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Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

May 13, 2022



Position 1 - Dr. Stacey Mitchell, Board Chair Position 2 - Anna Vasquez Position 3 - Philip Hilder Position 4 - Francisco Medina Position 5 - Vanessa Goodwin 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. Board of Directors

Public Meeting

Friday, May 13, 2022

www.houstonforensicscience.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the date set out above, a quorum of the board of directors (the "board") of the Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc. ("HFSC" and/or the "corporation") will meet in the City Hall Council Annex Chamber, 900 Bagby St. (public level), Houston, Texas 77002.

In accordance with Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code (Texas Open Meetings Act) the agenda is posted for public information, at all times, for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of the meeting on the bulletin board located on the exterior wall of the City Hall building at 901 Bagby. The notice of this meeting, the agenda and the meeting packet are also posted <u>online</u> at <u>https://www.houstonforensicscience.org/meeting-archives.php</u>.

The items listed below may be taken out of order at the discretion of the chair. After the meeting concludes, a recording of the meeting will be posted to HFSC <u>website</u> at <u>www.houstonforensicscience.org</u>.

PARTICIPATING IN THE PUBLIC MEETING REMOTELY:

Members of the public may attend the meeting in-person, however, in the interest of public health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the public are encouraged, but not required, to participate by viewing the meeting through a livestream broadcast on the internet. To view the livestream meeting <u>online</u> please visit <u>https://www.houstontx.gov/htv/index.html</u>.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

The public is permitted to speak in-person during the public comment agenda item and as permitted by the chair.

A speaker may address any subject relevant to the purpose of the corporation. Each speaker should limit his or her comments to three minutes. The chair may limit both the number of speakers and the time allotted for each speaker. A speaker who plans to submit a document for the board's consideration should provide at least ten copies of the document, each marked with the speaker's name. If you have questions regarding attending this meeting please contact Amanda DeBerry, secretary of the board of directors, at 713-204-8179.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order.
- 2. Roll call; confirmation of presence of quorum.
- 3. Public Comment.
- 4. Reading of draft minutes from March 11, 2022, board meeting. Consideration of proposed corrections, if any. Approval of minutes.

- 5. Consider annual appointment of corporate officers: Dr. Peter Stout as president, Dr. Amy Castillo as vice president, Mr. David Leach as treasurer and Ms. Amanda DeBerry as secretary, and possible related action.
- 6. Consider annual selection of the vice chair of the Board of Directors, and possible related action.
- 7. Report from Dr. Peter Stout, CEO and president including impacts to HFSC from recent crime trends and a discussion regarding the fiscal year 2023 budget.
- 8. Consider approval of a subrecipient agreement between the City of Houston and the corporation, for the purpose of enhancing the laboratory's ability to provide forensic services related to public safety needs arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, total approved budget not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and possible related action.
- 9. Consider delegating authority to Dr. Stout to negotiate and enter into a contract for toxicology outsourcing services between the corporation and National Medical Services (NMS), to be funded by the corporation's subrecipient agreement with the City of Houston and designated 2021 American Rescue Plan Act funds (recipient government, City of Houston), total budget not to exceed \$700,000.00.
- 10. Consider delegating authority to Dr. Stout to procure and select two 3D microscopes, to be funded by the corporation's subrecipient agreement with the City of Houston and designated 2021 American Rescue Plan Act funds (recipient government, City of Houston), total budget not to exceed \$500,000.00.
- 11. Presentation from Mr. David Leach, treasurer and CFO, regarding proposed fiscal year 2022 budget reallocations.
 - a. Consider approval of proposed fiscal year 2022 budget reallocations and possible related action.
- 12. Consider authorizing the president and CEO to enter into a lease agreement, with option to purchase, between De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc. and the corporation for one LC-QQQ device, related components and service, total contract amount of \$451.738.20 and possible related action.
- 13. Report from Ms. Erika Ziemak, quality director including an overview of the blind quality control program, Texas Forensic Science Commission disclosures, internal audits, implementation of standards from the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science and testimony monitoring.
- 14. Adjournment.

NOTICE REGARDING SPECIAL NEEDS:

Persons requiring accommodations for special needs may contact HFSC at 713-204-8179.

NOTICE REGARDING CLOSED MEETINGS:

May 13, 2022 agenda- Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc.

As authorized by Texas Government Code Chapter 551.001 (the "Open Meetings Act"), if, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, the board should determine that a closed or executive meeting or session of the board should be held or is required in relation to any items included in this notice, then such closed or executive meeting or session as authorized by Section 551.001 et seq. of the Texas Government Code will be held by the board at that date, hour and place given in this notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by the notice as the board may conveniently meet in such closed or executive meeting or session concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Section 551.071-551.089, inclusive, of the Open Meetings Act, including, but not limited to:

551.071 - Consultation with Attorney
551.072 - Deliberation Regarding Real Property
551.073 - Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift Section
551.074 - Personnel Matters
551.076 - Deliberation Regarding Security Devices
551.084 - Exclusion of Witness
551.087 - Economic Development Negotiations

The presiding officer shall announce that the board will convene in a closed meeting; that is, in "a meeting to which the public does not have access," sometimes known as an "executive session." The presiding officer's announcement will identify the provision(s) of the Open Meetings Act permitted by Section 551.071-551.089 under which the closed meeting will be held. Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the board with regard to any matter considered in such closed or executive meeting or session, then such final action, final decision, or final vote shall be at either:

A. The open meeting covered by this notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting, or B. At a subsequent public meeting of the board upon notice thereof, as the board shall determine

Certification of Posting of Notice of the Board of Directors of the Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc.

