# Table of Contents

• Agenda	Page 3
• Executive Summary (Corporate Goals/Objectives)	Page 9
• June 10, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes	Page 10
• President's Report	Page 16
• FY2020 Company Goals Progress	Page 23
Operations Report	Page 26
DNA Outsourcing Proposal	Page 32
• Budget Reallocations/Treasurer's Report	Page 36
• Crime Scene & Digital Multimedia Units Update	Page 50
• Facilities Update	Page 120
Quality Report	Page 122



### Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc.

# Board of Directors Virtual Meeting *July 10, 2020*



Position 1 - Dr. Stacey Mitchell, Board Chair

Position 2 - Anna Vasquez

Position 3 - Philip Hilder

Position 4 - Francisco Medina

Position 5 - Janet Blancett

Position 6 - Ellen Cohen

Position 7 - Lois J. Moore

Position 8 - Mary Lentschke, Vice Chair

Position 9 - Vicki Huff

**Ex-Officio - Tracy Calabrese** 

### HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

# NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING PUBLIC ACCESS WILL BE VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY July 10, 2020

In accordance with Texas Governor Greg Abbott's temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, issued March 16, 2020, notice is hereby given that beginning at 8 a.m. on the date set out above, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc. (the "Corporation," or "HFSC") will meet via videoconference (Microsoft Teams.) HFSC is conducting this virtual meeting to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face interactions and to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19.)

Gov. Abbott's temporary suspension of certain open meetings laws was issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code. Gov. Abbott specifically suspended certain provisions of the law, which required government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location. The relevant suspensions are in effect until terminated by the Office of the Governor or until the Governor's disaster declaration is lifted or expires. Accordingly, this meeting will not take place in a specified physical location for the public to attend in person, however, the virtual meeting will be available to the public and allow for two-way communication between the Board and members of the public.

As required and in accordance with the Governor's temporary suspension, notice of this meeting, the agenda and the agenda packet are posted online at <a href="https://houstonforensicscience.org/meeting-archives.php">https://houstonforensicscience.org/meeting-archives.php</a>. The items listed in the agenda may be taken out of order at the discretion of the Chair. After the conclusion of the meeting, a recording thereof will be posted to <a href="https://www.houstonforensicscience.org">www.houstonforensicscience.org</a>.

### **Attending the virtual meeting**

The public is not required to create an account to attend the meeting online and the videoconference can be accessed, free of charge.

To attend the videoconference meeting via computer, please use the following link: <a href="https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2f\_%23%2fl%2fmeetup-join%2f19%">https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2f\_%23%2fl%2fmeetup-join%2f19%</a>

<u>3ameeting\_NzEyZjJjN2UtNTVhMy00OTE0LWFjMWQtNDBlOGU1MWY\_xZmQ5%40thread.v2%2f0%3fcontext%3d%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%2522f03b68\_b6-d9fe-4735-8648-</u>

33b13ef1c3ed%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%2522a717bead-e9b6-4660-beb2-a7bdef7a335b%2522%257d%26anon%3dtrue&type=meetup-join&deeplinkId=40d82975-df28-4ca2-a962-

 $\frac{10bfa9162581\&directDl=true\&msLaunch=true\&enableMobilePage=true\&suppressProm}{pt=true}$ 

or go to https://houstonforensicscience.org/meeting-archives.php

In addition to the required free videoconference link, members of the public may call into the meeting by dialing the following teleconference number and entering the subsequent conference ID number: 281-886-3266, Conference ID: 812 696 916#

### Callers must mute themselves upon dialing into the meeting to limit interruptions.

To attend the meeting using a mobile device and through the free videoconference link, the Microsoft Teams mobile application ("app") must be downloaded (free of charge) to the device. After downloading the app, proceed to the link above and you will be directed to the videoconference, through the app. However, members of the public must be muted to minimize disruption of the meeting.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

The public is permitted to speak during the public comment agenda item and as permitted by the Chair. However, requests to speak during the public comment period must be submitted via email to the HFSC Secretary of the Board at: info@houstonforensicscience.org no later than 8 a.m. Thursday July 9, 2020.

The request must include the speaker's name, contact number, address and topic of the comment. Speakers should limit their comments to three minutes. The Board Chair may limit both the number of speakers and the time allotted for each speaker. The Chair will call on each speaker by name, during the designated public comment period.

If you have questions regarding attending this virtual meeting please contact Jordan Benton, secretary of the Board of Directors, at **832-993-1924**.

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Call to order.
- 2. Roll call; confirmation of presence of quorum.

### **CLOSED MEETING**

3. Executive session in accordance with Sections 551.071(1)(A) of the Texas, Government Code, consultation with attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation, and 551.074, personnel matters, to deliberate the president and CEO's annual performance evaluation.

### OPEN MEETING RECONVENES AT 9 A.M.

4. Reconvene into open session and consider any action deemed necessary as a result of the executive session regarding personnel matters.

- a. Consider extending the July 2020 deadline for submission of HFSC President and CEO Dr. Peter Stout's proposed list of annual priorities and performance objectives, to September 2020, and possible related action.
- 5. Public Comment.
- 6. Reading of draft minutes from June 10, 2020 board meeting. Consideration of proposed corrections, if any. Approval of minutes.
- 7. Report from Dr. Stacey Mitchell, board chair, including a monthly update of activities and other announcements.

### Reports and presentations by corporate officers, and possible related action items

- 8. Report from Dr. Peter Stout, president and CEO, including technical updates, outreach efforts, staffing changes and other corporate business items, including steps taken to operate safely and effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - a. Presentation on progress made toward fiscal year 2020 company goals and performance objectives.
- 9. Monthly operations report from Dr. Amy Castillo, vice president and COO, including a review of turnaround times and backlog of sexual assault kits.
- 10. Presentation by Dr. Castillo regarding outsourcing forensic biology/DNA services to help eliminate the HFSC sexual assault kit backlog, to be funded by FY 2019-BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant.
  - a. Consider approval of a contract for DNA services between the Corporation and Bode Cellmark Forensics, to be funded by the FY 2019-BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant, anticipated budget of \$324,425.00 but not to exceed the total allotted outsourcing budget of \$648,850.00.
  - b. Consider approval of a contract for DNA services between the Corporation and Signature Science, LLC, to be funded by the FY 2019-BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant, anticipated budget of \$324,425.00, but not to exceed the total allotted outsourcing budget of \$648,850.00.
- 11. Presentation by Mr. David Leach, treasurer and CFO, regarding proposed reallocations to the fiscal year budget and possible related action.
- 12. Treasurer's report from Mr. Leach regarding company financials, an end-of-year review and other fiscal updates.

### Reports and presentations by staff

- 13. Report from Mr. Jerry Pena, director of CSU and digital multimedia evidence, regarding impacts the COVID-19 pandemic is having on operations.
- 14. Update from Mr. Charles Evans, director of business development, about the 500 Jefferson building, renovations to the vehicle examination bay located at 1305 Dart St. and the renewal of the lease for the Corporation's crime scene house located at 1620 Crockett St.
- 15. Report from Ms. Erika Ziemak, quality director, regarding quality assurance, a review of the blind quality control program, testimony monitoring and proficiency tests.
- 16. Adjournment.

### Certification of Electronic Posting of Notice of the Board of Directors ("the Board) of the Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc. (the "Corporation)

I, Jordan Benton, coordinator of board relations and executive administration, do hereby certify that a notice of this meeting was posted <u>online</u> at <a href="https://houstonforensicscience.org/meeting-archives.php">https://houstonforensicscience.org/meeting-archives.php</a> on Tuesday, the 7th day of July, 2020, as required by Section 551.043 et seq., Texas Government Code and in accordance with Governor Abbott's March 16, 2020 temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Given under my hand this the 7th day of July 2020.

Jordan Benton

### Open Meeting Laws Subject to Temporary Suspension

Effective March 16, 2020, and subject to the following conditions, the following statutory provisions are temporarily suspended to the extent necessary to allow telephonic or videoconference meetings and to avoid congregate settings in physical locations:

- those that require a quorum or a presiding officer to be physically present at the specified location of the meeting; provided, however, that a quorum still must participate in the telephonic or videoconference meeting o TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.122(b)
- o Tex. Gov't Code  $\S$  551.127(a-3), (b)–(c), (e), (h)–(i)
- o Tex. Gov't Code \( 551.130(c)−(d), (i)
- o Tex. Gov't Code § 322.003(d), (e)(2)
- o Tex. Gov't Code § 845.007(f)(2)
- o Tex. Gov't Code § 855.007(f)(2)
- o Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 74.102(f)
- o Tex. Ins. Code § 2151.057(d)(1)
- O TEX. LOCAL GOV'T CODE § 379B.0085(a)
- those that require physical posting of a notice; provided, however, that the online notice must include a toll-free dial-in number or a free-of-charge videoconference link, along with an electronic copy of any agenda packet o Tex. Gov't Code § 551.043(b)(2)–(3)
- o Tex. Gov't Code §§ 551.049–551.051
- those that require the telephonic or videoconference meeting to be audible to members of the public who are physically present at the specified location of the meeting; provided, however, that the dial-in number or videoconference link provided in the notice must make the meeting audible to members of the public and allow for their two-way communication; and further provided that a recording of the meeting must be made available to the public o Tex. Gov'T CODE § 551.121(f)(1)

- o Tex. Gov't Code § 551.126(d)(1)
- o Tex. Gov't Code \ 551.127(f), (j)

- o Tex. Gov't Code § 322.003(e)(3)
- o Tex. Gov't Code \( \) 436.054(e)
- o Tex. Gov't Code § 845.007(f)(3)
- o Tex. Gov't Code § 855.007(f)(3)
- o Tex. Agric. Code § 41.061(c)−(d)
- o Tex. Agric. Code \( \) 41.1565(c)−(d)
- o Tex. Agric. Code \( \) 41.205(d)–(e)
- o Tex. Agric. Code \( 62.0021(c)-(d)
- o Tex. Educ. Code \( 66.08(h)(2)(B)
- o Tex. Fam. Code § 264.504(e)

```
o Tex. Fin. Code \S 11.106(c)(4)–(5)
```

- o Tex. Fin. Code § 154.355(d)(2)–(3)
- o Tex. Ins. Code \( \) 462.059(a)(1), (c)
- o Tex. Ins. Code § 463.059(d)
- o Tex. Ins. Code § 2151.057(e)
- o Tex. Ins. Code § 2210.1051(b)(2)−(3)
- o Tex. Ins. Code § 2211.0521(b)(2)–(3)
- o Tex. Local Gov't Code (\$ 379B.0085(b)(2)-(3)
- o Tex. Spec. Loc. Dist. Code § 9601.056(c)
- o Tex. Transp. Code § 173.106(e)–(f)
- o Tex. Transp. Code 

  § 366.262(c)–(d)
- o Tex. Transp. Code § 370.262(c)–(d)
- those that may be interpreted to require face-to-face interaction between members of the public and public officials; provided, however, that governmental bodies must offer alternative methods of communicating with their public officials. o TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.007(b)
- o Tex. Gov't Code § 551.125(b)(1), (d)

These suspensions are in effect until terminated by the Office of the Governor, or until the March 13, 2020 disaster declaration is lifted or expires.

### HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 10, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item No.:	<b>4a.</b> Consider extending the July 2020 deadline for submission of HFSC President and CEO Dr. Peter Stout's proposed list of annual priorities and performance objectives, to September 2020, and possible related action.	
Subject:	Consider delaying the deadline for Dr. Stout to submit annual priorities and performance objectives to the Board.	
Background:	On January 13, 2017, the Board offered, and Dr. Peter Stout accepted, an Agreement of Employment as both president and CEO of HFSC. Pursuant to Dr. Stout's Agreement of Employment, the president and CEO shall submit a annual list of priorities and performance objectives to the Board, on or before June 1 <sup>st</sup> of each year. On July 12, 2019 the Board voted to extend the annual deadline for Dr. Stout to submit his proposed list to the Board, to July of each year.	
Executive Summary:	Pursuant to the agreement of employment, Dr. Stout, in consultation with the Board Chair, shall develop and submit for the Board's consideration and approval a list of annual priorities and performance objectives for HFSC. The proposed list must fit within the Board's goals for the corporation. If approved by the Board, the priorities and performance objectives shall be part of the Board's annual performance evaluation of Dr. Stout. Additionally, the submitted list of performance objectives, shall be in accordance with the Board's policies and state and federal law.	
	Due to the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on HFSC operations, capacity, and priorities, Dr. Stout is requesting the Board consider delaying consideration of the president and CEO's list of annual priorities and performance objectives (FY2020), to the September Board meeting.	
Fiscal Impact:	No anticipated additional fiscal impact.	
Staff Recommendation:	Staff recommends approval.	
By:	Dr. Peter Stout, President and CEO Legal review by General Counsel	

### Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc.

### VIRTUAL MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES June 10, 2020

The undersigned, being the duly appointed secretary of the Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc., ("HFSC" and/or the "Corporation") hereby certifies the following are true and correct minutes of the June 10, 2020 virtual meeting of the Board of Directors (the "board") of the Corporation.

- A. In a manner permitted by the Corporation's Bylaws, the meeting was called by providing all directors with notice of the date, time, (instructions for Microsoft Teams access and call-in options) and purposes of the meeting more than three days before the date of the meeting.
- B. In accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code and Governor Greg Abbott's March 16, 2020 temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was duly posted online to <a href="https://www.houstonforensicscience.org">www.houstonforensicscience.org</a> on June 5, 2020 along with a free-of-charge videoconference link, dial-in phone number and an electronic copy of the agenda packet, as required.
- C. The virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams was called to order by Board Chairwoman Stacey Mitchell at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday June 10, 2020. She reminded directors to be mindful of audio delays, to unmute before speaking and to use the "raise hand" function in Microsoft Teams before speaking.
- D. Board Secretary Jordan Benton called the roll. The following directors were present: Stacey Mitchell (the chairwoman's photo was visible in her icon during the meeting,) Philip Hilder ("PH,") Anna Vasquez ("AV,") Francisco Medina ("FM,") Janet Blancett ("JB,") Robert "Bob" H. McPherson ("RM,") Lois Moore ("LM,") Mary Lentschke ("ML") and Tracy Calabrese ("TC")

Vicki Huff was absent from the meeting.

Chairwoman Mitchell declared a quorum.

- E. Chairwoman Mitchell announced that HFSC's second virtual board meeting was being held in compliance with Governor Greg Abbott's temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She reminded members to mute their microphones during the meeting and to unmute only when speaking. Chairwoman Mitchell asked if any members had an objection to her taking the agenda out of order to first address agenda item seven, the chair's report. No one objected.
- F. Chairwoman Mitchell presented a chair's report. She said the recent events surrounding the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and many others had sparked grief, outrage, fear and a desire for change, especially in the black community. She said HFSC, itself a product of reform, stands against racism and injustice. Chairwoman Mitchell

said that as HFSC continues to adhere to the highest standards of quality, objectivity and ethics, it also stands for fairness, impartiality and transparency, all hallmarks of reform. Director Vasquez thanked the Chairwoman for her comments and said she supports HFSC being a part of the change. Chairwoman Mitchell said that HFSC's first president and CEO, Dr. Daniel Garner, had passed away May 28. She said he served during HFSC's crucial transition to independence. Chairwoman Mitchell also acknowledged the passing on May 14 of Dr. Clifford Spiegelman, a Texas A&M University statistician who served on HFSC's technical advisory group. The chairwoman thanked Director McPherson, who term ends June 30, for his five years of service. Director McPherson said it had been an honor and privilege to serve on HFSC's board and thanked Dr. Stout for hand crafting a wooden box to memorialize his service.

