Bring them in and we can talk about submission policies and you know why? I'm not gonna accept that huge bid post.

For headboard.

I got a big fight about that one, but you know, bring EM in.

Let's let's teach some or you know you've got a Police Department that can't put up.

They want everybody to reach out, learn the lab, what they're supposed to do, and they can't clear out their department.

So if you can get them to come in, you know at other times and just know that you come in any first Friday, make sure you call and let us know. So we get you on the list. But.

But I really do like the symposium because everybody.

Everybody in the entire community justice community is hearing the same message. And has the ability.

People they may not take.

Take advantage of it. But they have the ability to ask a prosecutor or defense attorney, you know.

I didn't know that.

How are you?

How are we going to?

It's there and I've seen it happen.

So I would recommend both if you could do it. If I had to pick one, I would actually do the symposium.

Because you're getting that message out to.

A broader audience that really needs to hear it all coming from the same.

I would add if you can do both, do them so we I didn't go into the the other things we do in Wisconsin.

I just focus on the symposium, but we do very similar things like put Laura was discussing, we sit at a table outside the judges conference and same thing when we're not there.

They want to know where, where we and we get a lot of people ask about the retirement plans. When we, Jen and I sit there, we laugh.

We're like, we're not those people.

We're not here for your retirement, but thanks for asking, you know.

Here are some of your guidelines.

So if you can get into, push your ways into rooms into spaces you maybe wouldn't normally be invited.

And now what happens with the judges?

It they're an insular group, you're spot on.

It is so hard to break in, but if it goes well.

They now call us and say, hey, so this thing, you know, this topic, the judges are asking like this literally happened last week.

Any chance you're available?

You know June 10th through the 12th.

And what's your schedule?

They're asking us what worked for our schedules and I just blew me away.

Because normally it was like we would.

I would rearrange everything to be there to talk to the judges.

And now they're saying, you know what window of time do you want?

So consistency though, is really really key.

Whatever you're gonna do, just be consistent.

Think you count on it?

So if all of a sudden something changes dramatically and it any things happen, right?

But I think that speaks a relationship and a trust building.

Is that consistency too, to know that you're available?

What are the different resources?

Making us less mystical, right and being present. So it I I would. We did the one-on-one stuff which is great and is important. My perspective though is that that symposium brought down walls and barriers that for a while we repeated our heads against the wall wonder.

How to do that? And I think getting everyone in the room together, the amount of the awkward telephone game.

Well, you told me this and they told me that is almost gone.

And I think that was huge.

People call us and they'll ask questions and things of that nature. Now that in the past they would never have approached us.

So the other part about the symposium is when people want to just dip their toe in a little to see what it's all about. It allows level of being a little passive, if you will, to come in and see without having to sit across the table. I will.

Also edit the symposium. A lot of us in the management realm as well as the technical leaders are off to the side having conversations.

Hallways and stuff, and that speaks to that relationship building element right, where as much as I would love to sit there on the talks I often get pulled aside because people have questions or they want to talk about something specific that they're dealing with. And I think that.

Important, too, is just making sure when you're there, you're truly there.

Thank you. And and I will post the same question to virtual attendees that are part of ours stakeholders.



So it's just the United States Attorney's Office, the office of the Attorney General, as well as the public defender's office. Some of you may be virtual.

This meeting will be broadcasted on our website and I know a couple of people from the US Attorney's office at least will watch it later. So if you are so kind as to.

Send me an e-mail as to what's your opinion about.

Having regular meetings or having once a year and what is your opinion overall if as attorney, she would benefit from continued legal education credits?

So any opinion is welcome.

Thank you.

Yeah. Then the next slide please.

So I took a different tack on this on purpose.

Harris County does.

What's your tips?

Conference topics in science very similar.

I do want to point out that EFS is more like Harris County.

That is like Kentucky or Wisconsin.

I worked at the state of Ohio and I was there, crime lab system director too. And I recognized the topics of.

It was a real challenge.

We had hundreds and hundreds of little agencies counting on us couldn't possibly build personal relationships.

But in Harris County, we could.

And This is why I wanted to focus on this.

There were a limited number of real stakeholders for us, the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, Commissioners Court emergency services.

The public defender we really didn't see.

As a stakeholder, maybe you would.

That was something I was disappointed in, but we they didn't have the sort of relationship we would have liked to have them.

In the times, the leader of the public defender's office would come and sit in our management meetings. We also had.

Indirect stakeholders, I guess I'll call them the FBIDPF.

Houston forensic science.

Also serving the area of Houston, there are two grind labs, Houston Forensic Science Center serves the city of Houston, Harris County Crime Laboratory serves the county

of Houston, sort of around it, with roughly equal population.

So it was interesting to keep our eye on what they do differently. What we do differently. And there were just differences of.

Personality.

But we did see them as a stakeholder, and we met with the regular.

But in this case.

Building relationships with the heads of the office and the leadership of those offices was more important to me person.

I don't want to be suggesting that all of your analysts should get to know the US attorney.

Obviously we can't do that, but the leadership can, there should be some.

Planning that says which of you can reach out directly to for these people to share the District Attorney.

Had their cell phone numbers personally use them.

Things go wrong in their office when they want to call me privately. They encourage you when the records law, I don't know.

These things are very important and.

Let's go to the next slide.

And I'll give you some examples.

When the previous prosecuting attorney started her campaign for very first thing she did.

Set up a press conference in our parking.

Where she just took us to task for sexual assault. Turn around. Times are unacceptable.

You're not serving. The victims are being ignored.

It was hard to learn.

This was caught us by surprise and we still had.

I thought.

Gotta calm down.

Think about this.

I need you to do.

The problem was she was right.

We could have gone to battle with her, or we could have met.

That's what we did, and I told her first thing you know, I don't think this was personal.

I think you were trying to get a message across the most direct, effectively good. She

shook my hand. From then on she had trouble in her office.

She would call me and vice versa.

The defense attorneys actually raised the blood alcohol turn around. They had clients that were waiting.

Trial 'cause we couldn't get the supreme.  
Court.

So we hold and promised and actually did decrease the sterling I could explain to you why the section summary.

Blood alcohol. Turn on.

Believe me, they didn't want to hear it.

And you don't want to hear it?

It doesn't make any difference why a performance wasn't up.

What matters is their belief that we were going to fix it.

You know, steps that they could monitor while we did so and how long it take, then maybe they might hear why.

But they didn't get.

Now that's where they contacted us and said we'd like you to approve your service level.

We were also source of outreach in a couple of examples.

I'll just give you 2.

We kind of pioneered trends, Tracy, and we wanted real low level property.

We believe we weren't the only ones that you could make a lot of CODIS matches by doing property crime trace DNA.

But that puts pressure on.

He has to send teams out to property crimes.

Ordinarily we just take a report.

Sometimes nobody goes to the property.

Of course they do.

They're not collecting evidence.