I, Amanda DeBerry, secretary, do hereby certify that a notice of this meeting was posted on Tuesday, the 10th day of May 2022, in a place convenient to the public on the bulletin board located on the exterior wall of the City Hall building at 901 Bagby Street, Houston, Texas 77002, and on the HFSC website as required by Section 551.002 et seq., Texas Government Code

Given under my hand this the 10th day of May 2022.

Amanda DeBerry Amanda DeBerry



Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc.

Board of Directors Public Meeting ~ Minutes ~

Friday, March 11, 2022

www.houstonforensicscience.org

1. CALL TO ORDER:

At 9 a.m., Board Chairwoman Stacey Mitchell called the meeting to order.

The Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc. ("HFSC" and/or the "corporation") board of directors (the "board") convened this in-person meeting on Friday, March 11, 2022, in the City Hall Council Annex Chamber, 900 Bagby St. (public level), Houston, Texas 77002. In a manner permitted by the corporation's bylaws, the meeting was called by providing all directors with notice of the date, time and purpose of the meeting at least three days before the scheduled date.

In accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Texas Open Meetings Act) a notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board located on the exterior wall of the City Hall building at 901 Bagby on March 8.

2. **<u>ROLL CALL</u>**:

The following board members were present in-person:

Chairwoman Stacey Mitchell
Vice Chairwoman Mary Lentschke
Philip Hilder
Francisco Medina
Vanessa Goodwin
Lois Moore
Vicki Huff
Tracy Calabrese

The following board member was absent: Anna Vasquez

The following board member arrived late: Ellen Cohen

Chairwoman Mitchell declared a quorum was present noting that all members were physically present in-person.

3. **<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u>**:

Chairwoman Mitchell gave members of the public an opportunity to address the board. No members of the public addressed the board.

4. <u>REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING</u>:

Following a motion by Director Francisco Medina and seconded by Director Philip Hilder, the board unanimously approved the January 14, 2022 meeting minutes.

5. CHAIRWOMAN MITCHELL'S REPORT:

The chairwoman noted recent changes in how board business is conducted and reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring the board operates efficiently and effectively. She asked all members to review previous meetings and provide her with feedback on the agenda items they deemed most beneficial to their work.

Next, she reminded members of the next board meeting on May 13, 2022 and announced that a special board meeting might be called before that date to vote on a few time-sensitive matters. She then reminded the board of previous discussions regarding HFSC's eligibility for federal relief funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The funding is now part of Mayor Sylvester Turner and the Houston City Council's public safety initiative called, One Safe Houston, which allocates an additional \$1.5 million to HFSC. Once details are finalized, the board will need to move forward with a public meeting to consider approval of all necessary legal agreements.

6. BOARD CRIME SCENE UNIT WORKING GROUP'S STATUS REPORT:

Vice Chairwoman Mary Lentschke began by discussing issues the working group considered from the City of Houston Office of Inspector General's report. Those four focus areas were insufficient personnel, inflexible scheduling, a hostile work environment and the loss of HR as a safety valve in HFSC's crime scene unit (CSU).

She announced that the CSU's director Carina Haynes made several changes to transform the unit since the issued OIG report, noting she hired more supervisors and support staff. Ms. Haynes has provided supervisors with several trainings to help improve their skills, including leadership. Additionally, she implemented a new schedule to address staff concerns. The vice chairwoman reported that 86 percent of staff were happy with the schedule change based on a recent survey.

Next, the vice chairwoman looked at whether the changes positively affected morale and the work environment. There was a 71 percent positive change in the communication within the unit and a 93 percent change regarding the ability to trust the CSU director. She then outlined some of the areas still left for improvement, such as gossip, favoritism and supervisor consistency. Nevertheless, the vice chairwoman said CSU is now in a much better place than last year.

The working group plans to address the final issue of concern, the loss of HR as a safety valve, with the assistance of HFSC's senior leadership. The goal will be to identify areas for improvement, review HFSC policies and make recommendations to ensure employees have the support they need.

7. PRESIDENT AND CEO DR. PETER STOUT'S REPORT:

Dr. Stout first pointed out that HFSC is disproportionately affected by violent crime across all technical groups, causing every section to have backlogs. He explained the proposed \$5.9 million fiscal year 2023 budget increase would not reverse backlogs but merely limit its growth. Harris County courts are also struggling with an estimated backlog of some 135,000 criminal cases. The county also estimates at least two years to make a significant dent in that backlog even though 97% of criminal cases will resolve through plea agreements. Director Philip Hilder asked if cases could be prioritized better since a lot of time is consumed with processing cases that are resolved by agreement. Dr. Stout stated that the corporation is actively collaborating with its stakeholders to find a solution to the issue.