- G. Chairwoman Mitchell requested the board vote to appoint a vice chair. Chairwoman Mitchell made a motion to reappoint Mary Lentschke. Director Medina seconded the motion. Secretary Benton called the roll, and the following directors were in favor: Stacey Mitchell, Mary Lentschke, Anna Vasquez, Philip Hilder, Francisco Medina, Janet Blancett, Robert McPherson, Lois Moore. With none opposed, the motion passed unanimously.
- H. Chairwoman Mitchell requested the board vote to reappoint HFSC's corporate officers as follows: Peter Stout as president, Amy Castillo as vice president, David Leach as treasurer and Jordan Benton as secretary. Director Hilder made a motion to approve the reappointments. Director McPherson seconded the motion. Secretary Benton called the roll. The following directors were in favor: Stacey Mitchell, Mary Lentschke, Anna Vasquez, Philip Hilder, Francisco Medina, Janet Blancett, Robert McPherson, Lois Moore. With none opposed, the motion passed unanimously.
- I. Chairwoman Mitchell said the board agenda included an email address and phone number for members of the public to use to address the board. The Chairwoman asked Secretary Benton if any members of the public wished to address the board. Ms. Benton said no one had requested to address the board. The chairwoman opened the floor to members of the public. No one addressed the board. Chairwoman Mitchell said she would leave the public comment period open until after the next agenda topic.
- J. Chairwoman Mitchell asked if any changes were needed for the May 8, 2020 board meeting minutes. No directors had changes. Director Moore made a motion to approve the minutes. Director Blancett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- K. Dr. Stout gave the president's report. Dr. Stout thanked Director McPherson for his years of support and service. In reviewing HFSC's overall turnaround time and requests for May 2020, Dr. Stout said the forensic biology and latent print sections have been completing backlogged cases. This is beneficial but causes the overall turnaround time to increase since the clock starts ticking when a request is made and does not stop until a report is issued. Dr. Stout said a few more analysts in the toxicology section are authorized to complete blood alcohol requests allowing the section to increase their production. In a staffing update, Dr. Stout said two biology/DNA analyst positions have been filled and that Robin Guidry, the section's former technical leader, is working part-time until that position is permanently filled. In the meantime, Courtney Head, HFSC's forensic biology/DNA manager, is the acting technical leader. Director Blancett asked if any active vacancies could be worked remotely. Dr. Stout

said some positions, such as research and development, could work from home, but others, such as the DNA technical leader position and the multimedia posts, could only do some work offsite. Crime scene investigators cannot do any of their work from home, he said. Dr. Stout said due to the pandemic, more outreach is virtual and he pre=recorded a presentation for the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association's Rusty Duncan Conference. He also presented virtually to the Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol about COVID-19's impact on drug trafficking and crime. Dr. Stout gave an overview of HFSC's long-term planning for the COVID-19 pandemic and reminded the board that teams had been looking at four main areas: supply challenges, off-and on stay at home orders, release of restrictions and IT resources. Dr Stout said a sub-group identified IT resources needed so staff can work from home effectively, such as computer monitors, webcams and headsets, and that the items would be purchased later this summer after the new fiscal year begins. Dr. Stout said another group identified resources for staff to better manage working from home and that a webpage dedicated to this would launch on HFSC's Intranet in late June. Director Blancett asked about network security and Dr. Stout said the lab plans to do more stress testing with more people working remotely. Other groups are working on creating training videos to teach staff about virtual tools available to them, hanging COVID-19 informational posters around the HFSC office space, arranging for more cleaning of common areas and bathrooms and deep cleaning in the event of positive cases of the virus. Dr. Stout said HFSC issued a memo to stakeholders about the willingness and readiness of analysts to offer video testimony when the courts resume jury trials, which the Texas Supreme Court recommends occur starting August 1. Dr. Stout said longer-term items that are still being worked out include paperless workflows that require procedural, policy and possible some network changes to make them more robust. Dr. Stout said scheduling is another long-term item that will be monitored. Dr. Stout said supplies are also being monitored and the lab has about six months' worth of the supplies that pose the biggest threat to operations. He said large sized gloves are difficult to find now. Dr. Stout gave an overview of plans to renovate the vehicle examination building (VEB.) He said an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the City of Houston and the lab should be on the June 17 city council agenda. Dr. Stout said a cost estimate for the VEB's air conditioning should be received by the end of the week and will likely eat up most of the \$152,000 overall budget. He said the project must be completed by the end of December to meet the guidelines of the federal grant. Dr. Stout said a new fan motor will be installed to resolve the venting issue in the firing range in the basement of 500 Jefferson and should resolve the ongoing problem in the next few weeks.

- Chairwoman Mitchell asked Secretary Benton if any members of the public had joined the meeting to address the board. Secretary Benton said no one had joined the meeting.
   Chairwoman Mitchell closed the public comment period. She thanked Mr. Darrell Davis, a technical advisory group member, for joining the meeting.
- M. Dr. Amy Castillo, vice president and COO, presented the operations report. Dr. Castillo gave an overview of turnaround times and backlogs. Dr. Castillo said the seized drugs section had returned to a normal operating schedule on June 1 after requests reached pre-pandemic levels. She said the section was maintaining a 14-day turnaround time. Dr. Castillo said Dr. Stout had built and installed plexiglass partitions in the seized drugs laboratory to provide staff an added layer of protection. She said curtains had also been purchased for cubicles to further encourage social distancing. Dr. Castillo said the toxicology section was still operating on a rotating schedule but had eliminated 260 blood alcohol requests from their backlog due to additional staffing. Dr. Castillo said the NIBIN, or National Integrated Ballistics Information Network,

team had received 100 more requests in May compared to the same time last year but had still maintained a 48-hour turnaround time. Dr. Castillo said HFSC has a backlog of 587 sexual assault kits as the forensic biology section continues to train analysts to use the new probabilistic genotyping software online. She said it remains unclear how quickly the section can get cases completed in the long term. She said five forensic biology/DNA analysts are working exclusively on sexual assault kits and had completed 45 cases in May. Dr. Castillo said another team is focused on reviewing cases that had been completed by a private laboratory to determine if there are DNA profiles eligible for upload into the national DNA database. Dr. Castillo said two additional analysts had been authorized to use probabilistic genotyping in casework. She said two analysts remain in training. Dr. Castillo a request for proposals had been issued to seek vendors that can complete DNA work in the hopes of sending sexual assault kits to a commercial laboratory in July.

- N. Mr. David Leach, CFO and treasurer, requested board approval to reallocate funds in the current fiscal year budget. Mr. Leach said the overall dollar amount had not changed. He said adjustments needed to be made between specific budget line items, such as grant expenses and building costs. Director McPherson made a motion to approve the budget reallocations. Director Medina seconded the motion. Secretary Benton called the roll, and the following directors were in favor: Stacey Mitchell, Mary Lentschke, Anna Vasquez, Philip Hilder, Francisco Medina, Janet Blancett, Robert McPherson, Lois Moore. The motion passed unanimously.
- O. Mr. Jerry Pena, director of the crime scene unit (CSU) and multimedia section, thanked Director McPherson for his service. He said CSU has operated normally throughout the pandemic and would not veer from their three-shift schedule unless forced to do so. Mr. Pena said a few CSIs had shown COVID-19 symptoms but tested negative for the virus. Mr. Pena said CSU's evening and night shifts relocated to the Houston Police Department's (HPD) Southwest Substation the day of the large George Floyd rally downtown to ensure their scene response would not be impacted. Mr. Pena said CSU is also preparing for the 2020 hurricane season and will activate an emergency schedule in the event of a storm. HFSC will provide lodging, supplies, equipment and food for staff working through a natural disaster and CSU will deploy to HPD substations during a storm since downtown Houston is prone to flooding. Mr. Pena said the 50 percent rise in crime has led to a 20 percent increase in requests for multimedia analysis and a 24 percent increase in callouts. The section has completed 43 percent more cases, however, despite the increase. Mr. Pena said the multimedia section is also seeing success with a new software, the Universal Forensic Extraction Device, used to extract data from iPhones and Android devices. He said the \$150,000 per year software has been used on 44 phones, 32 of them iPhones and 12 Androids. Mr. Pena said HPD is beginning to submit more requests now that HFSC has the UFED software. Director Blancett asked if HFSC would be able to do work for other agencies who do not have the UFED software. Mr. Pena said it's too soon to tell since the section only implemented the software in April, but it is a possibility.
- P. Chairwoman Mitchell told the board she had unintentionally taken the agenda out of order, and asked Mr. Leach to present his treasurer's report. Mr. Leach said the fiscal year 2020 budget is on track, and that 11 of the 12 months are complete. Mr. Leach said the lab will have no money left after the July 17 payroll, but HFSC should receive fiscal year 2021 funds from the city right around the same time if all goes as planned. He said HFSC has seven active grants totaling \$3.7 million dollars and has \$2.2 million left for fiscal year 2020.

Q. Ms. Erika Ziemak, quality division director, said the quality division had met its May goals for submitting blind quality controls. Ms. Ziemak reviewed audits, disclosures, corrective actions, proficiency tests, transcript reviews and testimony data. Ms. Ziemak said a blind quality control submitted to the toxicology section had yielded an unexpected result and a quality division investigation pinpointed the root cause. Ms. Ziemak said the blind quality control should have yielded a negative result, however, the analysis found a blood alcohol level three times the legal limit in Texas. Ms. Ziemak said the investigation found the error occurred in the manufacturer's labeling process. The manufacturer had mislabeled a positive blood sample as negative while preparing the samples for HFSC. Ms. Ziemak said that the manufacturer is accredited to the same standards as HFSC, so their mistake will be noted as a nonconformance and the quality division will work with them to find process fixes, such as bar coding, that could prevent a similar error going forward. Although it is never ideal to have an error, Ms. Ziemak said this incident showcased that the blind quality control program truly tests the entire system, even before a sample enters the lab. Ms. Ziemak said two other blind quality control samples, this time in the forensic biology/DNA section, also yielded unexpected results. One incident is still being investigated, she said, but there are results to share from the second. Ms. Ziemak said an HFSC staff member helped create a blind sample by taking a moistened swab and applying it to the back of her neck. She said the swab was submitted to the forensic biology section and the expected result was a single-source, female DNA profile. However, the lab analysis yielded a two-person mixture, Ms. Ziemak said. The quality division believed there were four potential scenarios that led to the unexpected result: the quality division introduced contamination while preparing the sample, the commercial vendor, where the sample landed, introduced contamination, the forensic biology section introduced contamination when preparing the sample for the commercial lab, or the quality division specialist actually had a second person's DNA on her when she swabbed the back of her neck. The investigation found that the final option was the source of the second DNA profile and that it was a match to the quality division specialist's significant other. Ms. Ziemak said the scenario highlights the sensitivity of DNA testing . Ms. Ziemak said she and Dr. Stout will author an article titled "The Ups and Downs of a Blind Quality Program: HFSC's Perspective" about HFSC's blind quality control program and transcript review project. Ms. Ziemak said HFSC disclosed a testimony incident to the Texas Forensic Science Commission (TFSC.) A former HFSC staff member testified outside his area of expertise and the problem was discovered during the transcript review project. Ms. Ziemak explained the crime scene investigator (CSI) had provided testimony on footwear impressions and their source though he is not trained to conduct this work and HFSC is not accredited to perform footwear analysis. Ms. Ziemak said the CSI could have made observations as a layperson, however he should have informed the court he was not an expert. Ms. Ziemak said the Harris County District Attorney's Office was notified but it remains unclear what, if any, impact the testimony had on the case. Ms. Ziemak said two other transcripts for the former employee have been reviewed and no additional issues were found. To avoid similar issues in the future, the quality division created a training video for all staff featuring seasoned testifiers sharing some of their experiences to help educate and advise analysts. Ms. Ziemak said Dr. Stout also walked staff through problematic parts of the CSI's testimony to highlight the importance of testifying only within the limitations of their expertise. Ms. Ziemak said the disclosure will be discussed at the TFSC's July 24 meeting. Ms. Ziemak told the board that the quality division completed its internal audit on June 1. The audit uncovered 13 nonconformances. HFSC's accrediting body, ANAB, will perform a virtual assessment in July, she said.

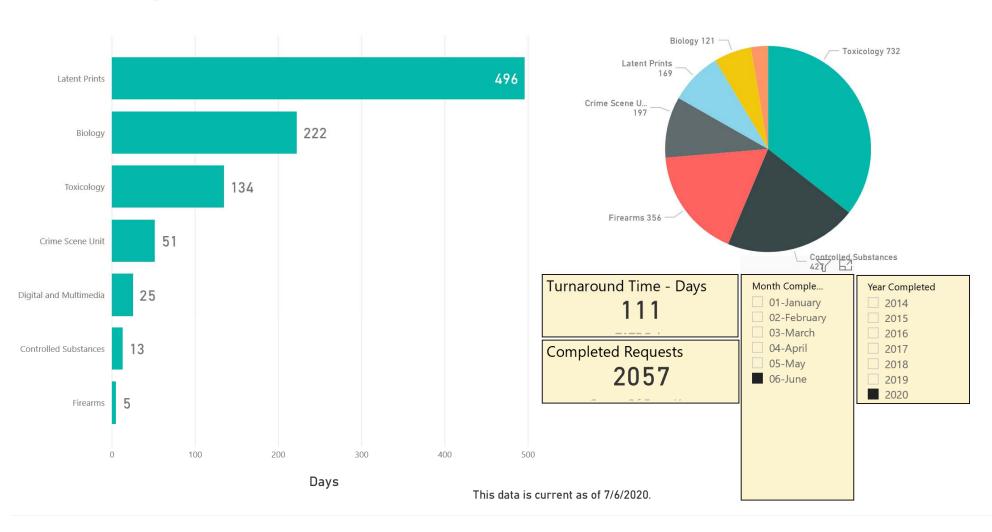
R.	Chairwoman Mitchell requested a motion to a motion to adjourn. Director Medina second thapproximately 3:24 p.m.	djourn the meeting. Director McPherson made a e motion. The meeting ADJOURNED at
By:	Benton Secretary	

# President's Report

July 10, 2020

### Requests Completed by Section

### Average Turnaround Time for June 2020



# Staffing – July 1, 2020

- 197 staff
  - 7 City of Houston civilians
  - 190 HFSC employees
- 13 open positions, 6 offers accepted
  - 1 experienced crime scene investigator
  - 1 forensic biology/DNA analyst
  - 1 R&D specialist
  - 3 toxicology analysts

- 7 active vacancies
  - 2 experienced crime scene investigators
  - 1 forensic biology/DNA analyst
  - 1 forensic biology/DNA technical lead\*
  - 2 toxicology analysts
  - 1 multimedia analyst
- 1 vacancy on hold
  - 1 seized drugs analyst



Note: This information includes recruitment of five toxicology analysts approved in FY2021 budget.

<sup>\*</sup> Acting technical lead named; current incumbent moved to parttime consulting role; job still posted

### Outreach

- Presentation on accreditation, quality and blinds for the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association annual Rusty Duncan Conference
- Virtual presentation for Jewish Federation's women's professional group
- Tour with Council Member Tiffany Thomas and staff



### HFSC and COVID-19

- At least 11 staff members have tested positive for the virus
- About a dozen more self-quarantined due to exposure, awaiting test results
- Multimedia section has no staff authorized to respond to audio/video callouts
- CSU resources strained, emergency scheduling may become necessary
- Seized drugs and client services/case management returned to rotating schedules
   July 6

**NOTEWORTHY:** COVID-19 is impacting the entire criminal justice system. Harris County has a backlog of about 80,000 criminal cases. Impact will be felt for years.