We engage with them, we say they're going to love these CODIS matches. You're going to solve crimes. The community will benefit from this. You will benefit from this yourself.

Love it.

And that's exactly what happened.

But when they hit up into the hundreds of cases a month, you got overwhelmed.

So it gets it worked.

We were beyond our wildest dreams.

But then we asked them, you got to stop.

This is this is becoming all we do.

They're, you know, they're also homicide, sexual assaults that have to be worked as well.

Because of our relationships, they're able to do those things by directly meeting with the sheriff, by directing meeting with senior.

To make those things happen without.

Losing our relationships with also we report like you report, we reported to some Commissioners court every Texas County had the Commissioner's court.

That's the way it works.

We had to go before them.

Every every year and argue our budget, we used to go and just brag.

You know, we have this many accreditations we have this.

We our successes are outstanding.

I love you. Spare 45 minutes explaining to you how great you are.

You didn't wanna hear it, you know nobody can listen and it eats up the tummy.

I went in there and said, look, turn around trying to job more.

This is what we're at.

This is where we'd like to be.

I will come back to you each year and tell you exactly.

Well, that's all that really matters for you.

Is there a problem in our office that we can't keep up?

That's really what Commissioners hear about from community.

So you were honest with them?

Just about service though, I think that's all I want to say.

Again.

Personal approach that I took.

It may not be for everyone.

It sure worked for me.

Thank you, Doctor Kent, and thank you for that perspective.

Lucy, do you have anything?

Are you with us?

 **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 1:00:55

Hello. Yes, I'm here finally.

Sorry, it was a lot of technological issues for me.

I don't.

We don't really have anything that we've done proactively.

It's usually in reaction to something, so as part of my I recently completed a strategic plan that I'm I have a two year plan that I put in place and one of those things is to engage more with our stakeholders.

So that's actually what I'm in the process of trying to establish.

But usually it's something happened and then we have to address it after it happens or you know it's it.

That's pretty much how we've always functioned in the entire 20 some odd years that I've been at the Sheriff's Office.

And so it's one of those things that I plan on working on.

So I definitely feel your pain as far as having to figure out figure that out.

But we've in the past.

For instance, we were in the news because of our DNA unit and so.

It was a lot of education with the state Attorney's Office because they were like, we didn't lose our accreditation. We just had to change the way we were reporting.

So we had to have lots of meetings with our detectives, lots of meetings with our state's attorneys and our defense attorneys just to explain that what occurred, what it meant.

What we were, what information we were able to provide, same thing when through attrition.

My firearms unit closed, so I had to send a memo out to all our stakeholders. Had to have meetings with all the stakeholders, had to talk to other laboratories within the state of Florida.

To assist me with getting through my firearms cases until I could get a unit back up and running.

Another time was submission of, especially with fentanyl.

We had some.

We had like a scare with one of our analysts and because of the way things were being packaged, so we went out and did roll calls. Our evidence people went out and did roll calls with all the different districts within the Sheriff's Office and some of the

other.

Agencies. But as I said, it tends to be very reactive.

Instead of proactive.

So my goal is to become proactive and that's pretty much all I have to add because I don't think it's. I'm probably not that helpful.

FD

**FTU, DFS (DFS)** 1:03:06

That is helpful.

It is help.

That's all we have.

Like I said, it was just kind of trying to get it all out there and ideas and kind of questions or whatnot.

Where to find?

And I think that's Laura. With your permission, I think that's the advantage of having. Such a great scientific Advisory Board separate and apart from the great ideas.

Is the fact that we.

Forensic laboratories confront challenges on a daily basis and how we tackle those challenges. Number one, what are the solutions and #3.

In the district.

Of Colombia tends to be insular in in turn, in terms of the information flow and a lot of people act as if the District of Columbia is a whole independent country and there are no other jurisdictions to compare and contrast with. So.

Your experience in navigating through rough waters is invaluable to us, and it's a good example to all of our stakeholders.

That is not a unique situation, it's a matter of how you handle the situation each time.

Proactive, reactive, a combination of both education and so on and so forth.

So the answer is is not to be in isolation, neither scientifically, not with your stakeholders.

So thank you for that perspective.

I think we're moving on two year olds. Yes, let's bring Doctor Hauser, director of the Public Health Lab recovery.

Working through working on our strategic plan for 2025.

And the main thing that we've been focusing on is building out building up kind of our quality.

Processes so that eventually we can get towards adding on delivery tests and becoming more reference testing as well as pursue accreditation through VIP.

So the first one of the first things that we've been working on.

And it's just developing a tracking and key quality indicators.

So we've been developing.

We have developed a competency workflow in Hydrogen before.

Each lab had a checklist, and it was on paper, and it had to be routed through people to write on and and update.

So we're standardizing what that checklist looks like and then standardizing how we put it into hydrogen.

I would get pushed through the approval chain and so that we we will go live with that next week.

So all the labs have updated their the checklist. This new standardized checklist and any competencies done starting on the 14th will now be collected by the June.

The other thing is with I've been working on with the help of our it is developing an actual.

Metric a way to actually capture quality metrics.

And so we've been using smartsheet and so do you think we want to be able to capture our new quality metrics that were outlining proficiency tests, non conformance turn around times, training and competency?

So it's kind of like a a dashboard where all of our lab managers and supervisors can go to and just a centralized place. So everybody can see it. We can review it, we can generate reports.

And so forth.

And then so we're hoping to go live with that start capturing some of these polymetrics by the end of the month.

The plan is to start with capturing kind of standardized workflows that affect all of the laboratory and then also tracking specific high volume testing that we do. And at least one or two tests within each laboratory before we expand out and do all tests.

Next slide.

So the other thing we're working on is developing a consolidated internal audit checklist.

So we have.

We get audited by CMS for CLIA.

We get audited by Department of Homeland Security for Biowards. We get audited

by CDC for a select agent.

And then we also have our internal DFS DOMS and just requirements within the agency.

And so where myself in the quality specialists are working to put together one internal checklist so that it hits everything and we can do it one time and then we're going to break it out because we've looked at all the things that each one required and kind of.

Group them and so we've kind of outlined what sections that we would outline, I mean audit each quarter.

So right now we're working on.

Organization anything related to organization charts, personnel.

Competency. Trusting training.

So we're starting with that kind of as a pilot amongst ourselves. And so we're trying to build that out.

And then how do we train our auditors to actually do that?

So that way we spread it out throughout the year.

It's not fresher and we get it done and we're ready for whatever audit depending on the time that we anticipate that audit to happen, we should be done with most of that stuff.

Next slide.

And so a part of the improving our quality is making sure everybody's on the same playing field, right.

So we've had. I've had all of the supervisors and managers take a basic QMS certification through clinical Lab Standards Institute.

Which is kind of on our side, kind of the best practices.

They have all types of best practices documents and we refer to that when we make our sop's and so forth and so they offer an actual training.

So all of our lab supervisors and managers have completed that. They completed it at the end of feared. In addition to that myself and my lab OPS manager just completed our six SIM Sigma Greenbelt.