He touched on the challenges of rising homicides and its workload on the entire lab, especially CSU. In 2021, 473 people were homicide victims in Houston. Dr. Stout said that significantly impacts HFSC, noting an even higher surge in evidence, record requests, subpoenas as well as rush requests for testing as the cases move to trial. CSU scene responses increased by 40% since 2019 and CSIs processed 68% more vehicles. The group also collected 24,000 items of evidence last year – a 22% increase over 2019. He highlighted HFSC's receipt of 344 subpoenas for testimony in February 2022 versus only 32 for the same time last year. Those subpoenas were primarily issued for 2016 and 2017 violent crime cases.

Dr. Stout briefly discussed the pressure to increase wages and the limited capacity in finding personnel, materials, instruments and outsourcing DNA and toxicology cases. To date, three analysts in the digital multimedia section resigned to start federal positions with a much higher pay rate. He explained that the proposed budget would allocate some funding to provide more raises and increase wages for some entry-level administrative roles.

Lastly, he explained the different steps in the budget process, highlighting that the board first approves the increase, then the budget goes through the city, where he anticipates more conversations with Mayor Sylvester Turner and the finance team. Finally, he stated the city would finalize the budget and decide sometime in June.

8. QUALITY DIRECTOR ERIKA ZIEMAK'S REPORT:

Ms. Ziemak reported that the quality division met its January and February submission targets for blind quality control samples and verifications.

Next, she announced that the Journal of Forensic Sciences officially accepted the group's firearms' blind quality controls manuscript submission for publication titled, "*Blind Testing in Firearms: Preliminary Results from a Blind Quality Control Program.*" She then mentioned a quality specialist presented a publication titled, "*Does Image Editing Improve the Quality of Latent Prints*?" at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Ms. Ziemak then explained one disclosure HFSC provided to the Texas Forensic Science Commission regarding the forensic biology/DNA section. The disclosure centered around the section inadvertently consuming an incorrect evidence item for a 2010 HPD case that required additional testing. To prevent future occurrences in consumption cases, she said the quality division implemented an independent verification step for evidence items and a review of the related documentation. The commission voted not to take further action due to the root cause analysis and corrective action taken by HFSC.

The quality division will conduct annual internal audits from March 7 through May 27. She noted they recently completed the internal audit for seized drugs, and there were no findings.

Ms. Ziemak then noted a virtual training was held in February that focused on technical assessor training. Twenty-two HFSC employees participated and shared positive feedback about their experience.

In conclusion, she reported that eight analysts had testified this year and four transcripts are being evaluated.

9. TREASURER AND CFO DAVID LEACH'S REPORT:

Mr. Leach first noted that the FY23 budget would help keep the laboratory's current issues from worsening.

He gave an overall look into HFSC's spending, highlighting that it spent most of its FY22 budget on personnel and services. Personnel expenses account for 70 percent of its total business spending. Additionally, he anticipates HFSC will increase its capital and grant spending in the FY23 budget.

Mr. Leach explained the logic behind the corporation maintaining a zero balance in its bank account. The zero-balance account is limited to the processing of payments and is not used to maintain a running balance.

Next, he discussed HFSC's spending priorities in a \$39,370 million budget request for FY23, less than three months before the depletion of the government funding. The upcoming budget proposes a 21% increase in revenue which is about \$6 million over the year prior. In addition, the budget includes considerable increases in salaries, a \$1.8 million difference in spending from the cash-flow account, 21 additional employees, equipment, supplies and more.

9a. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HFSC'S FY23 BUDGET PROPOSAL:

Mr. Leach asked members to approve HFSC's \$39,370 million budget for FY23.

Director Lois Moore then made a motion to approve the proposed FY23 budget, and Vice Chairwoman Lentschke seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairwoman Mitchell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Medina made a motion to adjourn. Director Hilder seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

The undersigned secretary of the board hereby certifies the following are true and correct minutes of the Mar. 11, 2022 public meeting of the board.

By: <u>Amanda DeBerry</u> Amanda DeBerry, Secretary

HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item No.:	 5. Consider annual appointment of corporate officers: Dr. Peter Stout as president, Dr. Amy Castillo as vice president, Mr. David Leach as treasurer and Ms. Amanda DeBerry as secretary, and possible related action. 		
Subject:	Annual appointment of HFSC corporate officers by the Board, as required pursuant to HFSC's bylaws.		
Background:	During the June 2021 meeting of the Board, HFSC's corporate officers were appointed to a one-year term, by unanimous vote. The appointed officers are, as follows: Dr. Peter Stout as president, Dr. Amy Castillo as vice president, Mr. David Leach as treasurer and Ms. Amanda DeBerry as secretary.		
Executive Summary:	Pursuant to the Corporation's Bylaws Section 5.01, the Board shall appoint a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The persons appointed shall hold office until the next annual Board meeting, at which time the Board shall appoint or reappoint each officer. Sections 5.03 - 5.06 of the Bylaws also provides a description of each officer's duties. The Board may appoint any person who is not a director of the Board, to serve as a corporate officer.		
Fiscal Impact:	No anticipated additional fiscal impact.		
Staff Recommendation:	Staff recommends approval.		
By:	Dr. Stacey Mitchell, Board Chair Legal review by General Counsel		

HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 13, 2022 at 9:00am

Agenda Action	6. Consider the annual selection of the vice chair of the Board of				
Item No.:	Directors, and possible related action.				
Subject:	Annual selection of the Vice Chair of the Board.				
Background:	Pursuant to Board Resolution 2020-001, the Board designated the selection of the Vice Chair of the Board, to occur on an annual basis, during the meeting of the Board at which the annual appointment of corporate officers also occurs. During the June 2021 meeting of the Board, Director Mary Lentschke was unanimously selected as the vice chair of the Board.				
Executive Summary:	Pursuant to the Corporation's Bylaws Section 2.04, the Vice Chairman of the Board shall be selected from among the directors of the Board. The Vice Chair shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chairman upon the Chairman's death, absence, disability, resignation, or inability to perform the duties of the office.				
	Pursuant to Board Resolution 2020-001, the Vice Chair shall hold said position until the next annual meeting of the Board, at which meeting the Corporate Officers are appointed.				
Fiscal Impact:	No anticipated additional fiscal impact.				
Staff Recommendation:	No recommendation.				
By:	Dr. Stacey Mitchell, Board Chair Legal review by General Counsel				

President's Report

May 13, 2022

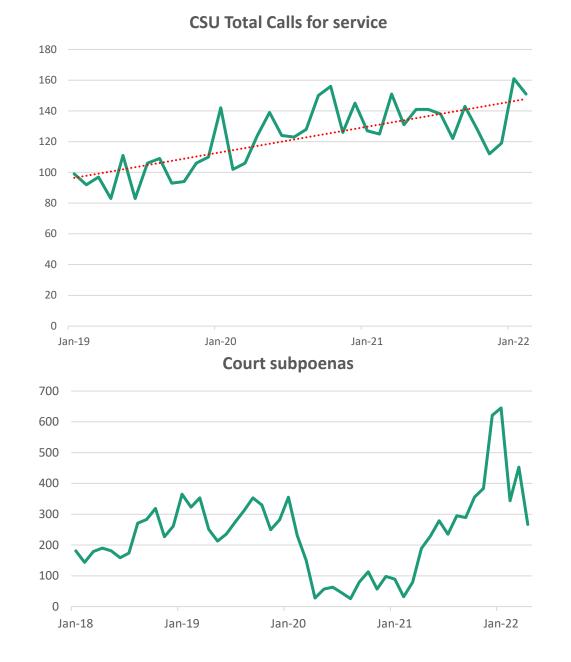
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COVID impacts to HFSC in last 24 months

- Toxicology backlog.
 - COVID delayed collection of validation data and accrediting body coming on site to accredit the scope expansion to allow testing to start
- Rise in homicide rate
 - 71% increase in homicide in Houston from 2019
 - Laboratory work is disproportionately related to violent crime
- Court operations stopped during COVID resulting in massive backlog
 - Restart of courts intensifies the demand on lab as prosecutors build cases
 - Significant labor drain to court support
- Shifts in labor force and supply lines
 - Continuous challenge of work stoppage from supply shortages
 - Significant recruiting and retention challenges

Trends affecting HFSC for the next 24 months

- Continued rise in homicide
 - Disproportionate impact on lab
 - High visibility investigations
 - Complex cases
 - Lots of evidence
 - **53% increase** in violent scenes from 2019
- Harris County court backlog
 - Reported to be more than 130,000 cases
 - Currently testifying in 2016/2017 violent cases
 - **140% increase** in court subpoenas from 2019 pre-pandemic
 - Typical subpoena may take 1-3 days of analyst time away from lab

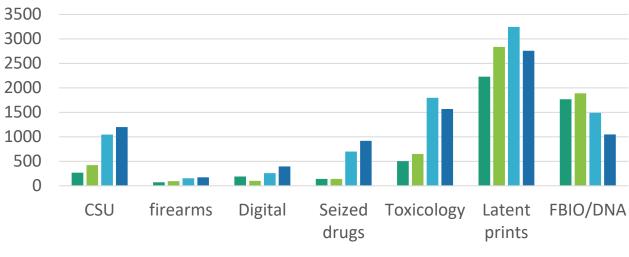


Trends affecting next 24 months

- Impacts of Colone case analyst testimony
 - This will significantly affect DNA capacity
 - Will demand a significant audit effort of cases and testimony
 - Actively discussing with the DA about what will have to be reworked, re written or able to have another analyst testify
- Court
 – could easily have a third of our labor committed to post
 analysis work
 - Testimony demand
 - Wait time at court
 - Support of court cases with documentation, consultation, and expedited work

Objective: stabilize growth in pending work

- Most concerning backlogs for violent investigations (in order of concern)
 - CSU
 - Firearms
 - Digital
 - Seized drugs
 - Toxicology
 - Latent prints
- Wage pressures affecting recruiting and retention
- Compared to pre-pandemic, pending work has grown all sections except DNA
 - DNA backlogs projects cleared by Q4 2022
 - DNA has federal money available
- All projections are based on added resources. Without the resources backlogs increase



■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022

	% change in pending from pre COVID to current	Fully Loaded cost per request	Fully Loaded cost of pending work post pandemic	Budget Req.
CSU Response	234%	\$2,995	\$2,097,396	\$1,036,000
Firearms	140%	\$5,540	\$422,849	\$536,000
Multimedia	455%	\$2,888	\$618,086	\$298,000
Seized Drugs	231%	\$722	\$269,212	\$227,000
Toxicology	129%	\$793	\$744,049	\$640,000
Latent Prints	152%	\$1,978	\$511,557	\$353,000
Total			\$4,663,149	\$3,090,000