# Steps HFSC is taking to slow the spread

- Visitors required to wear masks or face coverings and have temperatures checked before entering the facility
- Staff STRONGLY encouraged to wear masks or face coverings
- Staff STRONGLY encouraged to take their temperature before or at the start of a shift
- Removed chairs from huddle rooms and conference rooms to discourage congregating in groups
- Posters, messages and other information reminding the need for hand washing, distancing and face coverings
- Sewing masks for HFSC staff and their family members
- HFSC contracted with Bode Technology Group to provide staff with weekly COVID-19 testing



# Why Bode? Why Weekly?

- Testing began July 6, offered every Monday this month
- Goal is to protect staff, minimize the spread of infection
- Bode promises a 48- to 72-hour turnaround time for results
  - Allows quicker identification of positives, keep them offsite
  - Allows for quicker return to work for staff that test negative
  - Current week-to-10 day turnaround time at other public and private testing facilities makes it impossible to mitigate spread, protect staff and operation
  - HFSC is familiar with Bode's operations and quality procedures
  - CLIA accredited



# HFSC 2020 Company Goals: How Are We Doing?

- 1. Move: Labs come back online as planned and to projected throughputs on schedule.
- 2. 80% completion of monthly one-on-ones as measured by the workflow in Qualtrax and 90% completion of semi-annual reviews
  - Reviewing verbiage for 2021 to make compliance broader company-wide and to encourage Qualtrax documentation
- 3. 12% voluntary turnover rate company-wide
  - Current turnover about 7 percent.
- 4. Each staff member completes a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education
  - Adjustments made to what is allowable due to pandemic. Likely much of that will stay for 2021 since when the restrictions and limitations will end is unknown

# HFSC 2020 Company Goals: How Are We Doing?

5. Lab average turnaround time of 45 days for the review year. Quality, IT, human resources and client services/case management will meet their respective turnaround time goals. Backlog will be no more than 15 percent of received requests for the year.

- We're not meeting this goal for several reasons:
  - When backlogs are eliminated or older cases are completed the turnaround time goes up
  - Latent prints and toxicology bringing up turnaround time as they dig into oldest cases
  - The two numbers are linked in a contradictory manner that makes meeting them both simultaneously inappropriately challenging, if not impossible
  - Discourages completion of older cases
  - We will not change the goal for this year. Moving a goalpost mid-year is never a good idea, and pandemic really isn't why we haven't achieved this
  - This has a very small impact on staff score. Has a big impact on CEO, COO

# Plan for 2021 Company Goals

Production goal. How do we fix this?

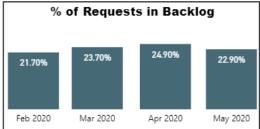
- Reviewing how better to present the data and create a goal for 2021
- Need to consider both how staff can meet the goal while also ensuring the goal meets mission to provide stakeholders with quality, timely forensic results
- Should have a new goal to present by September

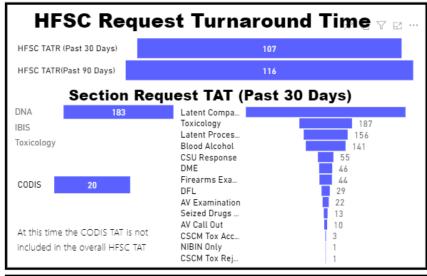
# Operations Report

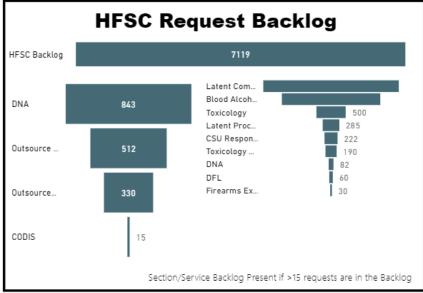
July 10, 2020

## **June 2020 Company Overview**





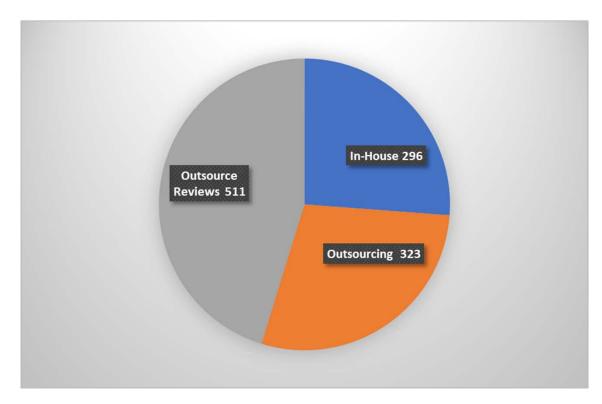




# Highlights

Sexual assault kit update

# Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog 1,130



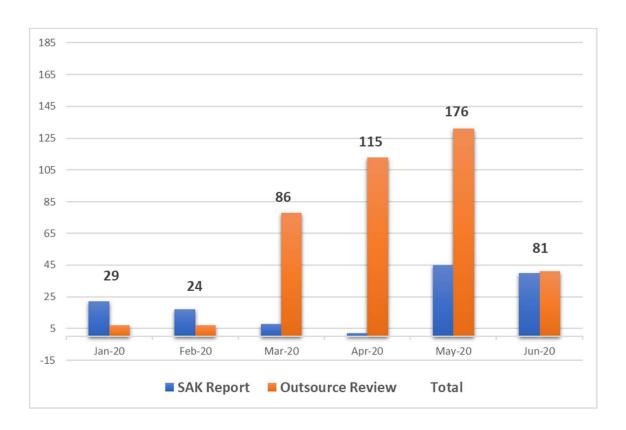
### **Definitions:**

In-house: sexual assault kits that will be processed by HFSC

Outsourcing: sexual assault kits that will be tested by a commercial laboratory

Outsource Reviews: sexual assault kits that have been tested by a commercial laboratory but require HFSC review to determine if DNA profiles are eligible for upload into the DNA database

# Sexual Assault Kits Completed



# Update on sexual assault kit testing

Challenges	Impact	Mitigation
Training program requires forensic biology/DNA management to technically review 50 reports for five newly authorized analysts	A bottleneck in reviews causing delays	Paired each new analyst with a technical reviewer to ensure timely review and feedback
Four analysts authorized to complete technical reviews	A bottleneck in reviews causing delays	A) One analyst is training to do technical reviews B) Five new analysts will begin training to do technical reviews after they complete their first 50 reports
COVID-19	Oldest kits are not paperless so remote work not possible	Outsourcing
40 percent of completed requests in June were rush requests for non-sexual assault kit work	Removes focus from sexual assault kit backlog	Outsourcing

# Sexual Assault Kits

**Contracts for Commercial Lab Testing** 

# Sexual Assault Kit Outsourcing

- Two vendors selected after request for proposal (RFP) process
  - Signature Science (Austin, TX)
  - Bode Cellmark Forensics (Lorton, VA)
- HFSC has previously worked with both vendors
- Outsourcing funded by federal grant dollars
- Contract value is up to \$648,850
- There is flexibility to adjust shipments between vendors
- Estimated timeline for testing will be presented in August 2020

### HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 10, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item No.:	<b>10a</b> . Consider approval of a contract for DNA services between the Corporation and Bode Cellmark Forensics, to be funded by the FY 2019- BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant, anticipated budget of \$324,425 but not to exceed the total allotted outsourcing budget of \$648,850.
	<b>b</b> . Consider approval of a contract for DNA services between the Corporation and Signature Science, LLC, to be funded by the FY 2019- BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant, anticipated budget of \$324,425.00 but not to exceed the total allotted outsourcing budget of \$648,850.00.
Subject:	Consider approval of two separate agreements, one contract with Bode Cellmark Forensics ("Bode") and one contract with Signature Science, LLC, to provide DNA services for HFSC forensic biology cases.
Background:	HFSC was awarded the FY 2019- BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant to help address HFSC's current backlog of forensic biology cases. HFSC has consistently utilized outsourcing in the forensic biology section to assist with various operational needs over the years. This grant will specifically assist HFSC in working through its backlog of sexual assault kits, which is a priority for the Corporation and its stakeholders. Without the use of federal funds, HFSC would not be able to complete this important project at this time.
Executive Summary:	In May 2020, HFSC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for DNA outsourcing services. The RFP specifically notified respondents that HFSC would consider the selection of more than one successful respondent, if appropriate. Bode and Signature Science were selected as the successful respondents, after consideration of the stated selection criteria.  The services provided will be funded by the FY 2019- BJA DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction federal grant. The proposed contracts anticipate the total project budget for Bode will be approximately \$324,425.00 and the total project budget for Signature Science will be approximately \$324,425.00. However, each contract allows HFSC flexibility in utilizing services from both vendors as necessary, so long as the total grant budget for outsourcing services is not exceeded (\$648,850.00). HFSC will be responsible for ensuring the total expenditure for services obtained from both vendors, does not exceed the total grant budget for outsourcing (\$648,850.00). Pursuant to federal grant guidelines, HFSC cannot obligate the funds until the BJA officially lifts a withholding condition on the award, which is the standard process at the start of each award.
Fiscal Impact:	No anticipated additional fiscal impact to HFSC.

Staff	Staff recommends approval
<b>Recommendation:</b>	
By: Dr. Amy Castillo, Vice President and COO Legal review and approved as to form by General Counsel	
	Legal review and approved as to form by General Counsel

# FY20 Final (I hope) Budget Allocation

FY2020	Year Budget Adjustmer	nts				
					-	
		FY20 Current Appr'd Budget	Grant	Building	Other	FY20 Proposed Budget
					-	
411000	City of Houston-Appropriations	\$ 24,160,344				24,160,344
	Fund 2213	952,722				952,722
	HFSC Operations	23,207,622				23,207,622
415000	City of Houston Direct OH-Appro	1,460,000				1,460,000
420000	Donations	11,450				11,450
426000	Training Services	9,263				9,263
440000	Grants	1,100,000				1,100,000
450000	Forensic Services	23,610				23,610
490002	Interest Income	5,858				5,858
		26,770,525	-	-	-	26,770,525
	rsonnel:					_
500010	Salary Base - Civilian	14,383,312	154,064		300,000	14,837,376
501070	Pension - Civilian	858,773	20,823		(24,842)	854,754
502010	FICA - Civilian	1,076,858	10,938		(5,660)	1,082,136
503010	Health Insurance - Active Civil	1,383,380	18,123		(89,164)	1,312,339
503015	Basic Life Ins - Active Civil	70,660	246		(49,124)	21,782
503090	Workers Comp - Civilian Adm	53,157			(5,315)	47,842
503100	Workers Comp - Civil Claims	108	400		(108)	()
504031	Unemployment Taxes - Admin	29,629	103		(5,888)	23,84 <sup>4</sup> 18,180,073
		17,855,877	204,298	-	119,899	18,

		FY20 Current Appr'd Budget	Grant	Building	Other	FY20 Proposed Budget
Si	upplies:	_				
511010	Chemical Gases & Special Fluids	23,168			(1,500)	21,668
511015	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	-				-
511045	Computer Supplies	3,035			(2,500)	535
511050	Paper & Printing Supplies	8,184			(1,500)	6,684
511055	Publications & Printed Material	12,928			(2,500)	10,428
511060	Postage	493				493
511070	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	88,852			(2,000)	86,852
511080	General Laboratory Supply	955,358			26,000	981,358
511095	Small Technical & Scientific Eq	9,250			(3,000)	6,250
511120	Clothing	14,286			(1,500)	12,786
511125	Food/Event Supplies	17,389			(2,500)	14,889
511130	Weapons Munitions & Supplies	6,544			(1,000)	5,544
511145	Small Tools & Minor Equipment	13,588			(5,000)	8,588
511150	Miscellaneous Parts & Supplies	22,885			(2,000)	20,885
		1,175,959	-	-	1,000	1,176,959

		FY20 Current Appr'd Budget	Grant	Building	Other	FY20 Proposed Budget
Se	ervices:					
520100	Temporary Personnel Services	2,227			(2,227)	(0)
520105	Accounting & Auditing Svcs	47,194			3,000	50,194
520107	Computer Info/Contracting Svcs	9,488			(9,488)	(0)
520109	Medical Dental & Laboratory Ser	1,264,423	78,360		(200,000)	1,142,783
520110	Management Consulting Services	236,400	43,275		(30,000)	249,675
520112	Banking Services	3,836				3,836
520114	Misc Support Serv Recruit Relo	66,346			(8,000)	58,346
520115	Real Estate Rental	851,187			(47,184)	804,003
520118	Refuse Disposal	63,783				63,783
520119	Computer Equip/Software Maint.	860,591				860,591
520121	IT Application Services	11,771			10,000	21,771
520124	Other Equipment Services	649,433				649,433
520143	Credit/Bank Card Svcs	1,048				1,048
520520	Printing & Reproduction Serv.	34,304				34,304
520605	Public Information Svcs	10,553				10,553
520705	Insurance (Non-Medical)	165,431				165,431
520765	Membership & Prof. Fees	29,829	338			30,167
520805	Education & Training	332,804	338			333,142
520815	Tuition Reimbursement	15,738				15,738
520905	Travel - Training Related	143,816	0			143,816
520910	Travel - Non-training Related	37,085				37,085
521405	Building Maintenance Services	8,517				8,517
521505	Utilities	84,705			3,000	87,705

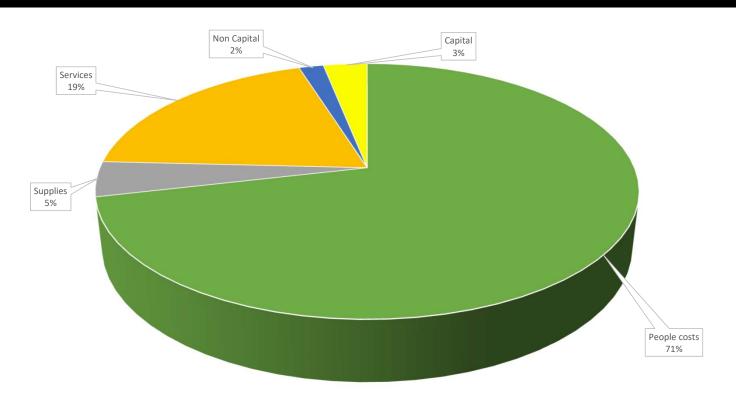
		FY20 Current Appr'd Budget	Grant	Building	Othor	FY20 Proposed Budget
		Buuget	Grant	Building	Other	Budget
521605	Data Services	229,239				229,239
521610	Voice Services, Equip & Labor	60,026				60,026
521630	EGIS Services	-				-
521705	Vehicle/Equipment Rental/Lease	135				135
521715	Office Equipment Rental	-				
521725	Other Rental Fees	74,387				74,387
521730	Parking Space Rental	217,729				217,729
521905	Legal Services	33,252				33,252
522205	Metro Commuter Passes	37,620				37,620
522305	Freight	35,003	4,680			39,683
522430	Misc. Other Services & Chrgs	96,329	13,005			109,334
522720	Insurance - General & Professional	-				-
522722	Intfd KRONOS Svc Chr	-				-
522845	Interfund Vehicle Services	-				-
52900	Subrecipient Expense - Grants	-				-
532000	Sub-Contractor (COH)	770,487				770,487
		6,484,714	139,996	-	(280,899)	6,343,811
		5,714,227	139,996	-	(280,899)	5,573,324
ı	Non-Capital Expenditures					
551010	Furniture and Fixtures	303,173	14,605			317,778
551015	Computer Equipment	177,025	-			177,025
551025	Scientific/Medical Equipment	40,000				40,000
551040	Non-Capital - Other	49,673				49,673
	Total Non-Capital Expenditures	569,871	14,605	-	-	584,476