Course and we plan to sit for that work.

That that certification so that we be Greenbelt certified.

And the other things that are planned, we kind I have to kind of shift and move some dates that we were trying to aim for.

So we pushed our revision of our quality manual to 3rd and fourth quarter and then



doing our CAP gap analysis for accreditation towards the fourth quarter.

And next slide.

We did have our Biowack audit external audit last month.

Biowatch kind of changed how they did their audits. And so before they used to group things. And so this time they broke out every single observation or and counted them as a separate deficiency.

So some of them were kind of root in the same kind of category, but they were just counted as individual deficiencies. So the total.

We had 14 deficiencies. We had two commendables.

For how we did our task log came up with a task log to make sure we were doing some checks and balances for the deficiencies. There were a couple that were just best practices.

It was about how we decamped, contaminate and things like that. There were a couple that was related to just the standards in terms of BYWATCH has its own quality manual.

And so how we address those?

So we just need to revise how we do those things.

There were four observations and then from our previous audit there were 33 things that came back really.

There's one partially resolved which was related to our pre planning.

We need to add an additional site as we we're currently plan with Delaware, so we need to add an additional site and there's a couple of.

Requirements in terms of the documentation.

You know what we outlined that we're going to how we're gonna handle it with the actual bio watch office.

And then unresolved one was related to just documentation. When the program office changes their protocol documentation that everybody read it.

So we have to just develop a a thing so that we can document that part. And then the other thing was.

Changing it was on PCR.

And how we threshold on which is the easy fix. There are two.

There were some things that were overcome by defense, meaning the program office not does no longer requires it, and then everything else was resolved from the last time.

So the for we're currently working with the program Office to address our

deficiencies.

We haven't got the official audit result just yet, but we're already working on what they gave us for the preliminary.

So the the goal is so biowatch perfect.

I say perfect, but Biowach perfect is that is 10 deficiencies plus is what we're looking for.

So next slide.

So yeah.

So that's all the stuff I talked about and then next slide.

So just programmatically with dealing with flu.

So that has been a huge uptick in flu surveillance, particularly subtyping concern for avian flu.

So we're working on adding on some validations and some just process workflow to be able to handle the increase of samples which is now.

Incidentally, now a Six Sigma project for me and a laptops manager.

And then we've been doing some professional development series.

So in January we had doctor Lube was at the Children's Hospital present with Doctor Ajay, who's our bio bioterrorism responsible agent we had.

A.

A case of Berkle Daria from a a child, and so they did a joint presentation to show everybody exactly how we work together.

And I came to be able to help them. And then just last week we had Mark Robinson come from the regional syringe program and he jointly presented with CTU and our OD 2A group just kind of making the connection just kind of the themes of you know.

Making sure that people know within the agency understand the work that we're doing and how we actually affect people outside.

And that's it.

Thank you, doctor Helser. Any questions?

Congratulations. I did that last year.

It's a lot of work.

So yeah. Congrats on your Sigma.

The next step we meet, I want to see that green belt. Yeah.

Now we will have Mr. Lucia William work from a crime scene.

So I basically just wanna talk about the two main goals that I have for 2025, which

was continuous training and to buy new updated equipment so that the you're gonna get people fishing in effect, they're gonna go out and actually process crime scenes. So the four.

Big ticket items that we purchased was the two Leica scanner machines, the DLK scanner machine and like an RTC 363D scanner.

And the crown.

Like in a true system like.

So the BLK scanner is one of the smallest of lightest scanner machines.

The reason that we had to purchase 2 scanners.

So it was a problem with us going on the crime scene, holding down a crime scene for hours.

Police Department cringed when we brought out the old lacer machines because it was taken.

It was time consuming.

It was taken between one or two hours and you can imagine they want to clear crime scene and holding down the street and and they want to have traffic to flow and we still.

Trying to actually scan the scene and the old scans were so old on the tripod you actually had to make sure that the tripod was balanced in order to actually scan a chip. So the new scanners that we purchased, it doesn't matter if the tripod is lenient or.

Whatever, it will still scan the scene.

So this is one of those, the smallest scanners that like are created.

And we basically want to use that for indoors.

Right. And so when you use it, when you actually scan the machine, it takes only 60 seconds.

Basically, you know to to scan the scene.

So this is the one that we will be using indoors and we just finish the out of training. Earlier in February for this machine, so next time.

So this RTC 363 span which we also just completed the training. So as you can see. Improves efficiency and productivity in the field through fast, simple use and accurate.

So I think was to buy something that's friendly use for our team and also for the US attorneys if they wanted to use it was a big thing when I said OK, we're not going to use it no more because attorneys came for me. So I had to.

Ensure them that we were going to buy something that was more even user friendly for them.

Because even though crime scene had been used in the scan machines for over probably 12 years, they have never used it inside.

They have never used the scanning system inside because it wasn't used user friendly for they didn't want us to log in. The big old scanning machine.

So this one here we have a USB which you can actually they can use that they can bring it in and connect it and then they can show the jury like whatever they want to see.

So we will see.

So the jury is still out. If they want to use it, we're going to actually have some type of training for them to ensure that they know what this machine the two machines do.

And how is user friendly for them if they want to use it in for truck?

This is also the crime like Foster and Freeman.

On camera.

So this is something that.

Crime scene can take out or they can use inside, you know processing cars, or they can actually use when they come in and actually process different clothing items and stuff.

It really enhances and detects body fluid.

That's.

That's.

OK.

So it's designed for forensic examiners seeking a streamline and A and a modernize their investigation without compromising results.

Thanks. So we actually purchased two of them.

Next.

As you can see how it enhances.

If you want to detect like body fluids, so the first picture is without as you can see in the second one, it's going to actually use in the camera.

Thanks.

But it doesn't offend anyone.

So my colleagues, so when I got to a few of these, used it anyway 'cause we all had a game.

So you can see also it enhances blood detection.

Next, so this is some this is a 2. This is another big ticket item.

It's a 2 symptom enhancement light which we have problems with the crime scene.

People actually trying to get that overhead picture and so they were climbing up on ladder.

So once I had one injury, I was OK. I have to purchase something to prevent that from happening.

So this is all this lighting system also is used in hospitals, so it all so so the the camera is here.

So so you can maneuver.

This around if you guys want to see it, we got it downstairs. If you want to see it in person, but you can maneuver these two parts.

Here the camera is here and also we have the computer here.

So when you take your photo, actually you can do it over here.

And there's also you can see what type of picture that you actually catch.

So that was, as you can see, you can see in front of behind where you can see.

So she has a knife here, but you can't really see it.

But however she can maneuver it around and actually see what she have, and then you can down.

But we also have an app and like an iPad that you can download it, we do for the pictures around the lighting.

So that's basically it for me.

Thank you guys.

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Willemore.

Next, we're going to have Miss Hopkinson from the Forensic science lab.