Pending requests

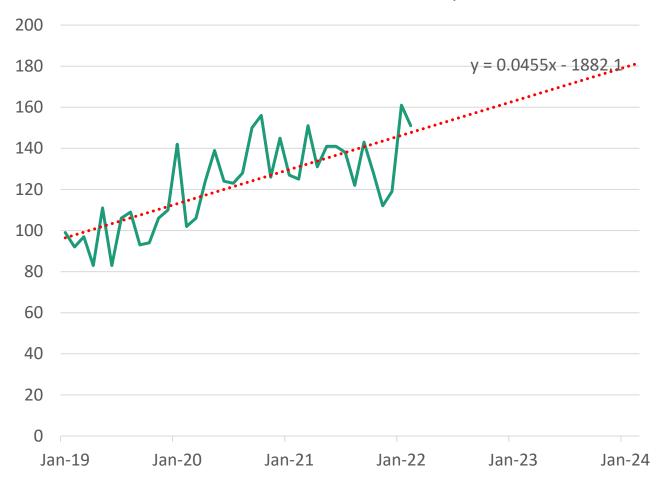
Wage and market adjustments-- \$2.6M

- Significant attrition in firearms (lost 2/9) and multimedia (lost 4/7)
- Turn over in last 12 months 12.5%
- Significant loss to Federal positions
 - Feds recently reclassified multimedia specialists at GS15, as much as \$40k/year more the HFSC
- Recruiting drag for administrative positions
- Market survey shows HFSC is no longer as competitive within Texas
- Long training arc means we need to react now to prevent loss of talent

CSU Total calls for service per month

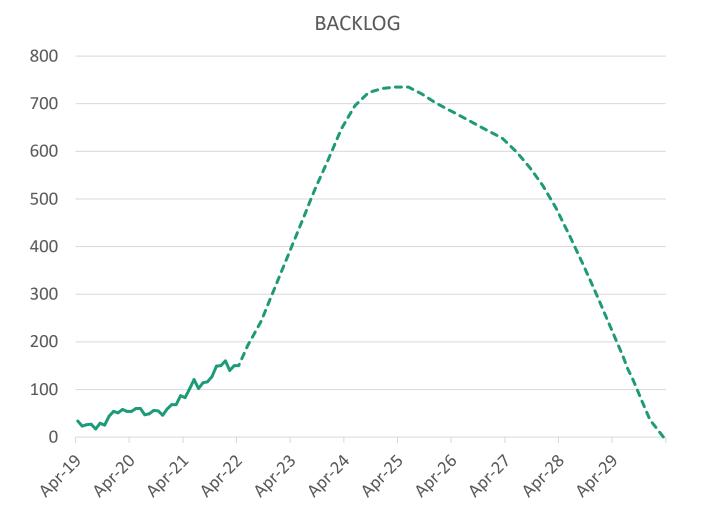
CSU-- \$1.04M

- Add 9 CSI's and support personnel to meet expected growth in demand
 - Add materials and vehicles to support
 - Continue to address existing scene types
 - Homicide
 - OIS
 - Child death
- HFSC supports only about 1% of aggravated assault scenes
- If homicide rate levels or declines, may be able to expand scene types such as aggravated assaults



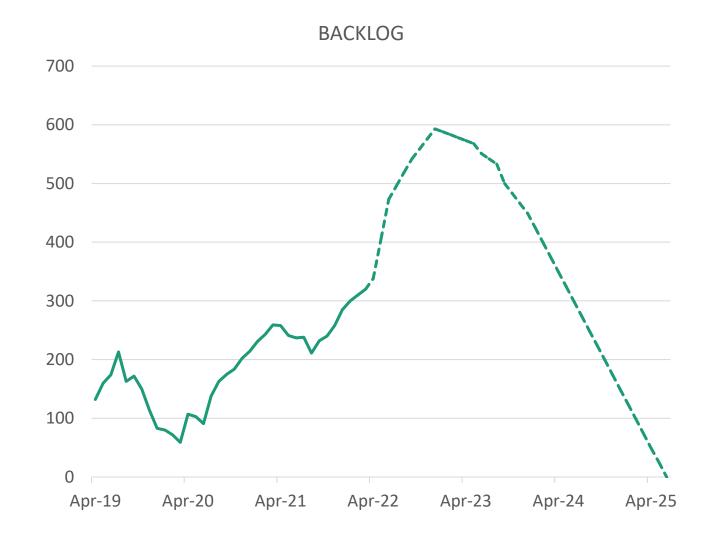
Firearms-- \$536K

- Add:
 - two examiners
 - one NIBIN tech
- Extremely difficult finding experienced examiners and a 1.5-3 year training arc
- No outsource potential
- Expect the backlog to continue to increase next FY
- Current strategies to address backlogs
 - Plan for Lean Six Sigma re-engineer of process in CY 22
 - Prioritization and case management with HPD and HCDAO essential
- Additional resources will continue to be needed