		FY20 Current Appr'd Budget	Grant	Building	Other	FY20 Proposed Budget
	Capital Expenditures					
170140	Improvements	-				-
170210	Furniture & Fixtures	-				-
170220	Capital - Vehicles	-				-
170230	Computer Hardware/SW	-				-
170240	Scientific/Foren Eqmt	170,000				170,000
170980	Const in Progress	(8,399)			160,000	151,601
	Total Capital Expenditures	161,601	-	-	160,000	321,601
		26,248,022	358,899	-	-	26,606,921
561230	Depreciation	504,019				504,019
		26,752,041	358,899	-	-	27,110,940
		18,484	(358,899)	-	_	(340,415)
610000	City of Houston Direct Overhead	392,150				392,150
	Grant and Training Expense	(47,339)	(358,899)			(406,238)
456505	456505 - FA Gain/Loss	-				-
531085	531085 - Interest Expense	1,100,000				1,100,000
	Net Ordinary Income After Capital Expenditures	(1,426,327)	-	-	-	(1,426,327)

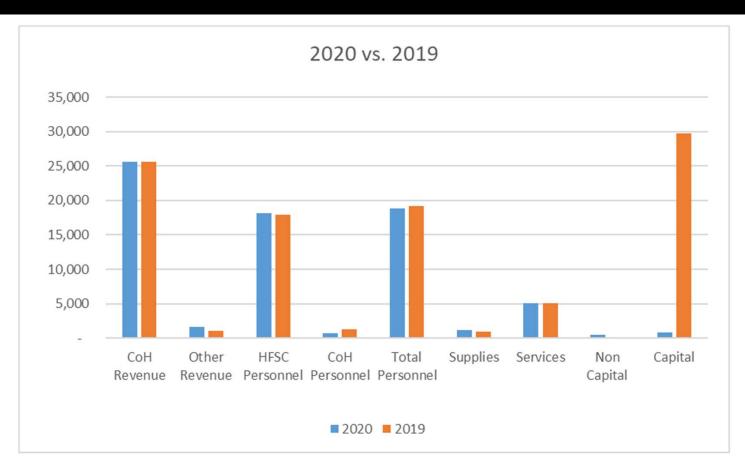
## HFSC's FY20 - Year End Review

What it cost to get to the RIGHT ANSWER at the RIGHT TIME

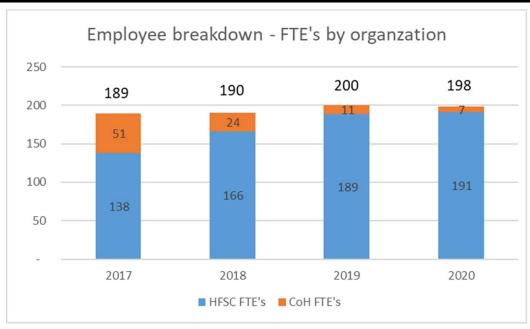
#### Where does HFSC Spend it's money?

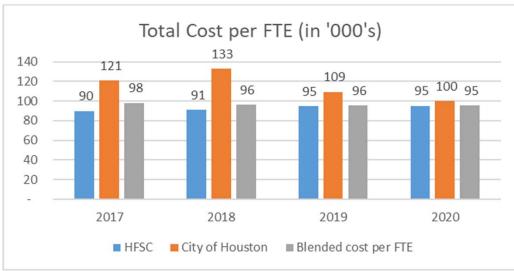


#### How does this compare to FY19?

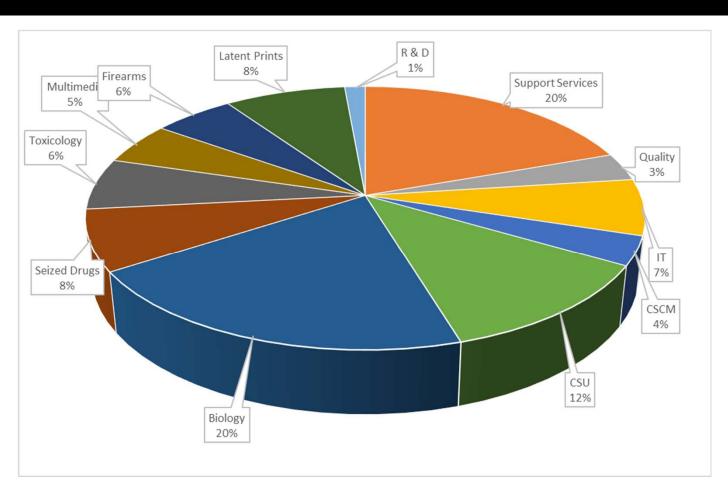


#### HFSC – Civilian - Classified

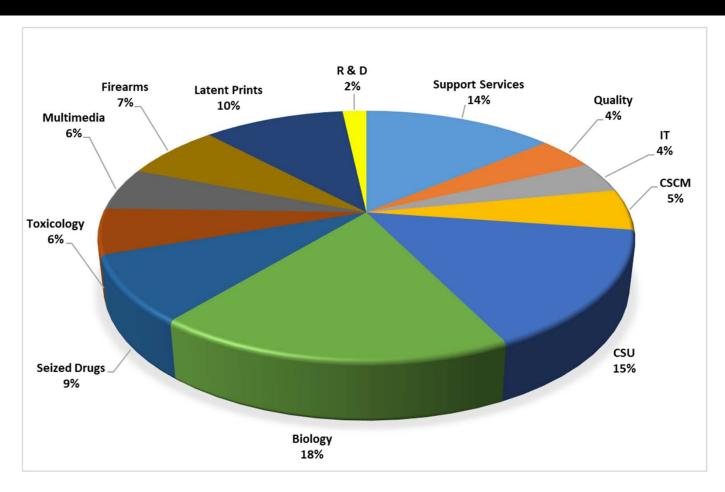




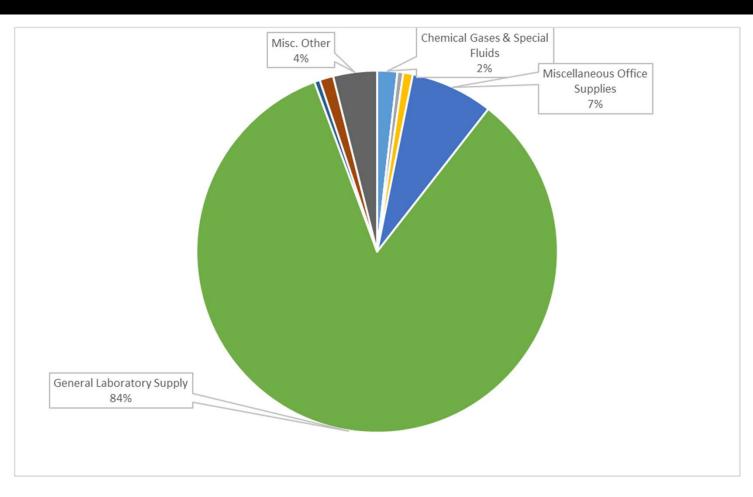
#### Department Percentage of Total Cost



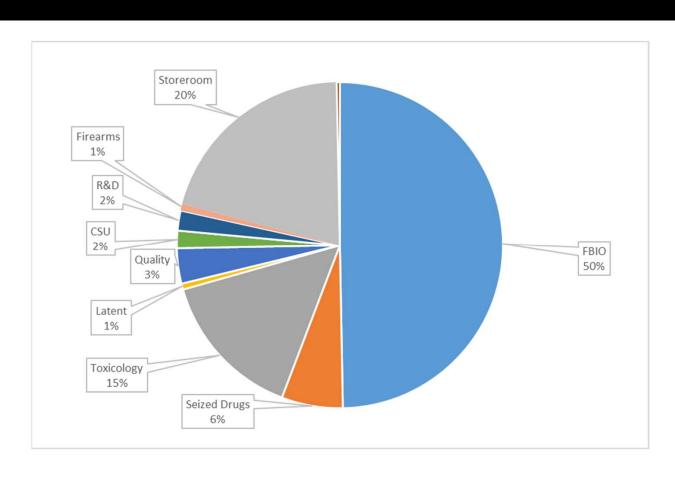
#### Total Personnel Cost (71%) by Department



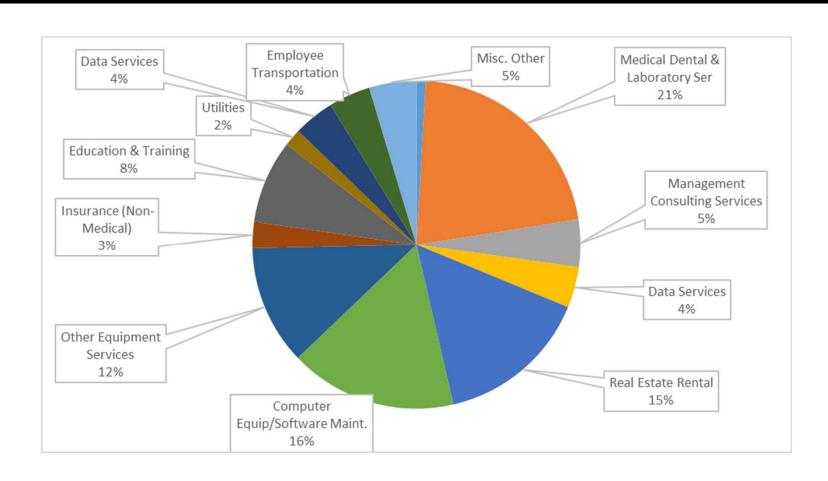
## Supplies (5%) – Spending by Category



#### Services – General Lab.



#### Services (19%) – Spending by Category



## Crime Scene and Multimedia

July 10, 2020

#### COVID-19 and Multimedia

- Three staff members confirmed positive, two quarantined due to direct exposure, awaiting test results
- Virus wiped out entire team authorized to respond to audio/video call outs.
- AV call outs are being handled by an already stretched CSU until multimedia returns to full capacity

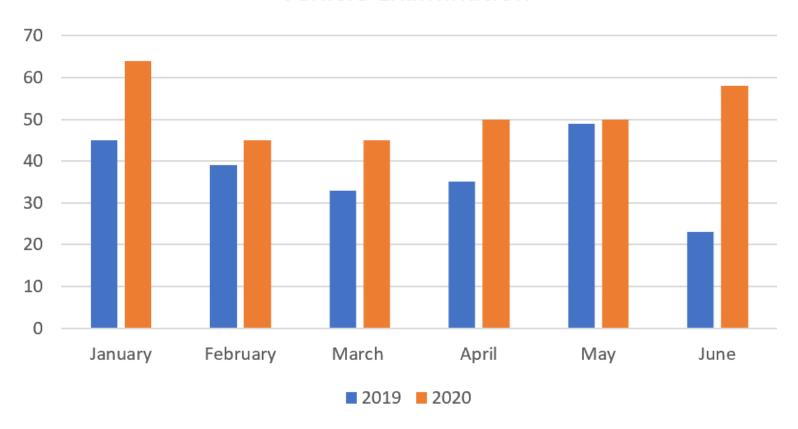
#### COVID-19 and CSU

- Two confirmed COVID positive staff, still recovering
- Most of June, 5 staff members were either recovering or quarantined due to exposure
- High call volume and staff shortages forced a temporary on call schedule for all CSU, effective July 3
- If COVID-19 further impacts staff, emergency schedule of two 12-hour shifts will be implemented

#### CSU, COVID-19 and Vehicle Examinations

- Staff shortages also delays efforts to process vehicles
- In June the CSU processed 58 vehicles ranging from auto burglary to aggravated robbery.
- Requests for vehicle examination have steadily increased in 2020

#### Vehicle Examination



## Detail data

#### Center of ring=total pending cases **Key for Dashboard Section Pages** Ring=breakdown of age for all pending cases Report type Priority Type **Total Pending Requests** Service **Overall TAT Overall TAT** Seized Drugs Examination (Past 90 Days) Days Old (Month to Date) 0-15 **16-30** # of Unassi... 🖾 ··· # Pending Draft 31-60 Justice Trax Past Critical Age 061-90 91-120 Avg Age of Requests >30 D. >121 - 131 # Pending Tech # Pending Admin Age-Oldest Unassigned Pending work TAT by Phase of Work (MTD) Age-Oldest Pending Draft ● JT-Assign TAT MTD ● JT-Draft TAT MTD ● JT-Tech Review TAT MTD ● JT-Admin Review TAT MTD Age-Oldest Pending Tech 15 Goal= Threshold for the max # of requests in each bucket TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days) Age-Oldest Pending Admin Average time to close quality **Quality TAT Open Quality Reports** reports **Month to Date** Qualtrax ID Workflow # 48504 26 Completed 613 48533 623 Received **Pending** Avg Age of Open Reports 48621 24 quality reports 49147 2019-056 17 30 Day Avg (Over Past 90 Days) Completed 592

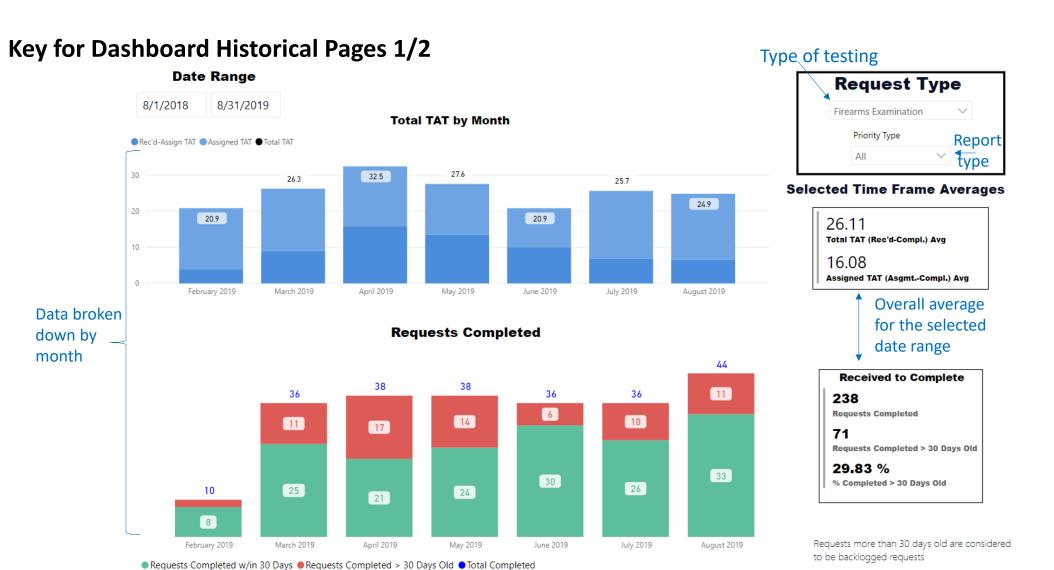
Quality Filter

Controlled Substances ∨

TAT= Turnaround Time MTD= Month to date Critical age=30 days Critical pending=requests open over 30 days

