



STATE OF MICHIGAN

TASK FORCE ON FORENSIC SCIENCE

LANSING

CHIEF JUSTICE BRIDGET M. McCORMACK
COL. JOSEPH GASPER
CO-CHAIRS

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

Task Force on Forensic Science
June 8, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Teams
Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present	Representing
Col. Joseph M. Gasper, Director	Michigan Department of State Police
Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack	The Michigan Supreme Court
Mr. Jeff Nye, Director	Michigan Department of State Police, Forensic Science Division
Mr. Jonathan Sacks	Public defenders or criminal defense attorneys
Dr. Jeffrey M. Jentzen, M.D., Ph.D.	Board-certified pathologists with experience in forensic pathology
Mr. Kent Gardner, Director	Oakland County Sheriffs' Department Forensic Laboratory
Mr. Christopher R. Bommarito	Forensic science practitioners with at least five years of experience in the field
Mr. Brandon N. Giroux	Forensic science practitioners with at least five years of experience in the field
Honorable Dr. Donald Shelton, Ph.D.	Individuals from the private sector or from a university in this state who have earned a doctoral degree in a distinct field relevant to forensic science and who have published scholarship related to the field in a peer-reviewed journal
Dr. Ruth Smith, Ph.D.	Individuals from the private sector or from a university in this state who have earned a doctoral degree in a distinct field relevant to forensic science and who have published scholarship related to the field in a peer-reviewed journal
Judge Paul J. Denenfeld	The 17th Circuit Court of Kent County, designated by the Chief Justice
Ms. Lori Montgomery, Attorney General Dana Nessel's designee	The Michigan Attorney General's Office
Voting Members Not Present at the Time of Roll Call	
Mr. Matthew J. Wiese	Prosecuting attorneys
Dr. Barbara O'Brien, Ph.D.	Individuals from the private sector or from a university in this state who has published scholarship related to cognitive bias
Non-Voting Members Present	
Senator John Bizon	The Michigan Senate, designated by the Senate Majority Leader
Representative Laurie Pohutsky	The Michigan House of Representative, designated by the House Minority Leader.
Non-Voting Members Not Present at the Time of Roll Call	
Senator Stephanie Chang	The Michigan Senate, designated by the Senate Minority Leader
Representative Robert Bezotte	The Michigan House of Representatives, designated by the Speaker of the House

I. Call to Order

- Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack called the Task Force on Forensic Science meeting to order at **9:01 a.m.**

II. Roll Call

- Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

Attendance Roll Call	Present Yes - at the time of Roll Call	Present No - at the time of Roll Call	Location, City, County, & State
Voting Members			
Col. Joseph M. Gasper, Co-Chair	X		Grand Rapids, Kent Co., MI
Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack, Co-Chair	X		Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co., MI
Mr. Jeff Nye	X		Dimondale, Eaton Co., MI
Mr. Jonathan Sacks	X		Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co., MI
Mr. Matthew J. Wiese		X	
Dr. Jeffrey M. Jentzen, M.D., Ph.D	X		Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co., MI
Mr. Kent Gardner	X		Pontiac, Oakland Co., MI
Mr. Christopher R. Bommarito	X		San Diego, San Diego Co., CA
Mr. Brandon N. Giroux	X		Northville, Wayne Co., MI
Honorable Dr. Donald Shelton, Ph.D.	X		Saline, Washtenaw Co., MI
Dr. Ruth Smith, Ph.D.	X		Okemos, Ingham Co., MI
Dr. Barbara O'Brien, Ph.D.	X		East Lansing, Ingham Co., MI
Judge Paul J. Denefeld	X		Grand Rapids, Kent Co., MI
Ms. Lori Montgomery, Attorney General designee	X		East Lansing, Ingham Co., MI
Non-Voting Members			
Senator John Bizon	X		Lansing, Ingham Co., MI
Senator Stephanie Chang		X	
Representative Robert Bezotte		X	
Representative Laurie Pohutsky	X		Oakland Co, MI.

III. Approval Vote of 5/11/2021 Meeting Minutes

- A motion to approve was given by Mr. Jonathan Sacks and seconded by the Honorable Dr. Donald Shelton.
- Minutes of the 5/11/2021 Meeting was voted on and approved with 12 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstained

IV. Future Meeting Topics and Speakers

- A discussion took place regarding future meeting topics and speakers with the following suggestions for additional speakers:
 - Brandon Garrett
 - Lynn Garcia
 - Task Force was advised Lynn Garcia will be presenting during the July 20th Meeting.
 - Dr. Itiel Dror

V. Presentation: State of Forensic Science in Michigan, Practitioner Perspective (Mr. Jeff Nye and Mr. Brad Putnum)

- Mr. Jeff Nye provided a presentation on the State of Forensic Science in Michigan from a practitioner's perspective.
- Mr. Brad Putnam with the accrediting body ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) provided a presentation on what accreditation is and what it entails.
 - A discussion followed clarifying some terms and the difference between international level of accreditation vs. national.

VI. Break

VII. Presentation: State of Forensic Science in Michigan, Court Perspective (Judge Donald Shelton, PhD.)

- Judge Shelton provided a presentation on the State of Forensic Science in Michigan from a court's perspective.
 - A discussion followed providing examples of issues that arise, the responsibility/role of the courts, and the need for training.

VIII. Public Comments

- Public Comments provided by the following:

Public Comments Names	Location, City, County, & State
Megan Richardson	Innocence Clinic, Michigan
Joan Roberts	Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Ozarks

- Megan Richardson Questions:
 - Non-conformity, what is it and how is it publicized?
 - Answer from Mr. Jeff Nye: Non-conformity is when there is a gap of not meeting a standard. After a finding, there is a process to go through to meet that standard and that information is provided in an audit report, which is available through the Freedom of Information Act.
 - When labs contract with a customer, who is the customer? Is it the prosecuting attorney, the clinic, or the defendant that is being investigated?
 - Answer from Mr. Nye: The customer is the investigating agency that submits evidence. Court orders can also be submitted through an investing agency.
- Joan Roberts Question:
 - Was there a time in history where the courts accepted repressed memory as a science?
 - Response from Chief Justice McCormack was she did not know the answer to the question.

IX. Subcommittee Creation and Assignments

- The subcommittee creation and assignments were discussed with a request to include:
 - Separation of Forensic Science and the State Police
 - Task Force was advised the subject is covered under Subcommittee – State of Forensic Science in Michigan
- Questions asked:
 - Will non-voting members on subcommittees be able to vote on subcommittee topics?
 - Answer provided: No, the subcommittees will come to a consensus on their topic and present them to the voting members of the Task Force.
 - Will subcommittees be permitted to meet virtually, or will their meetings need to be in person?
 - Answer provided: If no quorum is met, then the meetings can be held virtually.

X. Next Meeting

- Date: July 20, 2021
- Time: 1 – 4 p.m.
- Location: TBD

XI. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was given by Mr. Jonathan Sacks and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey M. Jentzen
- This Task Force meeting was adjourned by Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack at 11:40 a.m.