Digital-- \$298K

- Add two examiners
- Expect significant growth in requests and complexity
- No outsource potential
- Stabilize backlog in FY23



Seized Drugs-- \$227K

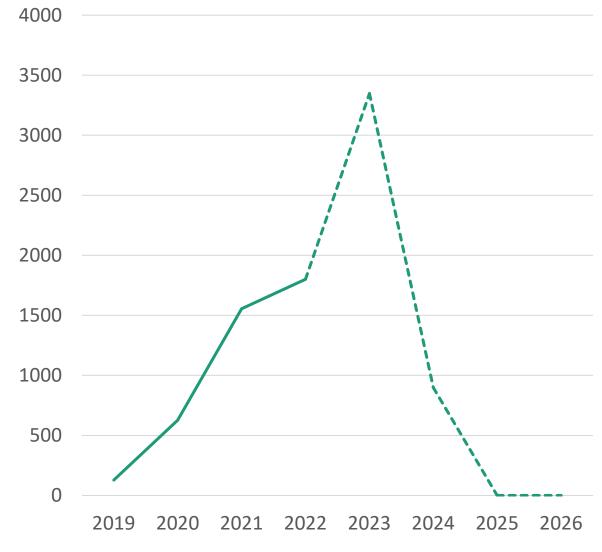
- Next generation equipment to improve testing of complex pills
- Hemp determination testing 70% of the backlog
 - An issue of priority understanding with HCDAO and HPD
- Increasing complexity of cases and increasing prevalence of methamphetamine and fentanyl driving increasing backlog



BACKLOG

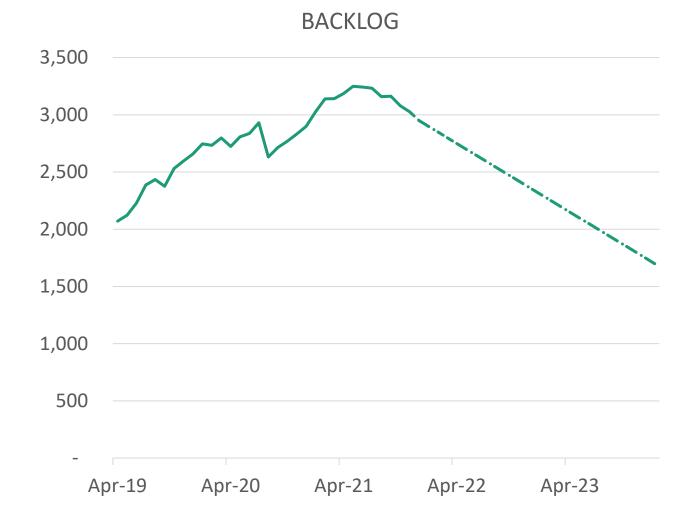
Toxicology-- \$640K

- Add 2 analysts for expected increase in cases
- ARPA money to outsource 50 cases per week
- Next generation equipment needed to analyze for the increased variation of drugs
 - Increasing pressure of novel analogs in impaired driving



Latent prints-- \$353K

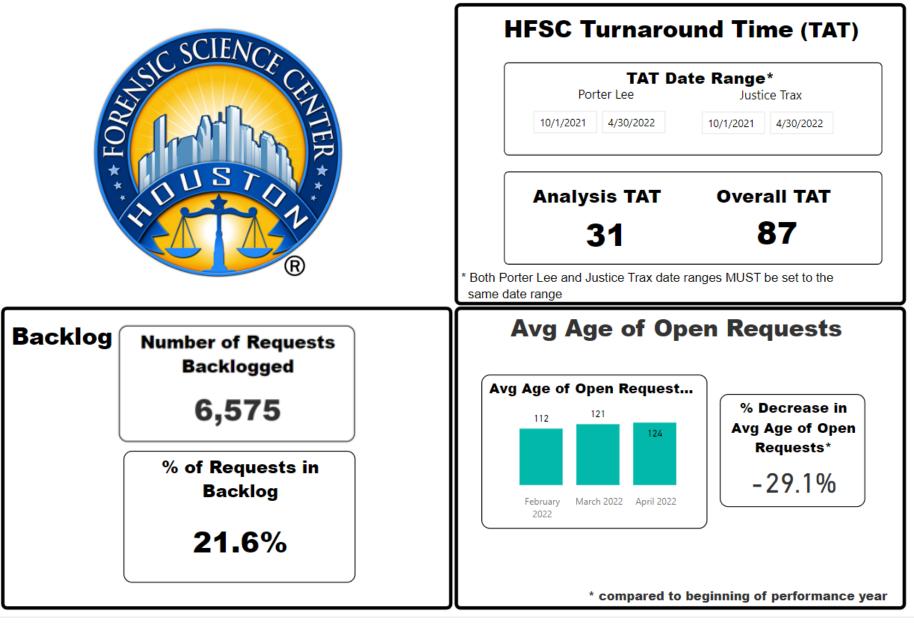
- Add 2 examiners to anticipate increased requests
- Recent significant redesign of workflow
- Expect continued increase in requests
- Uncertain yet the potential impact combination
- Revisit next FY for a better understanding of resources needed to eliminate backlog in FY 24