Received

588



TAT= Turnaround Time

#### **Key for Dashboard Historical Pages 2/2**



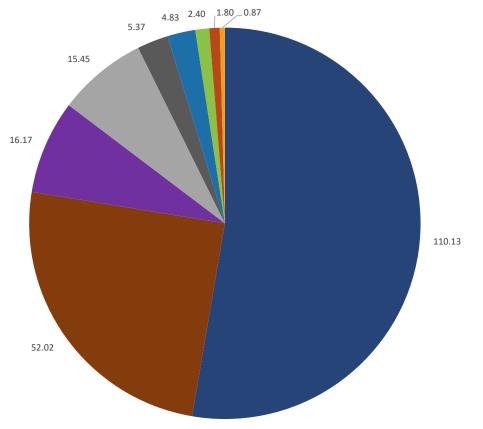
# Client Services and Case Management (CS/CM)

## CS/CM – June

#### CS/CIVI Julie



See Time Categories by Section slide for breakdown



OtherSeized DrugsMorgue RunFirearmsToxicology

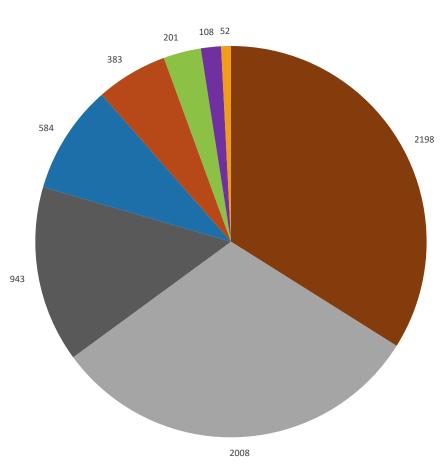
■ Biology

■ Digital & Multimedia

Latent Print ComparisonLatent Print Processing

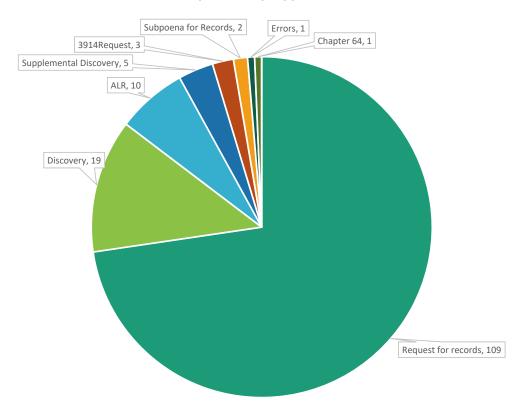
## Evidence Handling

#### Total Items by Section



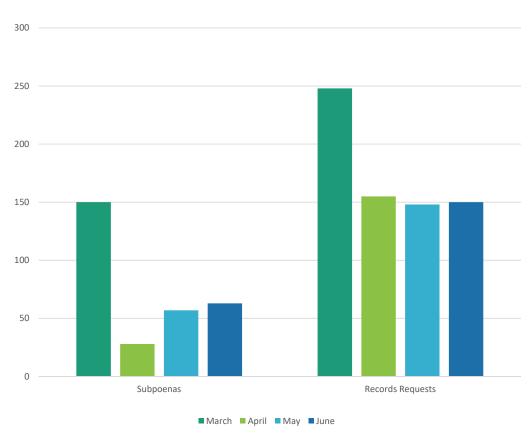
## CS/CM – June

#### Requests by Type



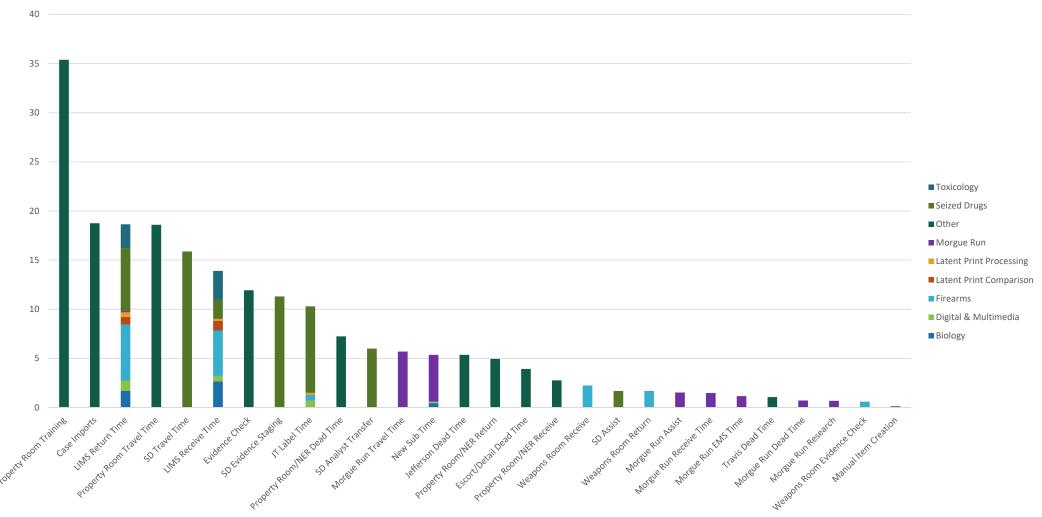
### Administrative

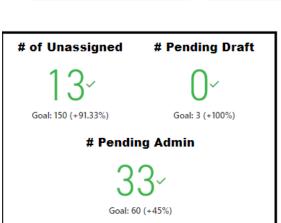
#### Subpoenas & Records Requests



## Time Categories - June

## Evidence Handling





Goal= Threshold for the max # of requests in each bucket

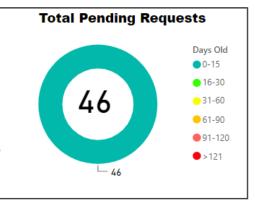
Priority Type

All

Service

CSCM Tox Accession





Received





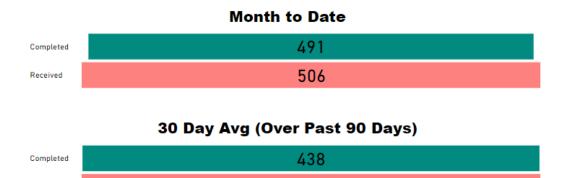
#### TAT by Phase of Work (MTD) JT-Assign TAT MTD JT-Draft TAT MTD CSCM-Admin Review TAT MTD





\*Reports without a Workflow ld# are not included in the Avg Age





439

#### **Date Range** 6/30/2020 6/1/2019 **Total TAT by Month** ■ Rec'd-Assign TAT Assigned TAT Total TAT 5.7 5.0 3.5 3.6 3.5 2.9 2.5 3.2 2.6 July 2019 August 2019 September October February March 2020 April 2020 2019 2019 2019 2019 2020 2020



#### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

4.01
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
2.23
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

#### **Requests Completed**

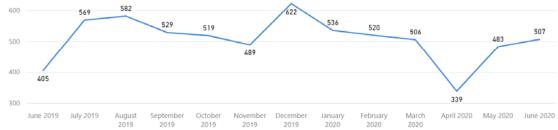


Received to Complete

| 6606
| Requests Completed
| 29
| Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
| 0.44 %
| % Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



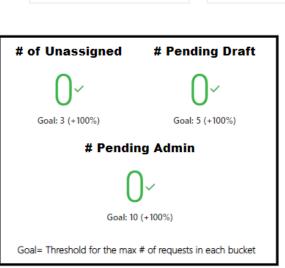


6,606

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

508

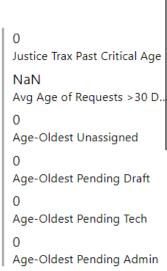
<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average

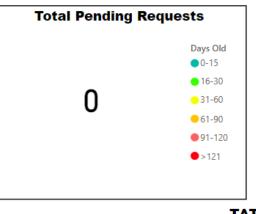


Priority Type

Service

CSCM Tox Rejection









#### TAT by Phase of Work (MTD) ●JT-Assign TAT MTD ●JT-Draft TAT MTD ●CSCM-Admin Review TAT MTD

TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)

 Open Quality Reports

 Qualtrax ID
 Workflow #
 Age

 57237
 107

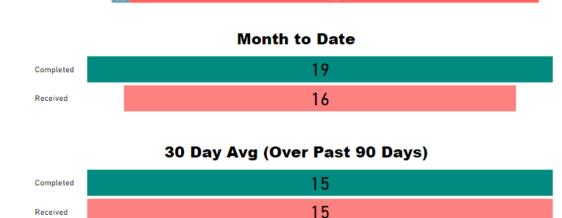
 62324
 2020-035
 39

 63981
 2020-042
 21

 64842
 2020-045
 10

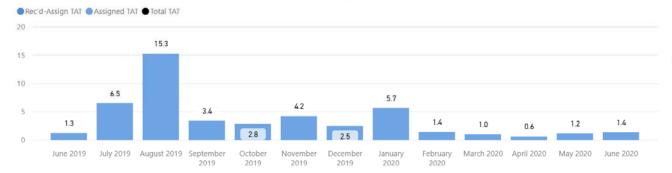
\*Reports without a Workflow Id# are not included in the Avg Age





## **Date Range**6/1/2019 6/30/2020

#### **Total TAT by Month**



## Request Type CSCM Tox Rejection Priority Type All

#### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

3.54
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
3.54
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

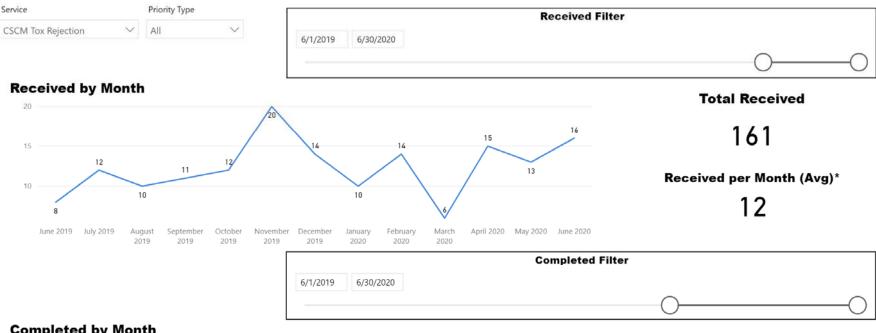
#### **Requests Completed**



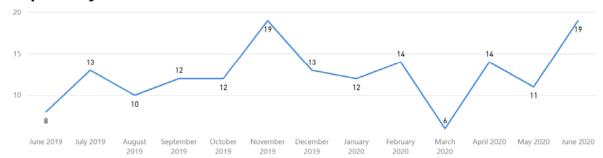
■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days
■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
■ Total Completed



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



#### **Completed by Month**



#### **Total Completed**

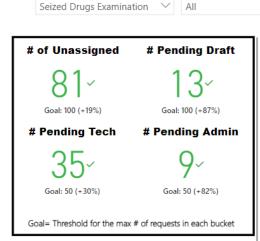
163

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

13

<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average

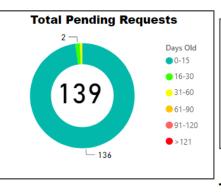
## Seized Drugs



Priority Type

Service



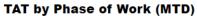


Overall TAT (Month to Date)

13.4

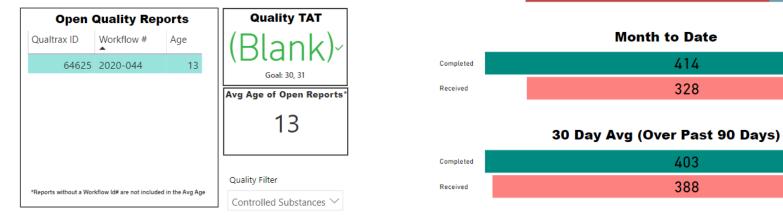
Goal: 14, 15

Overall TAT (Past 90 Days) 14.2• Goal: 14, 15









# Date Range 6/1/2019 6/30/2020 Total TAT by Month Rec'd-Assign TAT ◆ Assigned TAT ◆ Total TAT 25 21.2 15 18.7 8.9 9.0 9.6

8.0

October

November

2019

June 2019 July 2019 August 2019 September



#### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

14.0

March 2020 April 2020 May 2020 June 2020

13.3

11.85
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
5.70
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

#### **Requests Completed**

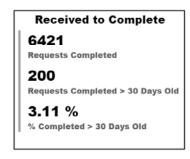
December

January

8.5

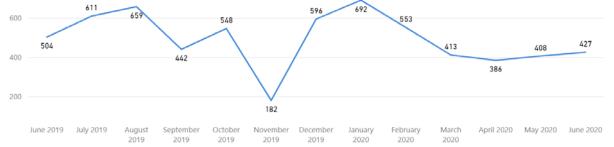


■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days
■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
■ Total Completed



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests





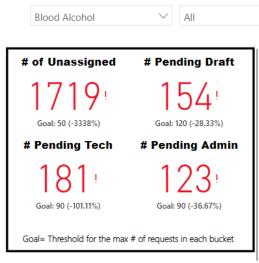
6,421

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

494

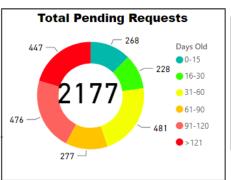
 $<sup>\</sup>ensuremath{^{*}}$  months with zero activity are not calculated into the average

### Toxicology



Service





Overall TAT (Month to Date)

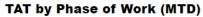
1410!

Goal: 30, 31

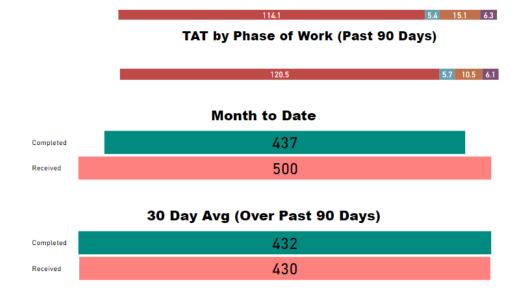
Overall TAT (Past 90 Days)

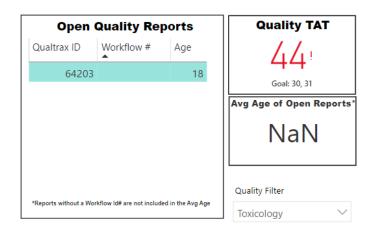
142.8

Goal: 30, 31



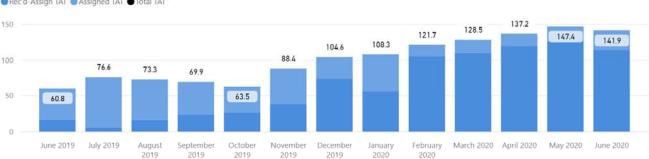
● JT-Assign TAT MTD ● JT-Draft TAT MTD ● JT-Tech Review TAT MTD ● JT-Admin Review TAT MTD





Priority Type

# Date Range 6/1/2019 6/30/2020 Rec'd-Assign TAT Assigned TAT Total TAT



**Total TAT by Month** 



### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

103.11
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
36.37
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

### **Requests Completed**



■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days
■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
■ Total Completed

Received to Complete
5079
Requests Completed
5007
Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
98.58 %
% Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

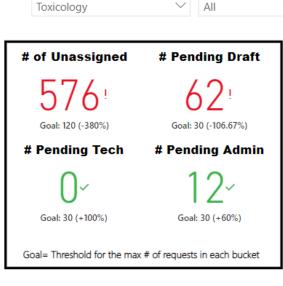




5,071

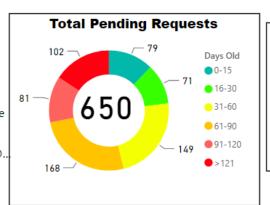
Completed per Month (Avg)\*

<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average



Service





Completed

Received

Overall TAT (Month to Date)

186.8!