Within the printed times and the reason I'm going to stay heated, this is really an opportunity for our team to shine in the individual units. We've had a tremendous amount of accomplishments over the course of the past several months that are very diverse in which we'll be able.

To see.

And so the forensic science laboratory wanted to use this opportunity to allow the individual units to showcase some of the achievements they've had, so that unit managers and the technical leaders who have the collaboration working with their team.

Have really through leadership work to obtain some incredible achievements from our late print unit. You're gonna be here about the steps they took to achieve accreditation, which was incredible.

And then Miss Roundtree also presented at apps about the kind of getting the story behind this is what we've been working in the background over the finish line.

Miss Cox has joined our team and she is brought with us a tremendous amount of experience and it's really helped us to be there for the chemistry unit.

And to take a deeper look at some of our procedures and where there was opportunities. And then within our biology unit, as I'm sure you guys have heard on the news, it did make national news, the mid air collision and this team really came together on a moment.

'S notice.

Obviously it was unplanned and through tremendous team work really worked to provide results not only to OCME but incur and to the families.

And so each of the teams are going to now present to you.

On the incredible cheap bits through LFL.

First up is.

So I will just kind of give you a brief overview of the rebuilding that we have done in LFU so far to the loss of accreditation about maybe a few months before we had a cue card issue.

It was surrounding suitability.

One of our analysts failed to open all of the additional images in a case, and one of the action steps.

We realized that there were more issues concerning.

Not just on suitability, but search parameters and distortion.

And after the loss of accreditation we had in House contractors that were doing cases under our loo policies and with the district code, we had to be accredited.

So we shifted our casework to an outsourcing laboratory and in conjunction with that cue car we had, we really wanted to know if this was an isolated incident or if.

If this was systemic, so one of the things that we try to do is just to try to look at the cases for all of the analysts at the time.

So that was the 45 case review we sent.

We sent 5 cases from each analyst to another vendor where they did suitability.

Just looked over the suitability decisions and 43 out of the 45 cases had suitability disagreements.

Now this was non consensus 'cause. It was just based off of a case examiner and another analyst.

But this kind of show that, you know, maybe the the smoke before the fire, like, OK, this is discerning 'cause it was still very high.

And then the agency had the SNA assessment and one of the findings or recommendations that they saw, they they did see that there were still some suitability.

Kind of concerns with the cases that they observed.

And they had some recommendations, like for all the analysts at the time to be II certified and that the analysts that were grandfathered in from MPD were incompetent to test it.

So we moved forward with GAAP assessments and training with eval forensics. We had four assessments surrounding all the fundamentals of suitability search parameters.

Minutia, markups and distortion.

And regardless of the assessment results, we wanted everyone in Alipu to go through the training and the training provided 200 hours of approved II CERT and research test credits and at the end of the training we had a mock trial to kind of just solidified like, OK.

We see that.

We took this training.

We see that, you know, the analysts who passed the training.

Did well, but we wanted to make sure that they took what they learned in training in a fight at in core.

And afterwards we vamped all of our LFU Sops and also for our training manual before the loss of accreditation, we were paid for less, but we also worked with our IT team to make.

Our our examination process a lot more efficient and during also that time the Members in LFU were.

Certified or used that the credit hours for the research test.

Thank you. M's roundtrip.

Many people are in here right now. We have 5.

So you get 45 case reviews of five people.

Well, at for 45 cases, there were nine. There were nine at the time. But right now we have myself, the technical leader Ashley, 4.

Sorry, we have 4 examers including myself and the technical leader.

Thanks. Jerry has a question, folks.

Yes.

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 1:26:59

Yeah, I was just curious as.

DC is updating sop's like the ones that you mentioned here.

Are you guys looking at the standards and trying to implement any of the standards?

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 1:27:19

Yes, a lot of our sops.

Are follow the OSAK standards and also for our training manual. They follow Osak and ASB standards.

So there we we can't say that we align with everything 'cause, there's some best practices standards that we just chose that were OK.

We chose not to follow because it doesn't.

Kind of align with maybe like suitability criteria and we won't use all you know, 5 conclusions.

Inclusionary school, I mean scale because we have the suitability criteria, but we did go through, especially with Alice from EVOLVE Forensics to make sure that we were very progressive with our changes and that it was in line with not only osak but the research that has been coming.

Out for the friction Ridge discipline.

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 1:28:10

Thank you.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 1:28:12

Do you do blind review?

Verification. Yeah, we have that in our policy.

But as of right now, because we don't have enough.

Yeah, but we do have it in our policy. And as we grow, we're going to implement it based off of it depends on the situation of the case.

Yeah.

Good morning, everyone.



Good.

Fingerprint unit technical leader was there another question though?

OK.

Great. Maybe I'll answer the question during my part, but I'm going to go over the road map of LFU used to get to accreditation. So if Angelique mentioned that there was a complete rewrite of our SOP.

So once those sops were rewritten, we needed to test them to determine their suitability for our workflow. So as part of that, the examiners completed 5 mock cases.

That are provided by evolved forensics. And then there was an additional 4 mock cases that were created internally and the purpose of this was to ensure that all of our conclusions and all of these new procedures that we had put into place were tested to see how they.

Functioned within our casework. Thanks to that, we found a few additional areas of improvement that we were able to do. Some SOP updates and fixes.

To shore up some of those weak areas.

What? So next we move into the actual assessment.

So on December 1011, we had our on site a Navy surveillance visit and of course that included our document reviews are witnessing and our interviews.

Overall, the assessors were very impressed with the amount of changes that LFU was able to achieve and they were impressed with how well we were able to integrate those changes into our work product.

There was one area that was found during the surveillance 1 area of non conforming. This area had to do with digital images for external use only. External examination only.

So within LFU, we consider our digital scans of our LIS and our digital copies of from the crime scene to be our work product.

But once those images go for external examination, that becomes the evidence for that external entity.

And so therefore we had to have a mechanism in place to track the chain of custody. Now, I think it's very.

Worth noting that all of our digital images are housed within a video case work system heads. Nadda. You guys are very familiar with it. And so all of the history is tracked.

And then when we move those images to our external provider, we do it through a

secure transfer.

So the pace that we needed to shore up was the actual limbs, chain of custody show that transfer.

Thanks.

So we decided to move forward with a non performance and we created a corrective action plan and in that creation we also sought the expertise of other subject matter experts.

So we reached out to the Ftcoe's technical Leader Working group.

We also consulted our SAB subject matter expert Cece PERRERA, and then we created.

The corrective action plan and survived that the ADB technical or lead assessor.

To kind of have everyone put eyes on it and say yes, this is a great plan moving forward and then I want to point out that all of this process creating the plan all the way through implementation took us one month.

So this was a lot of hard work that went into this and in that month we developed and implemented our new workflow.

We updated our sop's. We chained our examiners, we notified our customers and in addition to the notification we even did a audit on the sample of our cases to ensure. All of that metadata was tracked and we found that all of our digital images, the integrity of all of our digital images, maintained and then we submitted our objective evidence for the correction to anab.

