



Commission on Forensic Science

December 12, 2025

Division of Criminal Justice Services

80 South Swan Street, Crime Stat Room 118, Albany, NY 12210

Video Conference Locations:

445 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 1203, White Plains, NY 10601

666 Old Country Road, Suite 700, Garden City, NY 11530

09:03 AM – 12:48 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Commission Members in Attendance:

Lt.Col. Nicholas Banbury

Pasquale Buffolino, Ph.D.

James Chithalen, Ph.D.¹

Lydia de Castro

Steven Epstein, Esq.

Jessica Goldthwaite, Esq.

Michael Marciano, Ph.D.

Erin Murphy, Esq.

Shelley Palmer

Beverly Rauch

Rossana Rosado

Michelli Schmitz

Rachel Singer, Esq. (non-voting proxy for William Fitzpatrick, Esq.)

Ann Willey, Ph.D.²

DCJS Staff in Attendance:

Taylor Aaron

Dean DeFruscio

Colleen Glavin, Esq.

Katherine Mayberry

Joseph Popcun

Brianna Robinson

Lindsey Rockwell

¹ Representative of Commission Member James V. McDonald, M.D.

² In accordance with a resolution and related procedures regarding the use of videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances, which were adopted by the Commission on Forensic Science on June 9, 2023, and added to its bylaws, Dr. Ann Willey participated by video conferencing from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances.

Matthew Schrantz, Esq.
Elizabeth Suparmanto

Other Attendees:

Michelle Adams - New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Jennifer Alois - NYS DCJS Latent Print Laboratory
Julia Becker - New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Jamie Belrose - New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Kathleen Corrado - DNA Subcommittee
Michael Coble - DNA Subcommittee
Jill Dooley - New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Nichole Hurbanek - New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Jolin Koch - New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Tom Leach - New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Andrea Lester - NYS DCJS Latent Print Laboratory
Julie Pizziketti - New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Pam Sale - ANSI National Accreditation Board
Anthula Vandoros – New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Christian Westring - Niagara County Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory

Chair Rosado opened the meeting by thanking those that participated in the OSAC Informational Session the day before. Chair Rosado announced Dr. Buffolino's resignation from the Commission and thanked him for his years of service. Chair Rosado went on to congratulate Ms. Palmer on her appointment to the Commission and then noted that Rachel Singer was joining the meeting as the designated participant on behalf of the Honorable William Fitzpatrick. Chair Rosado stated that she was attending virtually, and that Ms. Palmer would run the meeting.

*Approximate
video times*

00:00:00 –
00:01:53

Ms. Palmer proceeded to take a roll call as members were in attendance in Albany and virtually. A quorum was established with 11 voting members (Banbury, Buffolino, de Castro, Epstein, Goldthwaite, Marciano, Murphy, Palmer, Rauch, Rosado, and Schmitz); one member participated and voted from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances (Willey³).

00:01:54–
00:02:32

Ms. Palmer then requested a motion to approve the December 12, 2025, agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Buffolino, seconded by Ms. Schmitz and approved unanimously (Banbury, Buffolino, de Castro, Epstein, Goldthwaite, Marciano, Murphy, Palmer, Rauch, Rosado, Schmitz, and Willey).

00:02:34 –
00:03:05

Then Ms. Palmer requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2025, Commission meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Ms. de Castro and approved with 11 votes (Banbury, Buffolino, de Castro, Epstein, Goldthwaite, Marciano, Murphy, Rauch, Rosado, Schmitz, and Willey) and 1 abstention (Palmer).

00:03:06 –
00:03:40

³ See FN 2.

Ms. Palmer then requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss matters relating to a current investigation or matters that may lead to the appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline, or suspension of a particular person. The motion was made by Ms. de Castro, seconded by Ms. Rauch, and was approved with 11 votes (Banbury, Buffolino, de Castro, Epstein, Marciano, Murphy, Palmer, Rauch, Rosado, Schmitz, and Willey), and 1 opposed (Goldthwaite). The Commission adjourned into Executive Session at 9:06am.

00:03:43–
00:04:31

Executive Session concluded at 9:14 am and Ms. Palmer indicated that the Commission took no formal action during Executive Session.