Goal: 90, 91

TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)

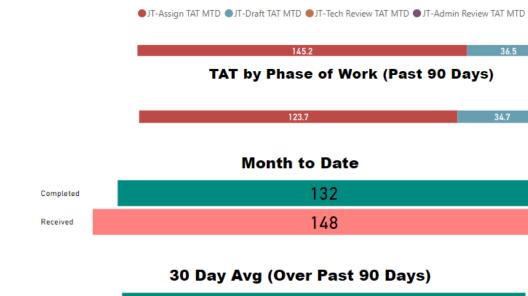
142

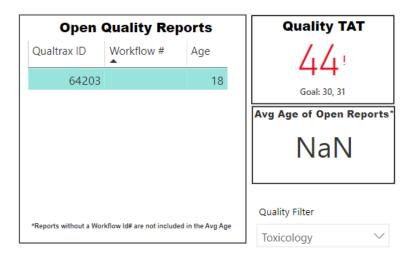
162

Overall TAT (Past 90 Days)

164.8

Goal: 90, 91





Priority Type

### **Date Range** 6/1/2019 6/30/2020 **Total TAT by Month** ● Rec'd-Assign TAT ● Assigned TAT ● Total TAT 163.2 159.0 159.4 152.8 183.0 145.8 150 121.5 119.2 150.6 104.0 96.9 115.8 50 67.3 0 June 2019 July 2019 February March 2020 April 2020 May 2020 June 2020



### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

143.37 Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg 46.66 Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

### **Requests Completed**

December

2019

January

2020

2020



■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days
■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
■ Total Completed

August

2019

September

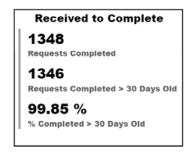
2019

October

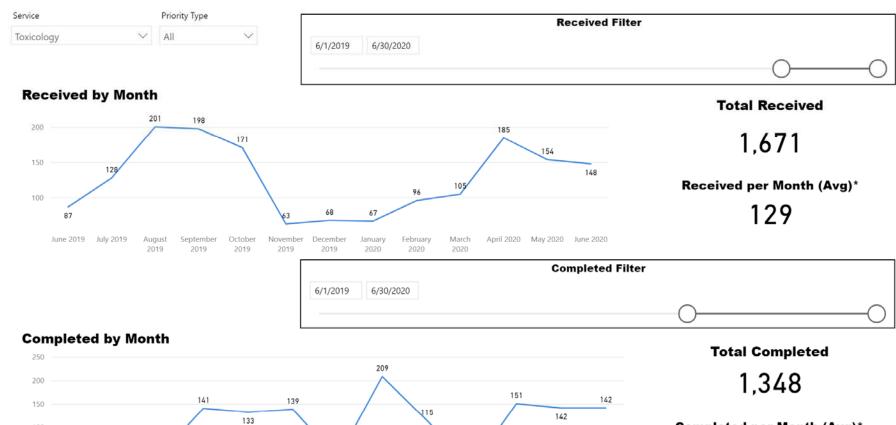
2019

November

2019



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



100

June 2019 July 2019

37

August

2019

October

2019

September

2019

December

2019

2019

January

2020

February

2020

March

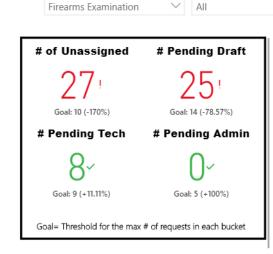
2020

April 2020 May 2020 June 2020

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

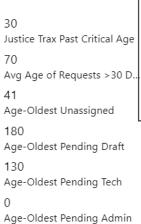
<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average

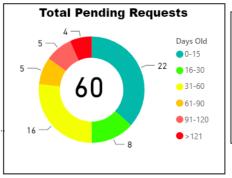
### Firearms



Priority Type

Service



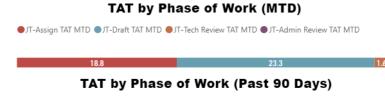




Overall TAT (Past 90 Days)

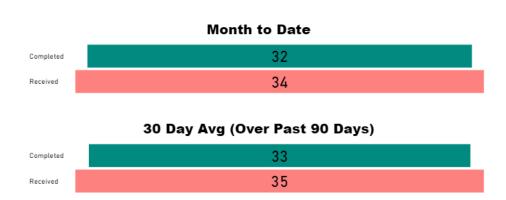
43.3!

Goal: 40, 41









### **Date Range** 6/1/2019 6/30/2020 **Total TAT by Month** ■ Rec'd-Assign TAT ■ Assigned TAT ■ Total TAT 60 50.4 45.8 44.2 43.6 36.5 40 39.9 37.3 25.7 25.1 23.5 20 22.8 20.9 19.5 February March 2020 April 2020 May 2020 June 2020 June 2019 July 2019 August 2019 September October November December January



### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

34.35
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
20.07
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

### **Requests Completed**

2019

2020

2020



■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days
■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
■ Total Completed

2019

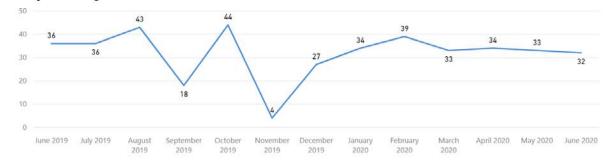
2019

Received to Complete
413
Requests Completed
171
Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
41.40 %
% Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



### **Completed by Month**



### **Total Completed**

413

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

 $<sup>\</sup>ensuremath{^{\star}}$  months with zero activity are not calculated into the average



**Open Quality Reports** 

Workflow #

Qualtrax ID

65030

65564

64205 2020-041

65128 2020-046

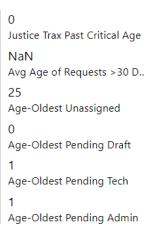
65278 2020-IA-10

\*Reports without a Workflow Id# are not included in the Avg Age

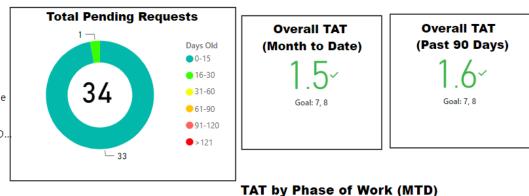
Priority Type

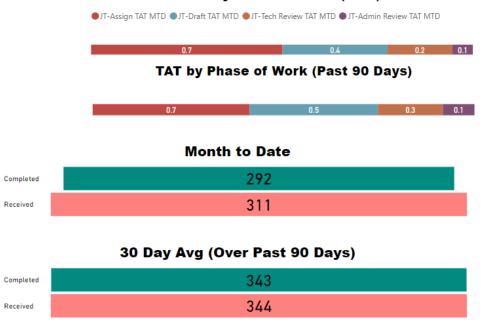
18

Service









### **Date Range** 6/1/2019 6/30/2020 **Total TAT by Month** ■ Rec'd-Assign TAT ■ Assigned TAT ■ Total TAT 10.7 12.7 10.5 10.1 7.0 6.9 6.5

October

2019

2019

November

2019

July 2019 August 2019 September



### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

6.45 Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg 3.75 Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

**Received to Complete** 

Requests Completed > 30 Days Old

% Completed > 30 Days Old

4206

1.19 %

50

Requests Completed

1.4

May 2020

### **Requests Completed**

December

2019

February

2020

January

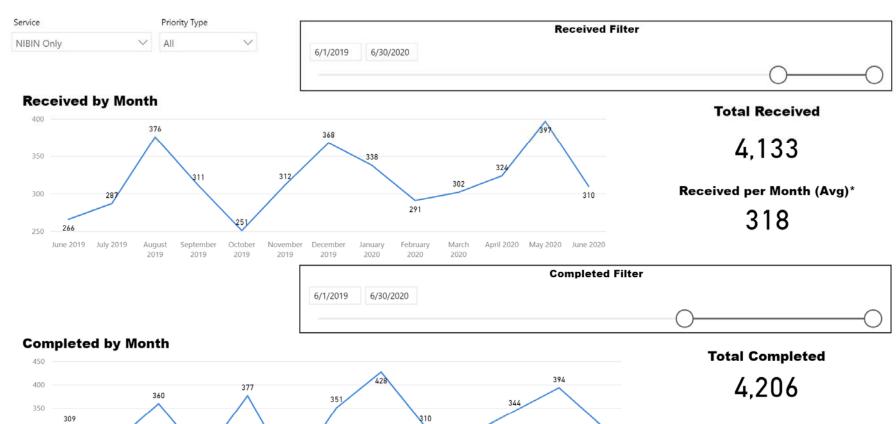
2020

March 2020 April 2020



to be backlogged requests

Requests more than 30 days old are considered



293

March

2020

300

200

276

June 2019 July 2019

246

September

2019

October

2019

November December

2019

2019

January

2020

February

2020

August

2019

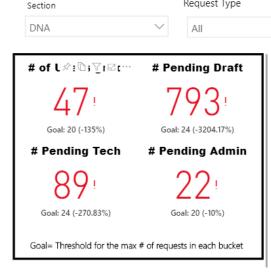
Completed per Month (Avg)\*

309

April 2020 May 2020 June 2020

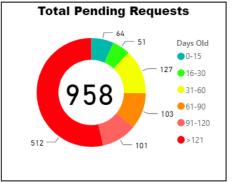
 $<sup>\</sup>ensuremath{^{\ast}}$  months with zero activity are not calculated into the average

### Forensic Biology



Request Type





**Overall TAT** (Month to Date) Goal: 30, 31

(Past 90 Days) Goal: 30, 31

**Overall TAT** 

### TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)



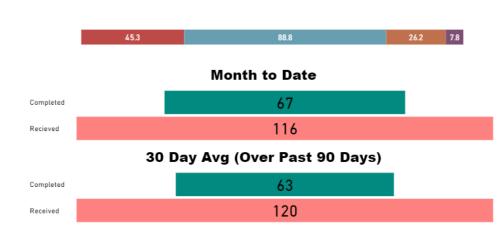
TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)

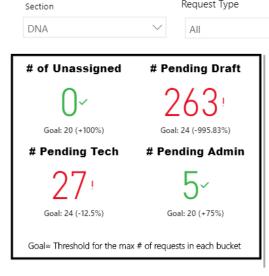


56110 2020-001

\*Reports without a Workflow Id# are not included in the Avg Age

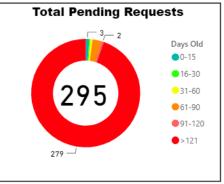






Request Type





Overall TAT (Month to Date) Goal: 30, 31

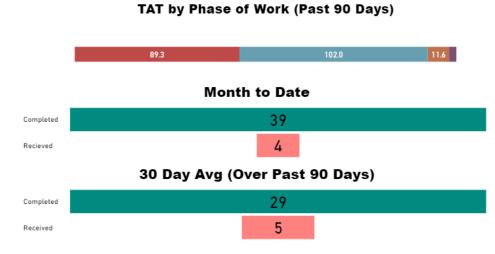
Overall TAT (Past 90 Days) Goal: 30, 31

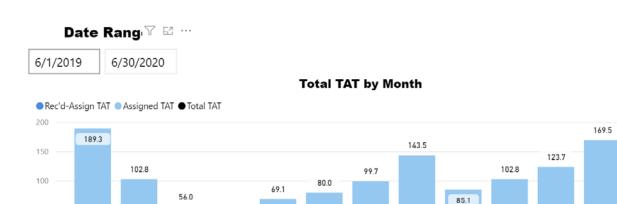
### TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)











34.5

September

2019

2019

October

2019

2019

50

0

June 2019 July 2019



### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

182.9

March 2020 April 2020 May 2020 June 2020

114.29 Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg 97.95 Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

**Received to Complete** 

770

656

85.19 %

Requests Completed

% Completed > 30 Days

### **Requests Completed**

2020

2020

2019

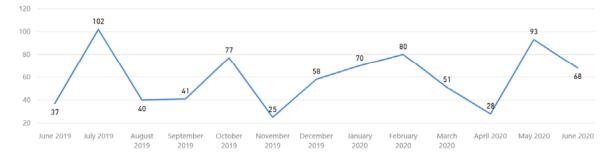


Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

Requests Completed > 30 Days



### **Completed by Month**

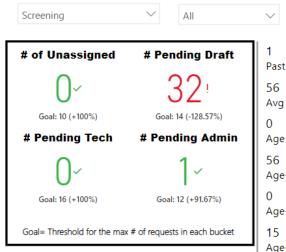


### **Total Completed**

770

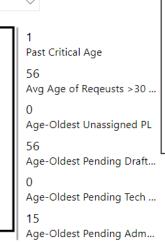
Completed per Month (Avg)\*

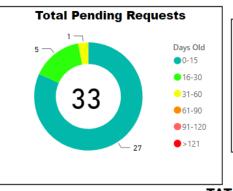
<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average



Section

Request Type





Overall TAT (Month to Date)

13.6!

Goal: 10, 11

Overall TAT (Past 90 Days)

26.2!

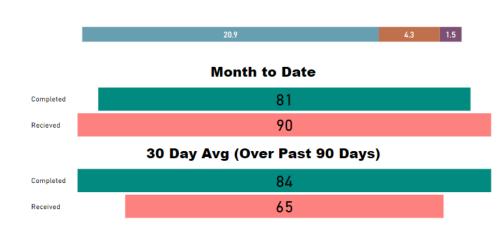
Goal: 10, 11

### TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)









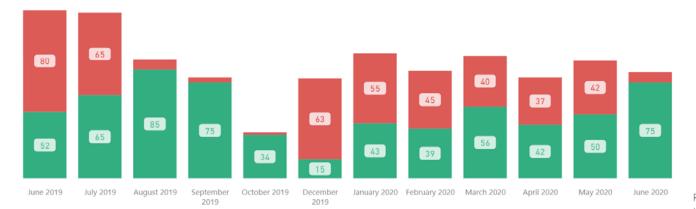
### **Date Range** 6/1/2019 6/30/2020 **Total TAT by Month** ■ Rec'd-Assign TAT ■ Assigned TAT ■ Total TAT 48.5 54.7 42.2 40.1 32.9 31.5 39.7 31.4 20 15.4 13.6 12.4 March 2020 April 2020 July 2019 August 2019 September October December January 2020 February 2019 2019 2019 2020



### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

33.80
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
34.33
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

### **Requests Completed**



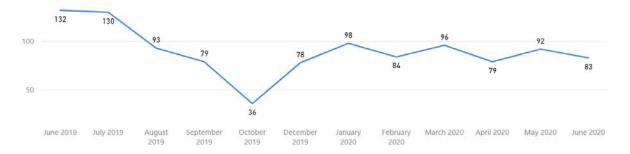
• Requests Completed w/in 30 Days • Requests Completed > 30 Days Old • Total Completed



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



### **Completed by Month**

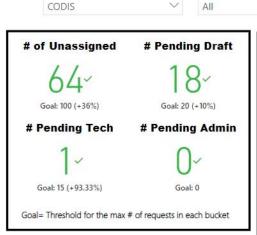


**Total Completed** 

1080

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

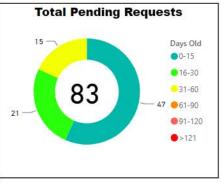
<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average



Section



CODIS Hit Type



Overall TAT (Month to Date)

19.6

Goal: 30, 31

Overall TAT (Past 90 Days) 14.2 Goal: 30, 31

### TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)









● PL-Assign TAT MTD ● PL-Draft TAT MTD ● PL-Tech Review TAT MTD

### **Date Range**

June 2019 July 2019

August

2019

September

2019

October

2019

6/1/2019 6/30/2020 **Total TAT by Month** 25 24.7 20.5 19.7 22.8 18.0 17.9 16.7 15 12.5 11.8 10.3 10 7.2



### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

14.25 Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg

### **Requests Completed**

January

2020

February

2020

March 2020 April 2020 May 2020 June 2020

December

2019

November

2019

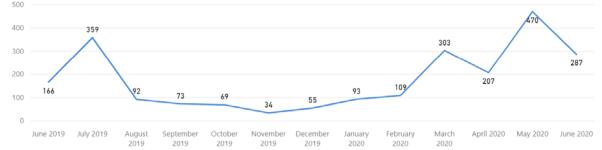


■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days ■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old ■ Total Completed



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



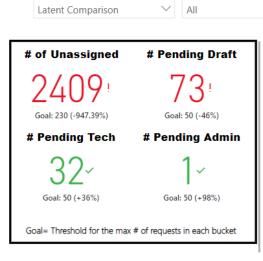


3904

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

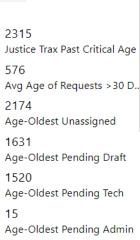
<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average

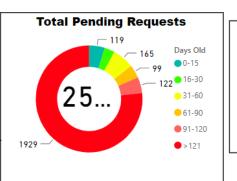
### **Latent Prints**



Priority Type

Service

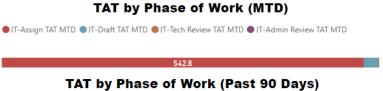


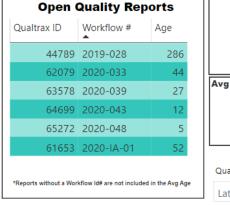


Overall TAT (Month to Date) 566.5!Goal: 45, 46

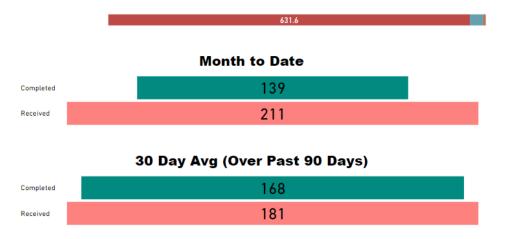
Overall TAT (Past 90 Days)
659.6!