One more slide, I think.

All of this hard work paid off because like I said, if you remember our surveillance was December 10th and 11th, and on January 16th we received our SCM expansion and our accreditation.

Great team effort.

Yes, I have one.

Is video integrated with your limbs or are they kind of expandable so we can export from video to our lens and then we also of course use Photoshop so that we can export our images into Photoshop for any enhancements that we need to do and then pull that.

Back into video and all of that is tracked.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Just a few things that was implemented to improve the efficiency of the forensic

chemistry unit.

Just a few things that was implemented to improve the efficiency of the forensic chemistry unit.

The reporting of Unanalyzed test sample weight.

So before we used to report the uncertainty weight for all weight that was taken that was submitted to, that would be the before weight. The after weight the unanalyzed. Wait, but we moving forward, we will report the uncertainty.

Wait for only the floor. Wait, since the before wait is the wait of the portion that is most necessarily needed, we won't report.

The uncertainty for after and.

Another thing that we implemented was the reporting and analysis of cocaine base versus salt.

In the DC code, it does not.

Differentiate between the salt and the base form.

So for efficiency purposes, we would move forward with reporting just OK and upon request if needed, we can identify the. I mean we can identify the solvers based.

And this is. This would allow us to sample in batches as opposed to.

Work machines.

And then the reporting of marijuana.

Hemp, because also our DC code does not define the definition of hemp.

We will be reporting any plant material that microscopically tests positive for marijuana and also confirmed with confirmatory testing, to test positive for THC as marijuana and hemp.

And any additional drugs that's identified within that plant material will also be identified.

Reporting of the drug classifications. Nrdc hold there are some schedules that allow us to.

That are controlled under different structures and classifications.

So moving forward to help our stakeholders, we would put a note on our report to kind of specify where.

That drug can be controlled by instruction.

There were two notifications to A and AB that we notified them of and one was the reporting of silos and psilocybin.

The forensic Chemistry unit reported celosen as the only drug identified in samples. However, both slocin and psilocybin can be found in mushroom samples.

So with a well known analytical technique known as the GC can be a little bit challenging for compounds like this.

So moving forward, because it we're not able to differentiate between the two, we will be reporting both drugs identified in mushroom samples as cellos and psilocybin, along with a note on the report to allow our customers to know that we did not differentiate.

And then the last notification that we reported to Anab was the reporting of FLUOROPHENTAL and its positional isomers, which it is.

Still pending in House investigation for our legal team to review.

That's it.

Any questions?

Thank you. And I felt to introduce Miss Cox, who is the director of our Forestry Chemistry unit.

And her lab also got reaccredited this last December, for the second time in two years.

Thank you, Miss Cox.

Incredibly affront to biology.

Hey hi anjuli verge.

I'm from the biology unit manager. This is Clark, our primary care.

And so February and March were very, very busy for the forensic biology unit.

During these months, it was the primary focus of the unit.

To assist the Medical examiners office with the plane crash by DNA assistance to help with the identification.

Patient of the victim's with my crush.

As Doctor Diaz had previously said that the primary goal of DNA analysis was to provide the remains back to the loved ones as complete as possible.

So at this time I just want to acknowledge the entire forensic biology unit. Every single member of the team, no matter how big or how small, participated.

With this process.

From those that were actually in the lab processing samples to writing reports, the technical industry reviews to those that were still in training or in training, they were helping making the case jackets, printing paperwork and report dissemination.

So it was really, truly a collaboration of the entire team.

So on January 31st, that was a Friday when we learned that we were gonna be processing these samples, we met as a group and came up with a game plan of how

we were going to accomplish this huge task.

At the time we had e-mail communication chains set up. We had a weekend plan, and that night Friday night we went ahead and started processing those samples. So to date, 78 samples have been processed which comprised of 31 reports and cases. We're currently on our fourth round of testing right now. There is eleven additional samples that we are working on, so these have been coming in on almost like a weekly basis as.

Divers are continuing to pull up remains from the river.

I believe that next week we're gonna we will be getting another around testing.

So the first round of testing, like I said, began on January 31st and we had started to have reports being distributed within 48 hours to medical examiners office.

So at this time it'll be.

So I wanted to echo what Julie has said previously about that first meeting that we had on Friday.

She made us someone who's had a meeting, and it was actually a very long meeting. And things were constantly changing.

So we had to figure out, OK.

How do we meet this effort and how do we meet it?

By doing what we normally do in case work, except we have to do it faster, we have to write reports and we have to keep in mind that the main purposes for disaster victim identification rather than all the other stuff that we normally do like code as comp.

And all that stuff and so.

One of the things that we did was to create a.

QA, we have the official QA debates that we'd use for forensics for our casework, but our form that we use for the QA database in nature up to five profiles into database at a time.

And so we had to create a special spreadsheet so that we could do up to 50 at a time. Since our first round of samples were about like 45 or 43 or somewhere around there.

And then that spreadsheet also was what we use to assist the OCM staff with understanding our results.

We basically created a heat map so that way they can see OK.

Here are the you know, instead of reading our reports, this is what's connected. This is what's.

So if you go to the next slide.

And this is just a screenshot of what it is which does not have any data.

I mean, so it looks kind of bare, but on the left side if that's the spreadsheet.

Where it allows us to get the data from our data analysis software goes into the spreadsheet and then creates the entry for you for the QA database.

We then enter it into our QA database, search it to confirm it, and then on the right side is that we create for the results.

And as each round of testing gets you know done, we add that to the heat map.

So we have.

Any questions?

Yes, somehow I heard you've done rapid DNA.

We didn't do rapid DNA technology.

We just did a rapid.

That that works, that works.

Yes. Then you can say congratulations even bigger than that.

It was a tremendous achievement. What they did, tremendous for the expeditious speed in which they did it because it was rush testing, not rapid testing.

And then Clark is up there casually explaining this QA database he put together.

But as you see, to make it color-coded in heat map so that those receiving the results and this is all done like at 1:00 we were notified.

And by 4:00 PM, we would be getting the first set of samples.

So there was a lot that went into place very quickly.

The team did an incredible job.

Julian Clark.

Incredible leadership with the team getting them to the point they were needed to be in time to receive those samples.

And and I think it.

I think the database that you have in front of you doesn't translate into the amount of work that went through and to the service that was provided to the families.

Taking into account that vast majority of the victims were not from this area.

And they were from all over the United States, so obviously they were going to land here at Reagan National Airport and then continue their journey to other places.

Final destination.

So to coordinate the reassociation of anatomic specimens in a short amount of time.

So people could have families could have funerals that took place in a very short

amount of time, really short, and it goes also without saying that the identification, as I said, occurred in four business days.

And that is a major.

Achievement and you know it doesn't happen because of serendipity or happenstance or a coincidence. That's the direct result of having forensic laboratories and medical examiners. Number one well, staff and well funded.