00:06:48 –
00:06:54

The next agenda item to be reviewed was Accreditation/Laboratory Updates. Matters regarding the following laboratories were considered: Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, New York City OCME Department of Forensic Biology, New York City Police Department Latent Print Section, New York City Police Department Police Laboratory, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Latent Print Laboratory, Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Suffolk County Crime Laboratory, Westchester County Department of Laboratories & Research Division of Forensic Toxicology, and Westchester County Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory. Representatives from the laboratories were available in person or via Zoom to respond to members' questions.

00:06:55 –
00:25:42

The Commission reviewed the final documentation from the ANAB reaccreditation assessment activity of the New York City Police Department Police Laboratory. Ms. de Castro made a motion to issue a full renewal of the laboratory's New York State Accreditation for a period concurrent with their ANAB accreditation. Dr. Marciano seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 10 votes (Banbury, Buffolino, de Castro, Epstein, Marciano, Palmer, Rauch, Rosado, Schmitz, and Willey), and 2 opposed (Goldthwaite and Murphy).

00:12:37
00:16:50

The Commission reviewed the Suffolk County Crime Laboratory's ANAB reaccreditation assessment documentation and the binding recommendation of the DNA Subcommittee. Ms. de Castro made a motion to accept the binding recommendation of the DNA Subcommittee and issue a full renewal of the laboratory's New York State Accreditation concurrent with their ANAB accreditation. Dr. Buffolino seconded the motion, and it was approved with 10 votes (Banbury, Buffolino, de Castro, Epstein, Marciano, Palmer, Rauch, Rosado, Schmitz, and Willey), and 2 opposed (Goldthwaite and Murphy).

00:17:43
00:24:43

The next agenda item was Old Business. Ms. Palmer provided the Commission members with a verbal update on the Familial Search Program. Next the Chair of the DNA Subcommittee, Dr. Coble, and Subcommittee member Dr. Corrado, were present to take questions regarding the Subcommittee's responses to the *Forensic DNA Interpretation and Human Factors: Improving Practice Through a Systems Approach* and the *DNA Mixture Interpretation: A NIST Scientific Foundation Review* papers. A motion was made by Ms. Murphy for the Biology Technical Working Group (BIOTWG) to consider and digest and report back by the end of 2026, on the two letters that were provided by the subgroups of the Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Goldthwaite and approved unanimously.

00:25:44 –
01:22:4101:21:50 –
01:22:18

The Commission took a break at 10:30 am and returned at 10:41 am⁴.

*Approximate
video times*

Next in Old Business, the OSAC Registry was discussed by Commission members. Lindsey Rockwell, from the Office of Forensic Services, provided an update from the information gathered from the laboratories regarding the implementation of OSAC Registry standards. After robust conversation, a motion was made by Dr. Marciano for the Commission to direct the Office of Forensic Services to conduct an annual survey of the laboratories review and consideration of new or revised standards, including OSAC, and share such results with the Commission for discussion to continue to advance the delivery of forensic sciences. The motion was seconded by Ms. de Castro and approved unanimously.

01:23:00 –
02:27:22

02:25:25 –
02:26:27

Ms. Palmer then went into New Business. Pam Sale from ANSI National Accreditation Board was present to provide a brief overview and take questions regarding their new online platform, Audeee. The Commission went on to discuss the New York State Police Crime Laboratory's validation study and the DNA Subcommittee's binding recommendation of Next Generation Sequencing using the MiSeq FGx System with the Forenseq™ Kintelligence Kit. A motion was made by Ms. Murphy to table the consideration of the binding recommendation, pending further information, that will be received at the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Epstein and passed with 11 votes (Banbury, Buffolino, de Castro, Epstein, Goldthwaite, Murphy, Palmer, Rauch, Rosado, Schmitz, and Willey), and 1 abstention (Marciano).

02:27:23–
02:54:31

02:53:01 –
02:54:20

Next, the Commission reviewed disclosures from: Monroe County Crime Laboratory, Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Toxicology, New York City Police Department Police Laboratory, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Latent Print Laboratory, New York State Police Crime Laboratory, Suffolk County Crime Laboratory, Suffolk County Medical Examiner Toxicology Laboratory, Westchester County Department of Laboratories & Research Division of Forensic Science, and New York City OCME Department of Forensic Biology. Representatives from laboratories were available in person or via Zoom to respond to members' questions.

02:54:32 –
03:28:20

Ms. Palmer then stated the next Commission meeting will take place on March 13, 2026, with the location to be determined. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Schmitz, seconded by Ms. Rauch, and approved unanimously.

03:28:21
03:29:17

Note: Video of the meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/nyspublicsafety>

⁴ Ms. Singer returned at 10:47 am.