Goal: 45, 46









### **Date Range** 6/1/2019 6/30/2020 ADVE ... **Total TAT by Month** ● Rec'd-Assign TAT ● Assigned TAT ● Total TAT 822.8 566.5 493.2 124.6 106.8 104.5 March 2020 April 2020 May 2020 June 2020 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2020 2020



### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

267.94 Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg 26.98 Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

**Received to Complete** 

Requests Completed > 30 Days Old

% Completed > 30 Days Old

1754

1389

79.19 %

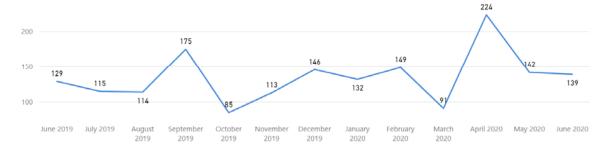
**Requests Completed** 

### **Requests Completed**



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



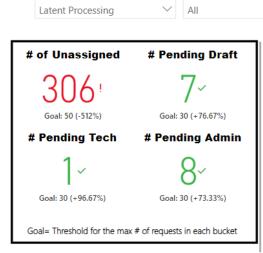


### **Total Completed**

1,754

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

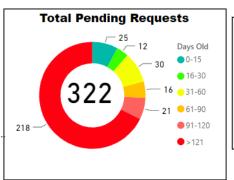
<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average



Priority Type

Service





Overall TAT (Month to Date)

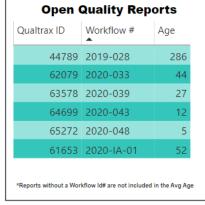
156.1

Overall TAT (Past 90 Days) 1 1 5 8 1 Goal: 30, 31

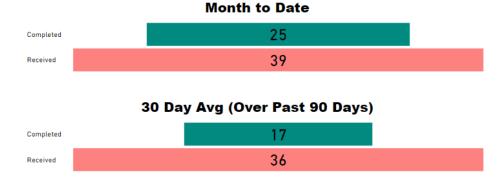
### TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)



### TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)









## Request Type Latent Processing Priority Type All

### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

85.75
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
25.67
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

### **Requests Completed**



■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days
■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
■ Total Completed

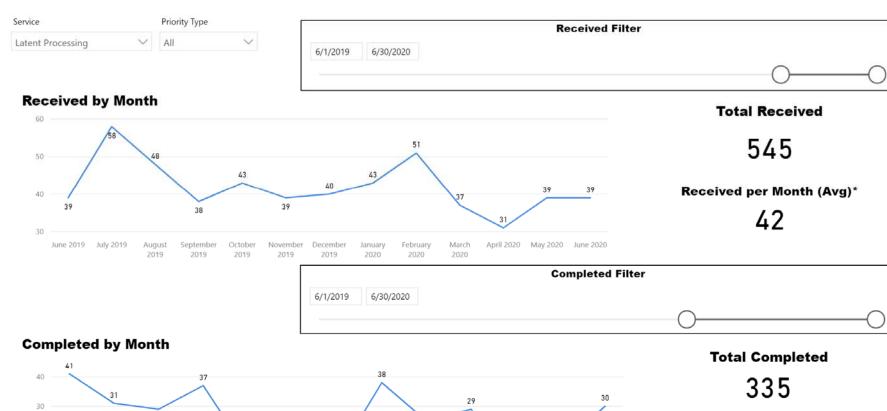
Received to Complete

335
Requests Completed

196
Requests Completed > 30 Days Old

58.51 %
% Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

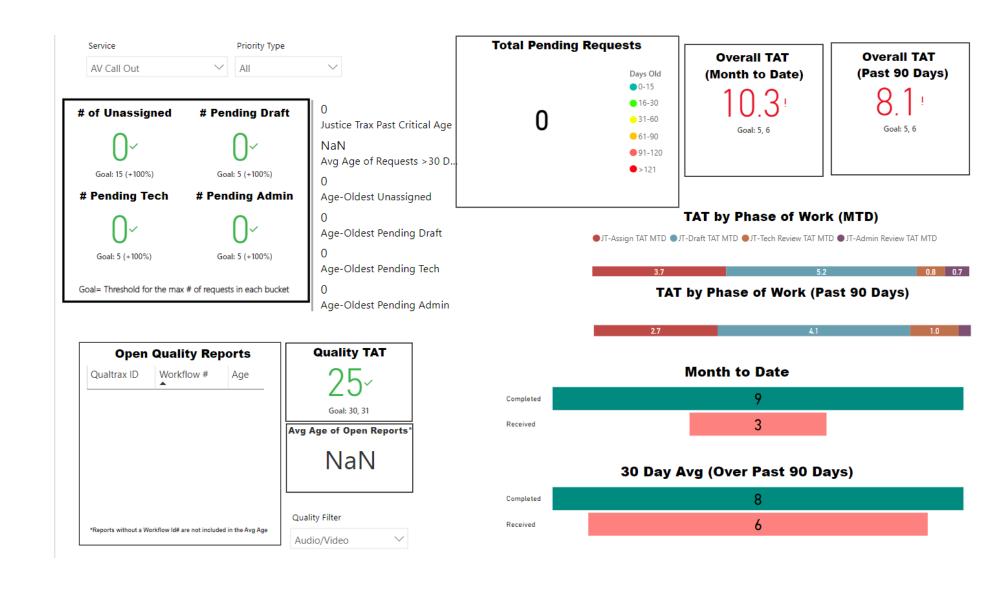


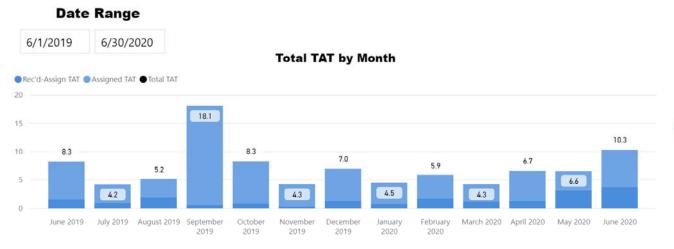


Completed per Month (Avg)\*

<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average

### Digital Multi-Media







### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

7.26
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
5.85
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

### **Requests Completed**



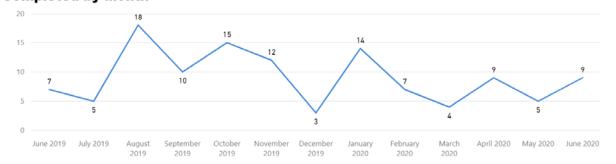
■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days
■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
■ Total Completed

Received to Complete
118
Requests Completed
2
Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
1.69 %
% Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



### **Completed by Month**

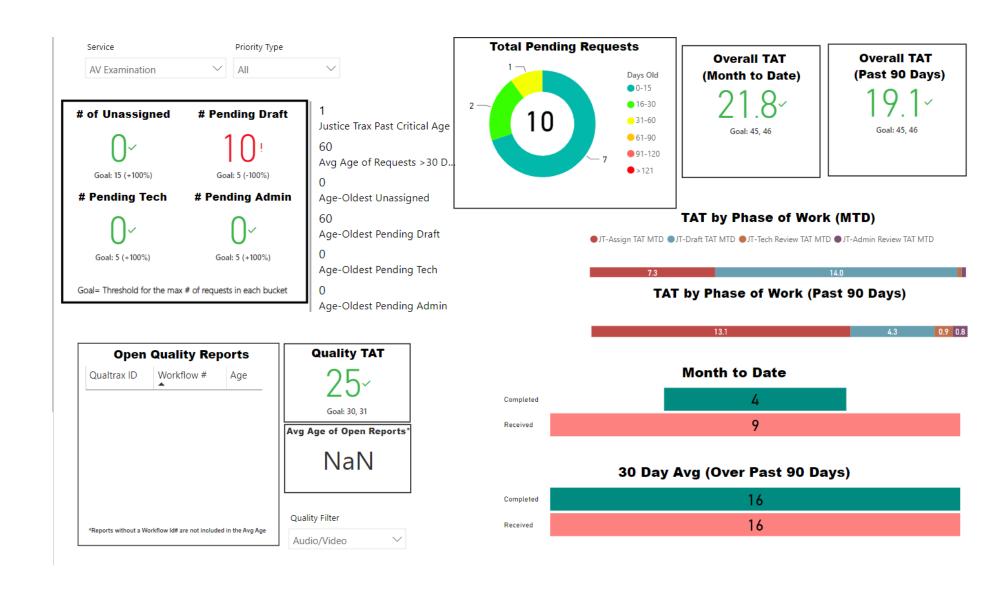


### **Total Completed**

118

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average



### **Date Range**

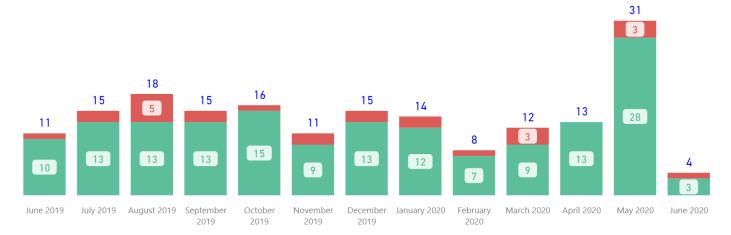


# Request Type AV Examination Priority Type All

### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

24.17
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
14.64
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

### **Requests Completed**



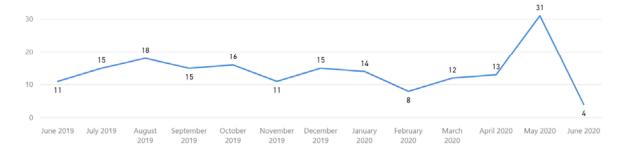
■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days
■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
■ Total Completed



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



### **Completed by Month**



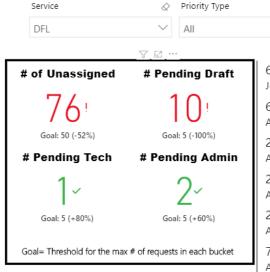
### **Total Completed**

183

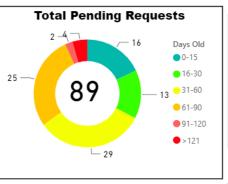
Completed per Month (Avg)\*

14

<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average







Overall TAT (Month to Date)

29.2

Goal: 45, 46

Overall TAT (Past 90 Days)

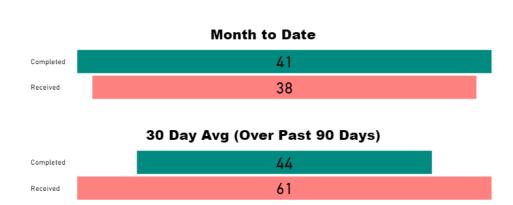
27.4

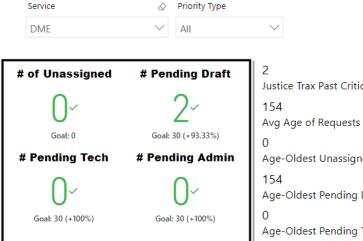
Goal: 45, 46

### TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)







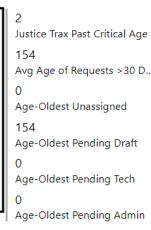


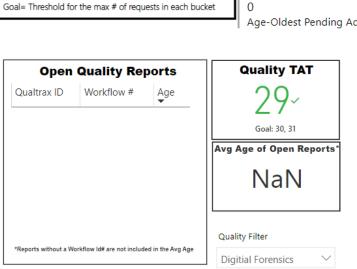
Age

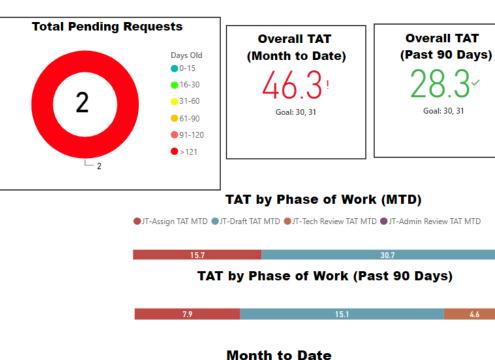
**Open Quality Reports** 

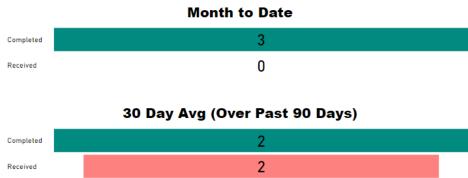
Workflow #

Qualtrax ID









Goal: 30, 31

### **Date Range**

June 2019 July 2019

August

2019

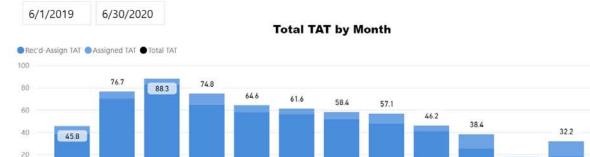
September

2019

October

2019

0





#### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

30.7

17.5

March 2020 April 2020 May 2020

February

2020

January

2020

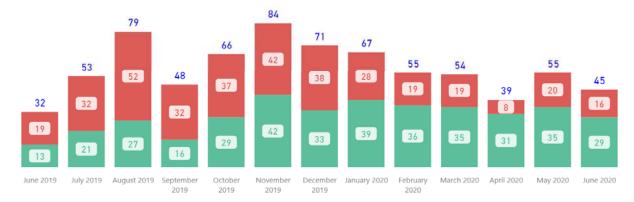
56.08
Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg
7.71
Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

#### **Requests Completed**

2019

November December

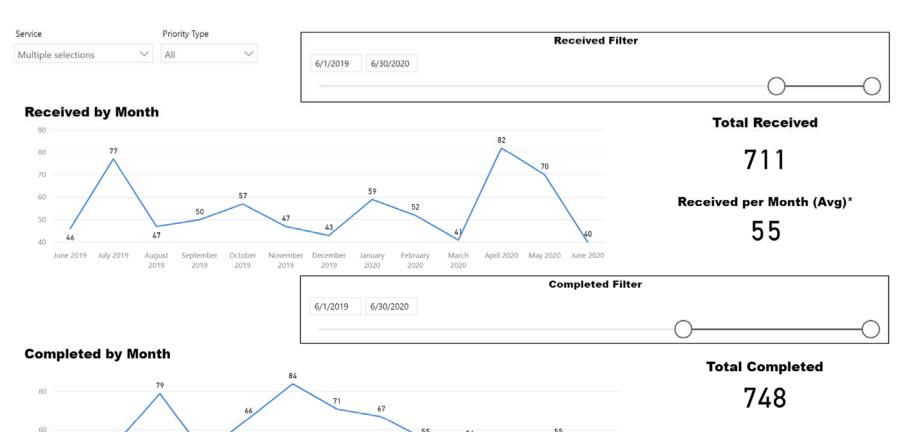
2019



■ Requests Completed w/in 30 Days
■ Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
■ Total Completed



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



June 2019 July 2019

August

2019

September

2019

October

2019

November December

39

April 2020 May 2020 June 2020

March

2020

February

2020

January

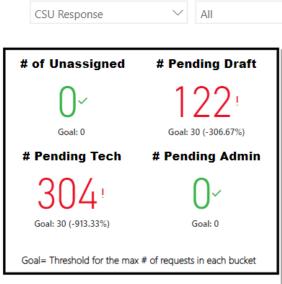
2020

Completed per Month (Avg)\*

58

<sup>\*</sup> months with zero activity are not calculated into the average

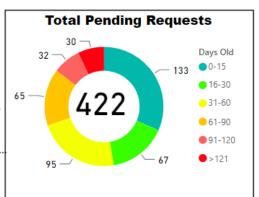
### Crime Scene Unit



Priority Type

Service





Overall TAT (Month to Date)

51.9!