Because all the work that went through is because we have the deep bench that we can go through and to have all the labs in the same building it is of.

Tremendous advantage, because we all know each other and even though we had generous offers for DNA from all over the United States, we determined that it was better for our own forensic biology unit to perform the testing.

And to your point, Dr. Kan, I may have misspoke.

But the end result is better. The DNA was.

Done very rapidly and very efficiently.

And in that in that way, I think our agencies serve those families very well.

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 1:45:46

You were cutting out a little bit during your presentation, so I may have missed it, but did for all of the cases.

Did you go straight to doing DNA or did you use fingerprint or identification as well?

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 1:46:04

For identification, because of our geographic location, we have access to multiple databases that maybe other jurisdictions don't have.

However, we we incorporated the assistance of the FBI.

And who had a team here?

Basically just a few hours after the incident and they have access to way more databases than we do and vast majority of the victims.

Were identified via digital fingerprint.

Jerri, just to highlight on that too, the work of what was being done within the Biology unit, I don't know if it's quite clear is they were actually trying to associate body parts to the body. So there wasn't exactly a fingerprint to use.

They were trying to associate legs to torso's arms, to torso's, and that's the work that our forensic biology was doing in collaboration with the other efforts that Doctor DS

is talking about with making identification.  
The larger components through the dental records.

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 1:47:08  
Thank you.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 1:47:08  
I like.

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 1:47:09  
I appreciate that.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 1:47:11  
I'd like to just add one more component that was ongoing.  
Is that there were a few we did work with Bodie to do rapid DNA analysis on a few of the cases, which would tend to be children because we didn't have fingerprints.  
So while this was going on in forensic biology.  
Our our Chief Officer, COO, Chief Operations Officer and our Office of Contract Pure met were working.  
To make sure that we could rapidly create a contract with Bodie to do that, handful of rapid DNA and also our crime scene sciences science, because phoni is just right here in Virginia, they became made themselves available to make multiple runs back and forth to voting, so that.  
We could very quickly get those few cases to do rapid ID.  
Which allowed the identifications of the you know, those individuals that really don't. Fingerprints on file.  
So it was really we had in house, we were working to to reunite the body parts, provide the family with the best that we could.  
Meanwhile, we had our our leadership working contract and whatnot so that we could use other technologies that are very complicated.  
It was truly A-Team effort. Throughout the whole agency.  
Were there any bodies that you needed to know to identify?  
We have some samples that.  
Associate with each other.  
And reassociate that with my fingerprint, I see, yes.



So you had knowns from the body, yes, yes.

Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

So I would like to add.

Pecky Lexington, back in 2006, we also had a plan for, you know, people.

And on my refrigerator all is that the impact of it?

You go through it and we all do what we do. We get through it and then comes the release.

The release has yet to come.

I highly recommend that you, you know, maybe provide some counseling services.

You are bringing someone in? Yes. And you know just it is to hold down, to understand the biology of trauma.

I agree, and I think it's really beneficial to hear that.

That sounds like it's a worthwhile investment that we're making. So thank you for that feedback. It is.

You do the same thing.

We had to detach limbs and if it's, it's not pretty, it was one of the most stressful times in my whole career.

Try to get through that indeed, and it's not the the scope of this meeting, but you know, a couple of things to highlight.

We brought therapy dogs for our personnel here for both agencies and I think tomorrow we have assess chairs which I believe is 95% of the appointments are taken already.

So we are trying to be creative in terms of.

How?

Our personnel, how to get to that.

Release that stuff.

All that by Kerry's trauma, and I know it's not the scope, but you sound like my wife said.

You need a vacation and.

I have to tell you. Yes, I've been in doing this for 30 years and this was the toughest of my career.

Not because of the amount of work.

But because of the emotional toll with the families.

That's the chief medical examiner.

I went every day where the families were.

Being housed in Bethesda, MD. And we briefed the families from day one from that Thursday night, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

And those briefings took, on average, 4 hours.

So apart from the work that was been doing here.

We went there every single day.

And that's a huge emotional toll that cannot be underscored in the sense that this is the business that we do and we are able to detach ourselves emotionally, specially in cases of child abuse and and and so on. But having so many families with so many questions.

And that at the end of the day, they just wanted to see the medical examiner and and know that they're worthy.

Once we're being taken care and how graceful they were. Especially, that's what got to me that they were. They're in the middle of a tragedy and they're thanking our agencies because I don't know if I will be that graceful, to be honest with you in the middle of.

That grief.

But that's a that's a huge emotional talk.

So you went 30 days.

I I did, yes, yes.

I was gonna actually.

I'm glad you brought that up because that's the first thing that came to my mind too is like the Wellness perspective.

So it sounds like by all of you guys.

We just had a helicopter crash over Lake MI.

This was like 15 years ago now, but that was a much smaller scope and similar similar thing. The impact of it, right?

And it's all just great.

But I just wanted to say kudos.

That was the medical helicopter, right?

It was.

In Michigan, of course, yes, yes.

Mark, I was surprised you didn't use rapid DNA.

I know you for many months ago.

DNA task force? Why not he?

He did better than that he did.

He did classic DNA extremely rapidly samples.

I do have a question.

Actually this is more for overall.

Are we getting any new members?

Yes, I we interview.

The deputy mayor and the Mayor's Office of Talent and appointment interview to people. And to be honest with you, in the middle of the.

Airplane incident.

I haven't followed up. I know that.

The next step is they have to go before Council.

So I promise you, I will follow up and hopefully by the next meeting, those two Members will be.

Here with us.

But in in the sink of transparency, I haven't follow up since January.

Curious.

You all have any questions?

Jerry. Cece.

No.

OK.

In a little over.

Miss Hillary Holdman and Amanda Kenner, they are.

M's Hoffman is the general counsel, and Miss Kennard is from the Office of Legal Counsel. And as members of the Scientific Advisory Board were provided a summary about an investigation by the Office of Inspector General.

I will for the most part, refrain from giving my opinion, but I'll give it anyway.

I don't think this is.

Much to do about anything.

But I will put it on perspective because there was an article by the Washington Post today and they're looking at 700 cases. If you want to put it in perspective.

They were.

They're looking at response times 700 cases the last four years, 30,094.

On the calendar year 20, 24-7, 1299 scenes and I finally, I would say if.

The response time is not accurate and if.

The claim is that.

They are not being reflected accurately.

There is no gain by any employee by doing that, neither financially nor promotion. I will leave it at that and if you have any questions, Miss Hoffman and Miss Kenner can answer those questions to you.

Well, I come from a beast lab.

And basically, you know, when evidence would come in, we actually would have the officer sign the bottom of the form and the receiving analyst at the bottom of the form and the date and time.

But when it got logged into the system, it would have a later date and time, so that was on computer saying we knew it. And so we set a policy that stated in our manual that the initial chain of custody begins with the date on the scan Doc.

That's when.

Which began we made it part of the policy because otherwise sometimes it could even it could be a day later that something got logged into the system.

