



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
TASK FORCE ON FORENSIC SCIENCE
LANSING

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

Task Force on Forensic Science
May 11, 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, Division Director	Michigan Department of State Police Forensic Science Division
Mr. Jonathan Sacks	Public defenders or criminal defense attorneys
Mr. Matthew J. Wiese	Prosecuting 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
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
Judge Paul J. Denenfeld	The 17th Circuit Court of Kent County, designated by the Chief Justice
Ms. Lori Montgomery, designated by Attorney General Dana Nessel	The Michigan Off of the Attorney General
Voting Members Not Present	
Non-Voting Members Present	
Senator John Bizon	The Michigan Senate, designated by the Senate Majority Leader
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

Representative Laurie Pohutsky	The Michigan House of Representative, designated by the House Minority Leader.
Non-Voting Members Not Present	

I. Call to Order

- Col. Joseph M. Gasper called the Task Force on Forensic Science meeting to order at 8:31 a.m., May 11, 2021.

II. Roll Call

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

Attendance Roll Call	Present Yes	Present No	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		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		Marquette, Marquette Co., MI
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		Lansing, Ingham Co., MI
Representative Robert Bezotte	X		Lansing, Ingham Co., MI
Representative Laurie Pohutsky	X		Livonia, Wayne Co., MI

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III. Introductions

- Introductions were given of voting members and non-voting members of the Task Force.

IV. Review of Executive Order 2020-4

- Mr. Nye provided a summary of Executive Order 2020-4.

V. Task Force Procedures/Bylaws

- Mr. Nye introduced a draft of bylaws.
- Vote took place to adopt the bylaws. The bylaws were adopted with 14 Yeas, 0 Nays and 0 Abstained. There was no discussion.

VI. Future Meeting Topics and Frequency

- A discussion took place regarding topics of future meetings and the frequency and scheduling of such meetings.
- The following meeting schedule was proposed, voted upon, and adopted with 14 Yeas, 0 Nays and 0 Abstained:

- June 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
 - July 20, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
 - August 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
 - September 28, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
 - October 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
 - November 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
 - December 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
- A discussion was held regarding the anticipated length of the meetings. Col. Gasper noted that the anticipated duration of the meetings will be 3 hours.

VII. Public Comments

- There were no Public Comments provided.

VIII. Task Force Member Comments

Task Force member comments provided by the following:

Task Force Member Comments	Comments Yes	Comments No
Voting Members		
Col. Joseph M. Gasper, Co-Chair	X	
Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack, Co-Chair	X	
Mr. Jeff Nye	X	
Mr. Jonathan Sacks	X	
Mr. Matthew J. Wiese	X	
Dr. Jeffrey M. Jentzen, M.D., Ph.D	X	
Mr. Kent Gardner	X	
Mr. Christopher R. Bommarito	X	
Mr. Brandon N. Giroux	X	
Honorable Dr. Donald Shelton, Ph.D.	X	
Dr. Ruth Smith, Ph.D.	X	
Dr. Barbara O'Brien, Ph.D.	X	
Judge Paul J. Denefeld	X	
Ms. Lori Montgomery, Attorney General Dana Nessel's designee	X	
Non-Voting Members		
Senator John Bizon	X	
Senator Stephanie Chang	X	
Representative Robert Bezotte	X	
Representative Laurie Pohutsky	X	

- Col. Gasper asked the Task Force Members to provide comments on what their interests are for the task force to help identify possible subcommittees.
- A summary of proposed subcommittees included laboratory accreditation, training opportunities, establishment of a forensic commission, influence of bias on forensic analyses, laboratory independence, transparency, death investigation quality assurance, and the judicial gatekeeping function.
- Chief Justice McCormack also notes that there is a lot of work that has already been done and we should merge our tasks with work that has already been accomplished and then present the outcome to the Governor. Subcommittee work and presentations should be established at the next meeting.

- The Honorable Dr. Shelton requests the distribution of member names and email addresses. Col. Gasper will look into what is allowed under the Open Meetings Act.

IX. Next Meeting

- Date: June 8, 2021
- Time: 9:00 a.m.
- Location: Teams Meeting

X. Adjournment

- This Task Force meeting was adjourned by Col. Joseph M. Gasper at 10:04 a.m. on May 11, 2021.