Goal: 30, 31

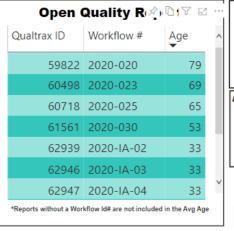
Overall TAT (Past 90 Days)

48.0!

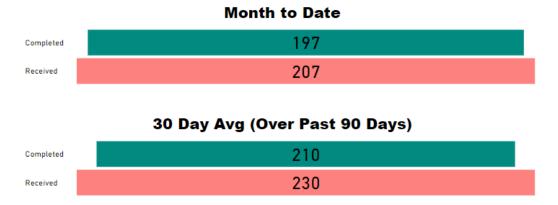
Goal: 30, 31

### TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)









#### **Date Range** 6/1/2019 6/30/2020 **Total TAT by Month** ■ Rec'd-Assign TAT ■ Assigned TAT ■ Total TAT 60 51.9 49.8 46.8 39.8 45.5 40 34.6 32.2 42.2 28.9 38.3 27.9 20 23.6 0 June 2019 July 2019 August 2019 September October November December January February March 2020 April 2020 May 2020 June 2020 2019 2019 2019 2019 2020 2020



### **Selected Time Frame Averages**

39.20 Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg 38.39 Assigned TAT (Asgmt.-Compl.) Avg

**Received to Complete** 

Requests Completed > 30 Days Old

% Completed > 30 Days Old

2393

1195

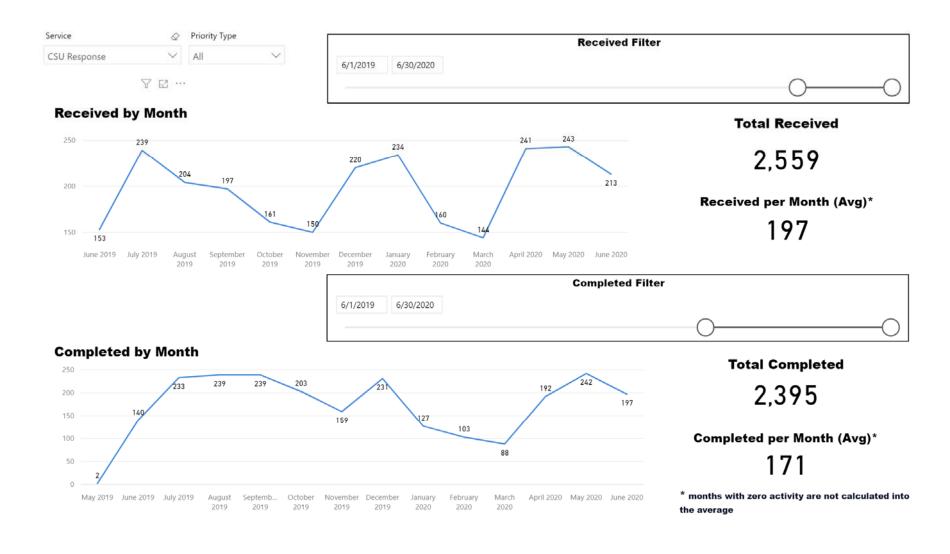
49.94 %

**Requests Completed** 

### **Requests Completed**



Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



Note: The May 2019 completed data point reflects a request completed late on the last day of May 2019, not the entirety of May 2019

## Vehicle Examination Building (VEB) Renovation Project Update

#### VEB Interlocal Agreement (ILA) approved:

- City Council approved ILA/ordinance 6/17/2020
- Allows HFSC to leverage city design and construction (D&C) expertise and job order contracting process/network (competitive bidding process already conducted, proven contractors, city pricing/scale)

#### VEB Project Background/Status:

- CSU work scope at VEB: vehicle examination, photography, trace collection, documentation of bullet path and trajectories, fingerprints, DNA collection
- VEB renovation project need (basically in order of priority): enclose 4 open bays (to double bay capacity to 8)/add garage doors/structural, replace HVAC/associated electrical, install/improve insulation, enhance security/card reader system/ cameras, replace bathroom fixtures, other (additional electrical, flooring, IT, photography system, front door/canopy)
- ➤ HFSC budget \$152,000 (75% federal grant, 25% HFSC match). City Design and Construction (D&C) is determining if alternative City funds may be available to fund HVAC/associated electric (VEB city owned building)
- HFSC/City D&C need to finalize project scope. Lead D&C resource, unfortunately, recently out of office on medical leave, meeting with City D&C for new/interim lead project resource
- Critical path is HVAC/associated electrical: design completed, contractor bid, lead-time equipment, permit needed
- Actions: Determine if alternative funding available. Conduct HFSC/City D&C prioritization discussions, need to be selective. Then HVAC/electrical permit, finalize contracts, work schedule (keep VEB operating), construction
- Conduct update discussions, as required, with federal grant contacts
- Deemed around 3 month project, December 2020 project completion date (grant requirement)

### 500 Jefferson/Crime Scene House Updates

### 500 Jefferson firearms basement firing range venting:

- Completed exhaust fan solution, more powerful motor/revised ductwork. Motor received 6/8/2020, ductwork fabricated/installed, initial testing conducted, need stronger ductwork/bracing
- Ductwork strengthened 6/26/2020
- Now arranging firing range venting retest. Also propose to conduct smoke test to confirm required venting dissipation

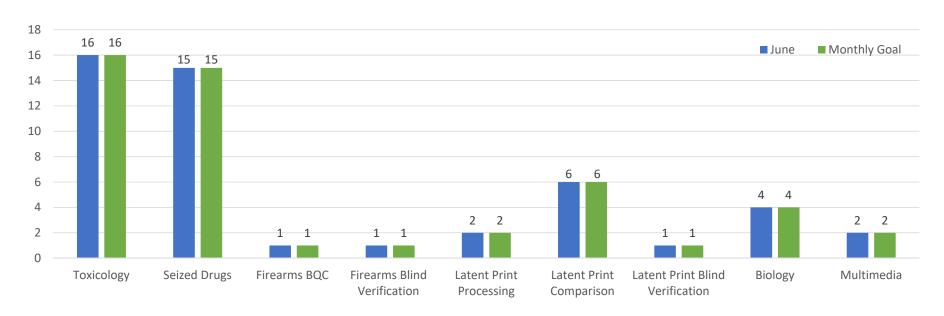
### Crime Scene House (CSH) 10-year lease agreement:

- > CSH is used by HFSC for CSU training exercises and HFSC outreach events
- Current City/HFSC 5-year lease agreement expires 8/31/2020
- Prepared a new 10-year lease agreement, basically renewal under same terms
- ➤ HFSC pays building maintenance/operating expenses/utilities, no lease cost
- ➤ HFSC has signed agreement, lease approved by City Council 7/1/2020

## Quality Division Report July 10, 2020



### Blind Quality Controls Submitted in June





### Blind Quality: Accomplishments and Challenges

- Latent print workflow for COVID-19 focuses on cases that the blind program does not typically submit, meaning the section is not completing as many blinds as they did pre-COVID
- Blind quality control DNA mixtures

Forensic Discipline	Cases Completed in June	
Toxicology – BAC	18	
Seized Drugs	15	
Piology	1(DNA)	
Biology	3 (screening)	
Firearms Blind Verification	1	
Firearms	2	
<b>Latent Print Processing</b>	0	
<b>Latent Print Comparison</b>	1	
Latent Print	1	
<b>Blind Verification</b>	1	
Multimedia	1	



### Internal Audits/Assessments

- Accrediting body is conduct a remote/virtual assessment this month
  - Opening meeting held July 1
- Primary focus is forensic biology/DNA
- Assessor is reviewing documents remotely, observing staff virtually
- FBI Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) assessment scheduled for October



### Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

- December 2018 resolution allows one year to comply with applicable published standards
- Nine applicable standards have been published
  - Implemented
    - 2 seized drug standards
    - 2 toxicology standards
    - 1 multidisciplinary standard
  - Actively working toward implementation
    - 1 crime scene unit standard
    - 2 biology/DNA standards
    - 1 multidisciplinary standard



### 2020 Testimony Data

- Transcript review project
  - Second round of transcripts requested in June
- Harris County has officially suspended jury trials through September 1
  - Local judges are considering plans to begin some jury trials in August
  - Grand jury selection resumed on July 6
  - HFSC analysts have not testified since March due to pandemic restrictions



## Detailed Data



### 2020 Proficiency Testing

Discipline		Tests in Progress	Tests Completed	Comments
Seized	Seized Drugs		n/a	
Toxicology		3	4	
Firearms		3	1	
Crime Scene		2	n/a	
Latent Prints		3	7	
Multimedia	Audio/Video	4	n/a	
Multimedia	Digital	3	n/a	
Forensic Biology		10	8	



### **Quality Division Notifications**

Incidents, Corrective and Preventive Actions

8:15:45 AM Page 1 of 4

	Quality Notified	Summary of Notification	Comments
Biology			
2020-049 IR	6/10/2020	An extraction reagent blank was contaminated by another sample with the same extraction set. The affected samples will be reviewed to determine if re-extraction will require permission to consume.	
2020-050 IR	6/17/2020	An analyst inadvertently turned an instrument off while a quantification protocol was running. This caused the protocol to be ended prematurely and no data to be collected.	
2020-IA-06 CAR	6/1/2020	During the 2020 internal audit, the audit team discovered that controlled documents did not have a documented review within the calendar year as required by the Quality Manual.	
2020-IA-07 CAR	6/1/2020	CODIS notifications were issued with a statement indicating that DNA profiles had been entered into CODIS however the profiles were not entered into CODIS until after the date of issue.	
2020-IA-08 CAR	6/1/2020	During the 2020 internal audit, the audit team observed two hard copies of the DNA Analytical SOP without an issue date as required by the Quality Manual. Both copies were confirmed to be the current version of the SOP and were removed from the laboratory upon discovery.	
	Client Services/Case Management		

Monday, July 6, 2020

### **Quality Division Notifications**

Incidents, Corrective and Preventive Actions

8:15:47 AM Page 2 of 4

	Quality Notified	Summary of Notification	Comments
2020-042 IR	6/1/2020	An outsource laboratory shipped packages containing toxicology evidence items after their confirmatory analysis was completed back to HFSC. On four separate occasions, because the outsource laboratory did not request a "signature upon receipt" confirmation option, the delivery courier dropped off these packages inside the HFSC lobby. Although the HFSC lobby is considered an unsecured area, these packages were sealed and remained in the lobby for less than 20 minutes.	
2020-045 IR	6/16/2020	Two toxicology cases that were originally rejected by HFSC because their evidence labels were switched, were resubmitted for analysis after the requesting agency corrected their incident number labels. No toxicology analysis was conducted while this evidence was associated to the incorrect incident number. The Quality Division is tracking this notification to document the remediation steps that HFSC took to correctly associate the chain of custody transfers and the re-labeling of the evidence.	
Crime Scene			
2020-IA-09 CAR	6/11/2020	During the 2020 internal audit, the team discovered that several reports and diagrams that required amendment. Additionally, several worksheets contained defects that required corrections.	
Firearms			
2020-041 IR	6/4/2020	One of the Firearms section's report templates was not populating the correct information from an associated case.	

Monday, July 6, 2020

### **Quality Division Notifications**

Incidents, Corrective and Preventive Actions

8:15:48 AM Page 3 of 4

	Quality Notified	Summary of Notification	Comments
2020-046 IR	6/19/2020	A crime scene investigator discovered an unfired cartridge case in a secured HFSC gun locker. HFSC gun lockers are used by crime scene investigators to store firearms evidence that is collected from scenes, firearms that cannot be rendered safe by law enforcement officers and firearms that cannot be properly packaged due to size and/or shape.	
2020-IA-10 IR	6/23/2020	During the 2020 internal audit, the audit team discovered five instances in which evidence was physically transferred to the requesting agency, however the electronic transfers were not captured in JusticeTrax LIMS. The electronic chains of custody indicated that these five test fires were physically located in the Firearms basement evidence vault.	
atent Prints			
2020-043 CAR	6/12/2020	While reviewing the results received from the proficiency test provider, the Latent Print Technical Leader noticed that changes had been made on one case's final submission worksheet after the technical and administrative review processes had been completed.	
2020-048 IR	6/23/2020	Three individuals were added to the incorrect latent print comparison request. The individuals were affiliated with a request in the "Where's My Result" portal and were mistakenly added to the incorrect case when the request was accepted. All three individuals were excluded from the evidence in the incorrect case. The report will be amended to denote that the comparisons to these three individuals were inadvertently done and were not part of the request for this case.	

Monday, July 6, 2020

### **Quality Division Notifications**

Incidents, Corrective and Preventive Actions

8:17:39 AM Page 4 of 4

2020-047 IR	Quality Notified 6/26/2020	Summary of Notification  The temperature in a storeroom refrigerator used as interim storage for received packages containing critical reagents, temperature-sensitive chemicals and outsourced evidence was not being monitored as required per the Quality Manual.	Comments
2020-051 IR	6/30/2020	During the 2020 internal audit, the case files of one DNA analyst were not reviewed. A review of case files from every analyst is required as per the FBI Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) audit document and this analyst had been mistakenly omitted.	
Seized Drugs 2020-044 IR	6/11/2020	Sub-items for a Seized Drugs case were created and assigned to the incorrect parent item in JusticeTrax LIMS; they were assigned to parent item 002 instead of parent item 003. Therefore, the electronic chains of custody for these sub-items reflected the wrong parent item; however, these sub-items were always physically located within the correct parent item evidence envelope.	