Just curious if there's something along those lines or.

Let me start with.

The arrival time, the entire discussion of arrival times is based on an agency KPI, which is just a performance indicator that we hold out of thin air. And the reason that we created this particular performance indicator was actually more to show that we can't get around the city.

In half an hour.

And so we need more.

People and we need more cars and we need more stuff because we've never met this performance indicator since 2012, not once.

It's a smart goal, which we've never pulled for any individual analyst.

No one has ever been disciplined on it, and there's no benefit whatsoever.

They wouldn't even know what it was.

So just as a like overarching.

The idea that someone would change these who wanted like there, there's no benefit of detriment to doing this.

So I can let Amanda speak to she's left a whole lot more of them than I have.

The kinds of errors that we believe we've seen so well, yeah. And also just to go back to your question, it's it's the time that they're putting on these sheets are dispatch time.

So the time that's the detective has requested them to.

Come to the scene and at the time they're arriving and so it that is not the period of time in which they are gathering evidence. That is just them coming here and then not on the worksheets. There is generally never going to be.

I collected this item at this time, so that is not really part of the concern here.

We thought that concerned about the chain of custody and that kind of timing.

If you like, I can talk about some of the kinds of things I have seen in what I have looked at, especially if you have read the report today, I think it is premature in that the OMC has not seen any kind of work so.

To to just give a A a quick overview, the the three places that we're that are CSS employees are appointing times are on their crime scene examination worksheet when they are filling things out on paper at the crime scene.

One is the times they enter into, which is our information system.

They do that at the end of their shift or sometime during their shift, and then two weeks later they have a written or a typed final report where they roll into those times.

So I have been comparing all of those times.

In checking for consistency, those are the only data points I have available to me at this time, although I am trying to get OC data reference in the article as well.

But why so? So some of the mistakes are just typos.

Some of them are someone entered the wrong month or the wrong day.

Some of them are related to missed using these 24 hour clock they put in that they got their you know were dispatched at 11:45 and then they input that you know it was 12.

The whole one when they got there and so or maybe it?

But see, it can get confusing.

And there are times where it looks like the writing is actually illegible.

So I can't even tell what number it was supposed to be there.

There are times where nothing was actually entered into or the times were never written on the report.

There are times where there's sometimes inconsistent and sometimes it decreases the length of time it took them to get there.

Sometimes it increases it.

I haven't seen any pattern that would indicate to me that people are doing this intentionally.

From what I have seen, I have reviewed probably 300 of these so far and it has been

a very time consuming process.

And then I would just like to also give some context about why it's important that anyone comparing our times to the OUC would have our prime reports is because. Just as an example.

Well, a reason why they might not be the same is our folks will sometimes self dispatch to a second location and that is not someone requesting you to go out. It may not be, you know, reported. You know, I, you know, I am dispatching myself right.

Like they will tell the dispatcher when they arrived at that second location.

It's for safety purposes.

So they, you know, without having the context of the reports, you would not be able to know.

From just looking at the lens data.

Oh, this was a secondary location. The self dispatch, things like that.

So there are reasons why there could be discrepancies. I can't say without having looked at the OBC data.

At this point, with those two people a little more context, often multiple analysts go out.

So if four people are dispatched, you might get four different arrival times. In addition, those self dispatch can be the hospital for a buccal swab.

Or upstairs to the medical examiners.

So it might be one minute or it might be 15 and so all of that context is necessary and definitely has not been given.

At this time, to anybody looking at this.

Quick question, you mentioned APIs.

I just want to make sure I understood there's nowhere like in policy that says these are more of strategic goals that that management is set to try to showcase.

Why resources are necessary?

That's correct.

Particularly this one, because why would we set a goal that we never meet?

Right, right.

The article does mention that it's a requirement. It is not.

Exactly, no question.

Has anything to do with accreditation of the answers? No. OK.

And.

For the members of the Scientific Advisory Board that obviously you are not from the district, it is the Medical Center has similar KPS for the same reason we have a list. Homeland Security provides us with a list of First Amendment activities and their First Amendment activities every single.

Day this some of them.

They have 20 attendees. Some of them may have 200,000 others.

So it is difficult to navigate, to go to a scene where there is a crime scene or a dead scene because it's difficult to navigate myself.

I live 0.9 miles from here, and on average I should be walking, but I've done.

But it takes me 15 minutes in a bad day, which happens for various reasons. It could take me half an hour for that 0.9 miles and so.

You might encounter and if you go to the medical examiner, we have a.

A panel of screens and we have access to cameras from the Department of Transportation. So we monitor the 1st amendment activities and that's how we plan to go through scenes sometimes because we know that close and even if you insure the GPS, you have to overwrite the G.

And so those are KPIs because it's a difficult.

City to navigate for for those reasons.

When they get there and actually report their time or they're doing it off the time in their car, or they're doing it off their watch or they. So it could be random. And because we're not we we're not like, oh, here's our clock.

We also did have this 24.

Some people are on military time and some people are not used to that, but about when they came in for me. I know that if I came into a crime scene I'm end up at DS. It finally gets hard ready to get out. That to me would be the time that I wrote down. Not when I first came.

And it would be either, though it could be either one, depending on the person.

And that also just happened, though, where they'll write it down, at least this has been told to me by our CSS folks.

And then they're talking to a detective, and then they have the chance to report it.

So those times may not.

And I would also like to say the article references the 600 and 787 cases. I have only just begun that review, but I have found several examples already where the reporting time was.

Well over 30 minutes.

So if that was the concern, I'm not sure why they would be.

Oh, I lied.

It took me 45 minutes to get here, but I'm gonna say it took 41 minutes.

It doesn't.

It doesn't help us meet the KPI minutes.

Any other questions?

No. So we will update you.

Just to be brutally honest, pulling the 700 cases.

By assuming it takes about 3 minutes and then you also have to go through them and they have to be redacted on all of that.

My rough estimate, and it will take 60 days. That would be somebody working only on that. So I can't conceive of how we're gonna do that under, you know, a four to six month time frame to get it to them.

So I don't know when our next update will be.

Thank you. And I think all ties up to education. I think a lot of people have.

A.

A super misunderstanding on what we do, how we do it and how we get there.

So that goes with our first topic from 2 hours ago about educating our stakeholders.

And if there are no other questions, let's bring Doctor Jennifer Love.

Thank you so much.

And actually, this conversation and the presentation that you all made last really sort of feeds into the spinal cord today, which is just really understanding the expectation for us at the SAB. And then also for the SAP were on us.

So they we can make sure that we're meeting and working together and really being building a strong.

A strong relationship.

So as you know in the DC code we have the functions of the SAP.

Which really provides a lot of really nice words.

But how do we operationalize them?

I mean, I think 1 is that #2 is periodical review of program standards protocols related to the department operations.

So I'm not asking for an answer.

I'm just kind of want you all to think about this.

So maybe when we meet next time we could strategic plan going forward.

So how do you want to see?