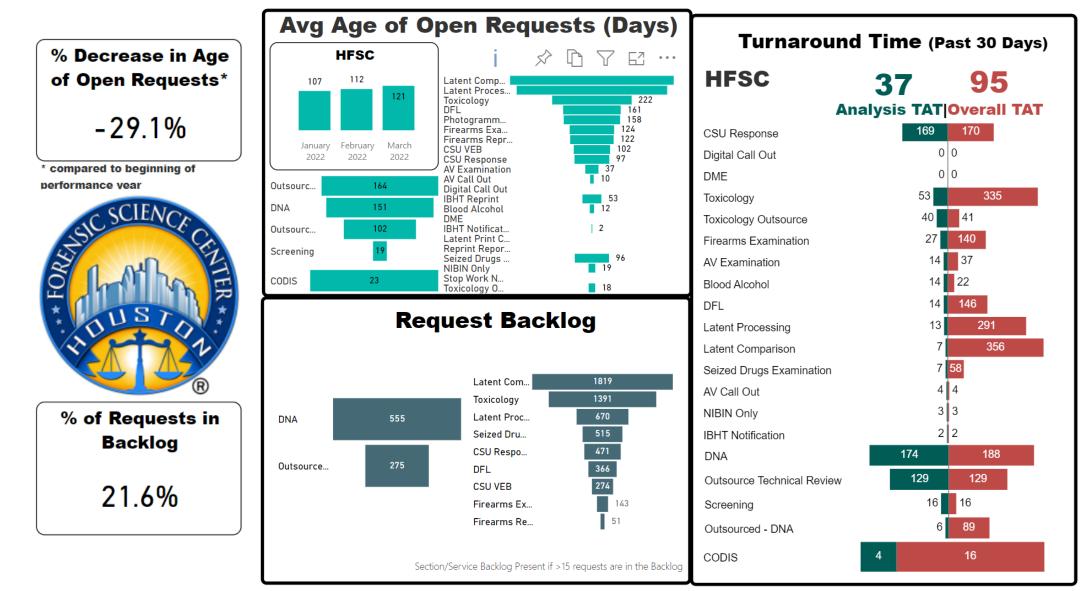
Operations Data- April 2022

Detailed data

April 2022 Company Overview

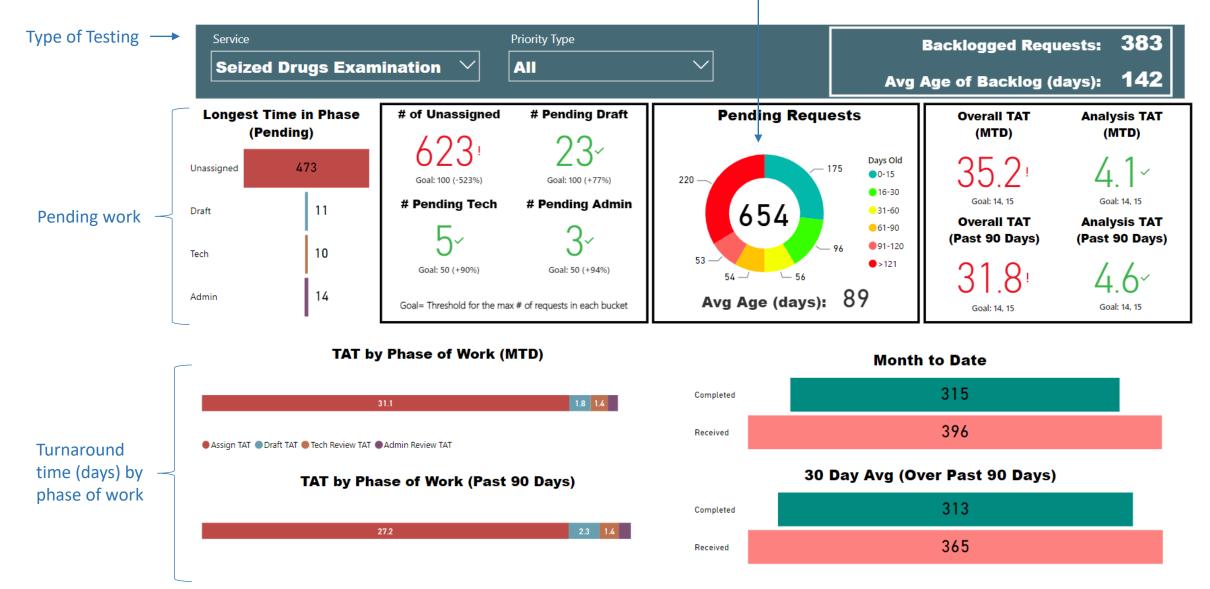


April 2022 Company Overview



Key for Dashboard Section Pages

Center of ring=total pending cases Ring=breakdown of_lage for all pending cases

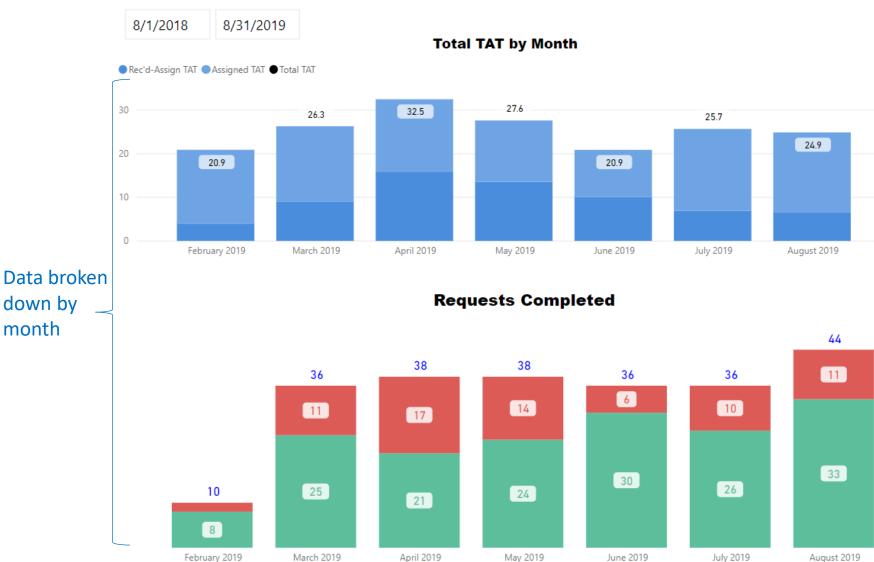


TAT= Turnaround Time MTD= Month to date Bac

Backlogged Requests = Requests open over 30 days

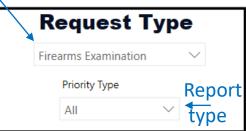
