

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POST-CONVICTION PROCEEDINGS**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE #4 OF THE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT REFORM STUDY**  
**COMMITTEE**

**June 19, 2006**

**Criminal Justice Information Authority**  
**Chicago, IL**

Notice of the meeting was sent to all members and posted on the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority website.

Present: Ted Gottfried, Rick Schwind, Kathy Saltmarsh (Gottfried's staff), Leigh Bienen and Peter Baroni. Guest of the Subcommittee: Dr. Jan L. Johnson, Director of the Illinois State Police Forensic Center in Chicago.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting on 5/11/06 were approved.

**Discussion Topic #1: Illinois State Police Forensic Center and its Director**

Rick Schwind introduced Dr. Jan L. Johnson, Director of the Illinois State Police Forensic Center in Chicago. Dr. Johnson discussed a variety of topics with the Subcommittee relating to the Chicago Lab she directs. The first issue dealt with accreditation of the Chicago lab, State Police labs and other labs, generally. An association of forensic labs from across the country has established an accreditation body called ASCLAD. ASCLAD has created another affiliated accreditation body called ISO-ASCLAD. The accreditation process is on going for both bodies, with periodic audits, inspections testing and surveillance assessments. The costs of accreditation vary based on the size of the lab. The fees paid by the Chicago lab are \$25,000 per year for ASCLAD accreditation and an additional \$80,000 every five years for the ACSLAD Legacy Program (an advance form of ASCLAD accreditation).

The testing done by ASCLAD is available upon subpoena in criminal cases.

The next topic Ms. Johnson discussed with the subcommittee related to training conducted by her lab. The Lab conducts trainings for forensic scientists on testifying in court, including mock trials. Additionally, the lab has in-court monitors and requests all parties to a criminal case involving the testimony of a forensic scientist to fill out rating cards on the performance of the particular scientist. The Lab also conducts follow-up interviews with the same parties.

Ms. Johnson next addressed the issue of DNA testing by the State Police. She indicated that, as far as testing DNA, priorities evolve. There are two types of testing: (1) CODIS testing of convicted felons and (2) casework testing of DNA evidence from crime scenes. The import of testing felons is to get the offender profile into the CODIS database as soon as possible (with a priority on those about to be released from prison) in order to get access to a “hit” or “match” with an open case in the CODIS database, if one exists. The priority in casework testing is cases that are active and proceeding through the judicial system, before testing evidence from a “cold case.” Ms. Johnson indicated that the decision as far as how to allocate limited resources can be difficult.

The subcommittee suggested, after Ms. Johnson finished her discussion, that the full committee may benefit from her testimony in the future.

Discussion Topic #2: Subcommittee questions for survey based on its jurisdiction

Mr. Gottfried led a brief discussion regarding potential survey questions the Subcommittee may wish to include in a survey instrument to be disseminated to judges and practitioners. The survey would be done in concert with the other CPRSC subcommittees. He reported that Kathy Saltmarsh from the OSAD office was working on a revised list of questions based on the Subcommittee’s jurisdiction. Mr. Gottfried also suggested that the members of the Subcommittee should draft their own questions to be incorporated into the document. Finally, he said that Ms. Saltmarsh would work with Mr. Baroni to finalize the list of questions and email to the members of the Subcommittee for review and revision.

The next subcommittee meeting was not set because two Subcommittee members were missing. Mr. Baroni was instructed to contact Subcommittee members and set a mutually agreeable time and place for the next meeting.

The Subcommittee adjourned at 1:05 p.m.