Rso updates like specifically when should we notify you.

Are you looking to know when it's a major change or do you wanna know about all changes?

Should we dedicate a meeting to each unit and update you on the unit over the year? How do you want to move forward? Validation plans and validation summaries I think are pretty a little bit easier in that when we identify an equipment that we want to validate and.

Bring online. You know, our first step is to formulate a plan.

I think that we can then bring that plan to you all.

You'll have time to review it, and then of course, when we're done, we bring the summary to you.

So those are kind of more concrete.

Smaller projects that are easy to communicate, but this understanding this these larger sort of SOS, how should we handle those?

One thing that I had the opportunity to attend the National Association of Forensic Science annual meeting in November and I it was really an outstanding party opportunity. I can say that based on the rest of the country, we have done hard work which is getting an SAB up.

And running, but some of the things I did, I did hear a presentation from Jennifer Noble on the Sabn Wisconsin and some of the strengths.

There. So I think you know one of the topics that we would like to hear about is just what are the SAP doing in your in your laboratory areas, what's working well, what's are challenging some other things you already kind of hit on this today, but you know?

In terms of delve into laboratory training and validation assistance especially, I mean I think we know that one of the.

Critiques of forensic science specifically is writing.

Put the mixture the nest DNA report that came out recently is that there's not as much interlabori working together on validations and and this this transparency.

So how can we be part of the solution in moving the field in this direction?

One of the things that the National Association of Forensic Science Works did put out was the best practice to developing state forensic science courts again.

We are over the hurdle.

But they do list in that report that's available online critical guidance that facilitates forensic science improvement that the SAB can do.

And they provided a bulleted list.

And we'd like to hear your thoughts on that as well.

Additionally, another thought that we brought forward is.

I know that because we brought in new chemistry manager online.

We look at our procedures that she brought in some ideas which led us to notify Anab as well for our customer.

On some of the changes we haven't made, but how would you like to receive these notifications and what sort of the timing?

You know, one of the critiques when you read towards our last essay, one of the critiques was that it was sort of just where DFS came and just highlighted what the strikes right? We we don't wanna make that air again.

We wanna highlight our strengths, but we wanna work with you and and working towards helping our areas that.

Need to be stripped.

So how do we continue this conversation so that we make sure that we, what's your expectation are so that we can all be successful together?

So it's a big ask.

So not really looking for any answers now, but is there anything that I can?

Just wait a little bit more at this time.

No, I think we'll put our heads together and maybe we'll come up with an answer.

OK, for the next meeting and kind of layout what we'd like to see what we'd like to do.

And answer your question all right.

Thank you so much.

Thank you, Doctor love. It is a huge ask and I think we should thank the members of the Scientific Advisory Board for donating their time.

So a generous fashion and.

I would say I say that nice thing just to add couple more ask.

Which is I had the OR the agency had the performance here and before City Council and a question was asked after the three accreditations of forensic biology, forensic chemistry and friction, rich, what are the plans for firearms?

And our answer was that we are waiting for the report of the National Institute of Science and technology about it.

I believe it's coming.

This month is not next month and based on their guidelines or suggestion, then we

are going to make an assessment on how to proceed right now.

We are working with ATF.

And it's a productive relationship. So we will like your advice in terms on how to proceed.

OK. And I see the meeting.

Or Nic report how to proceed with firearms and two.

Comparison examination.

And I said during that performance hearing that the next question will be well.

That's what you're doing. What you're about to do.

How about other crime labs that they do have a firearms unit?

What are they?

We do it.

So I would like to pick your brain in terms of how should we proceed with firearms if it's your advice to reconstitute the unit after that report and or if it's we should continue working with ATF.

And another question that arose in that performance hearing was the examination of.

Trace evidence from.

Fires that do not perform, I believe Miss Rim was her lab performs those tests and how?

You, as members of the SAB, can guide us into.

Basically incorporating those testing.

And so on and so forth. Those are my 2 task.

Thank you.

I know it's, but yeah, I'll work today.

Yeah. Like I'll talk to about it and leave you trace too.

Alright, next meeting.

We were hoping for a June date.

A wrong calendar.

Umm.

You are out starting the elevator.

About a week. Yeah, graduation.

But I think the first week was open.

Stacy, were you up?

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:15:23

I can't be no.

The first week is my A and AB assessment, so I definitely am not available.

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 2:15:28

Yeah.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:15:30

What was the second one?

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 2:15:30

I'm not as available as whale.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:15:33

Secondly.

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:15:36

I am available this second week I believe.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:15:36

That's.

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 2:15:40

I am as except for Monday but the rest of the week I am.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:15:41

Rogers.

Third week.

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:15:46

Yeah.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:15:48

Third week.

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:15:50

And the rest of the month is garbage for me.

So I have a lot of intermittent meetings and things going on.

So the rest of the month.

I could join virtually. Probably I could make that happen.

But I definitely would not be able to make a trip up. I have a lot going on the last two weeks in June.

My best week is the second week of June.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:16:15

Are you on your 11th?

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 2:16:16

At.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:16:17

Was kind of split 11th and then the.

Where are you on the 9th or 10th?

Probably available, yeah.

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:16:33

I could do the 10th.

**RJ** **Ropero Miller, Jeri** 2:16:35

I can do the 10th, not the night.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:16:44

I can just.

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:16:45

I could be all yours that entire week.

That's it.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:16:58

I mean fuzzy and fuzzy about this, but.

Sure, some of this is our plans and aren't set yet.

Can I send out a SurveyMonkey thing?

And then we can come up with a date later.

I remember seeing, you know, I remember it was your half week that I was like is he?

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:17:20

Sure.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:17:24

Is he coming to travel there or not?

So I will send out something to all of you to see about future.

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:17:33

Mine's pretty simple, just that week.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:17:39

And if we schedule in the last two weeks, you might be able to attend online.

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:17:43

It's questionable just because I I have a lot of stuff going on those last two weeks, so it could be very hit or miss if I could make it or not.

**FD** **FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:17:54

I'll put lots of time options.

**CC** **Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:17:57

Yeah, it's just the way it.

I don't have this.

I don't have things solidified.

I have like placeholders for things that are going on those last two weeks, so I don't know the exact times yet.

So that's my problem.

It could be a morning thing or could be afternoon thing, depending on what is occurring. Those last two weeks.

So that's my problem.

I can try to get some sort of confirmation as to the times but.

**FD FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:18:18  
OK.

**CC Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:18:23  
It's kind of booked out.

**FD FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:18:28  
Expected to dole or something.  
That's all we have.

**CC Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:18:31  
Yep, we can.

**FD FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:18:34  
Yes. Can you call us a German?  
Thank you everybody. Thank you.

**RJ Ropero Miller, Jeri** 2:18:43  
Thanks everyone.

**FD FTU, DFS (DFS)** 2:18:45  
Thank you all.

**CC Carter Pereira, Claudine** 2:18:45  
Thank you.

□ stopped transcription