Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

NAME Update – 2018
Matthew Gamette – ASCLD Rep/CFSO Chair
Beth Lavach – CFSO Government Relations

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices.

CFSO Membership Changes
• New Officers and Representatives
  • ASCLD - Chair CFSO
  • IAI - Vice Chair/Treasurer
  • NAME - Secretary
• International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) resigned
• American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) joined
BL1  CHANGE LOBBYIST TO GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
Beth Lavach, 7/31/2018
Legislative Efforts Highlights 2017-18 Funding

- **APPROPRIATIONS (FY18)**
  - $30m in Coverdell funding in FY18 budget.
  - $3m in funding for NIST OSAC
  - $125m in DNA funding

- **APPROPRIATIONS (FY19) – CR Expected**
  - Administration Coverdell $0, House $0, Senate $35m
  - NIST OSAC Administration $0, House $0, Senate $5m
  - DNA Administration $125m, House $125m, Senate $0

- Numerous letters sent by Members of Congress for funding to include Byrne JAG letter
- Assisted with letters of support for Coverdell sent to Appropriations Committee for increased Coverdell funding from Senator Grassley, Cornyn, Brown, and Shaheen.
- Dear colleague letter to Appropriations Committee requesting increased funding for forensic science due to opioid issues.
- Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance expansion to 50 States

Legislative Efforts Highlights 2017-18 Policy: Opioids

- **OPIOIDS**
  - Initiated efforts with the Energy and Commerce Committee and Members of Congress active with CDC to expand forensic science funding beyond DOJ (opioids and emerging drugs) and include forensics sciences in new opioid bill.
  - S 708 INTERDICT Act, Provided edits and information to Senators Markey, Brown, Capito, and Rubio. Also, provided letters of support.
  - Worked with lawmakers (Markey, Rubio, Shaheen, and others) concerning opioid crisis and how this impacts forensic science providers.
  - S. 2008, Combating the Opioid Epidemic Act Through Forensic Drug Testing Act, provided edits and review to author (Shaheen-NH) and letter of support.

- **HR 1781, Comprehensive Fentanyl Control Act**, reviewed and provided feedback to author. Representative Donovan’s (NY)
- **HR 5580, STDF Fentanyl Deaths Act of 2018**, reviewed and provided feedback to author Rep Kuster (NH)
- Worked with Senator Brown on increased visibility for ME Issues on Opioid Crisis and OFM
- Facilitated letter signed by 32 Members of the Senate to AG on need for increased funding for forensics in Opioid crisis
- Collected anecdotal stories on how the opioid crisis is impacting state and local labs to develop a document that was used to inform legislators and others in D.C.
- Dear colleague letter to CDC from Brown and Crapo (and others) regarding funding to states for data sharing.
Legislative Efforts Highlights
2017-18 Policy: Sexual Assault and DNA

- SEXUAL ASSAULT/DNA ISSUES
  - RAPID DNA Bill passes (assisting in drafting, support letter and passage)
  - VAWA Reauthorization begins - comments provided
  - SAFER Worked with all organizations on comments for SAFER legislation.
    - Provided bullet point white papers to Congress on SAFER positions regarding long term evidence retention
  - Worked with Senator Murray and a group of states on the language in the proposed SAFER bill related to
    the use of CODIS when testing all kits. Successful in adding language to study long-term retention
    and CODIS language was removed entirely due to the complications it would cause.
    - SASCA bill reviewed (mostly SANE bill) that IAFN was working on with Senator Murray.
    - Shared comments with Representative Meehan on a resolution related to Sexual Assault
      Kits.
    - Megan Rondini Act, Provided comments to Representative Poe on a forensic nursing
      bill. CFSO did not support the current wording.
    - CFSO testifies in both House and Senate Debbie Smith hearings

Legislative Efforts Highlights
2017-2018 Policy: Other

- Office of Forensic Science: redraft for House and Senate at their request
- Office of Forensic Medicine: Senator Brown
- Comment on Cornyn Cold Case bill for prosecutors
- NAMUS Reauthorization: include language for ME loans and fellowships
- Letter to CDC from Senator Brown: work force assessment, joint agency efforts, Enhanced State
  Opioid Overdose Surveillance expansion
- Criminal Justice Reform: on hold again until after election

Legislative Efforts Highlights
Multiple meetings in Washington DC which included:

- Senate and House Judiciary Committees
- Senate and House Appropriations Committees
Legislative Efforts Highlights

Multiple meetings in Washington DC which included:
- NIJ, DOJ, BJA, OVW, OAG, ODAG, NHTSA, OMB, GAO, NIST, CDC.
- House Science Committee staff (support of OSAC and general overview)
- Meeting with OSTP at the White House. Met with President Trump staff on forensic science at the White House.
- Multiple meetings on forensic needs assessment at DOJ
- At least four listening sessions at GAO regarding DNA funding, opioid issues, OFS/Coverdell

Position Papers and Letters of Support Highlights

- Multiple media releases on DAG support (IAI meeting).
- NFSA CFSO Board positions.
- Generated newsletters, budget briefings, and emails.

CFSO Presentations:

- Provided webinar on Coverdell (JFAA changes)
- Provided a membership webinar on CEBR changes
- ABA meeting at Fordham Law School (NYC)
- NAAG meeting in D.C.
- Various national and regional forensic science meetings
- Met with CDC/DOJ/NHTSA/DOT regarding data collection
- SAKI webinar
- National Governor Association briefing
The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), in partnership with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) at RTI International (Research Triangle Institute), has formed the Forensic Laboratory Needs - Technology Working Group (FLN-TWG). The FLN-TWG will support NIJ's mission to improve knowledge and understanding of the forensic technology needs of federal, state, local, and tribal forensic practitioners and crime laboratories.

Value of Partnership

- Accreditation Initiative (ASCLD/IAI)
- ISO TAG (AAFS/ASCLD/IAI?)
- Data Sharing Initiative at CDC/DOJ/DOT
- Opioid Working Groups (AAFS, NAME, ASCLD)
- Human Factors Training
- Trauma and Stress Working Group (ASCLD/AAPL)
- National Association of Attorney’s General
- National Governor’s Association

OSAC 2.0

Presently OSAC 1.0
Resources

- Visit our website: CFSo.org
- Watch for newsletters and emails from CFSo