Key for Dashboard Historical Pages 1/2

Date Range

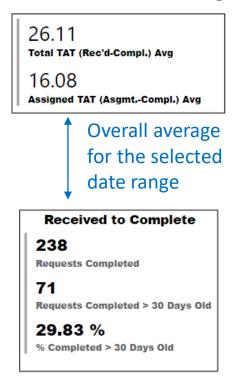


Requests Completed w/in 30 Days

Type of testing



Selected Time Frame Averages



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

TAT= Turnaround Time

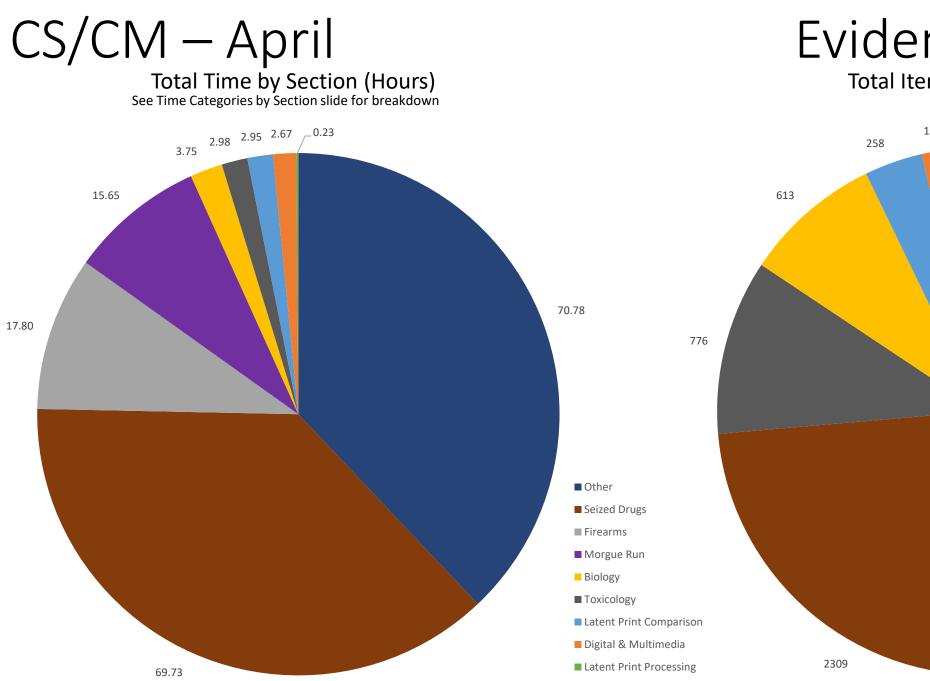
down by

month

Key for Dashboard Historical Pages 2/2

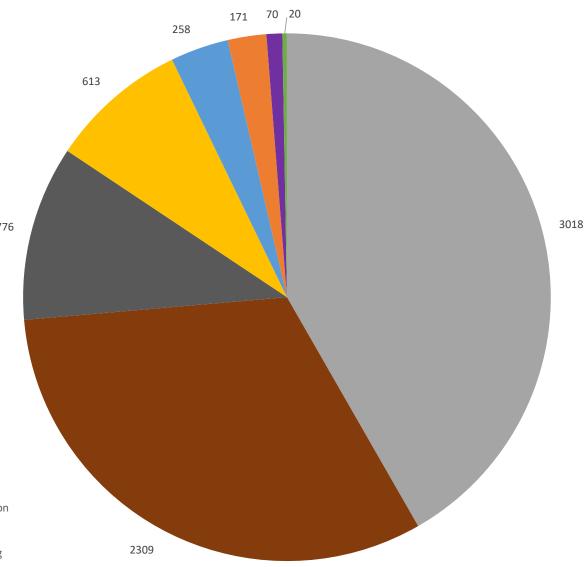


Client Services and Case Management (CS/CM)



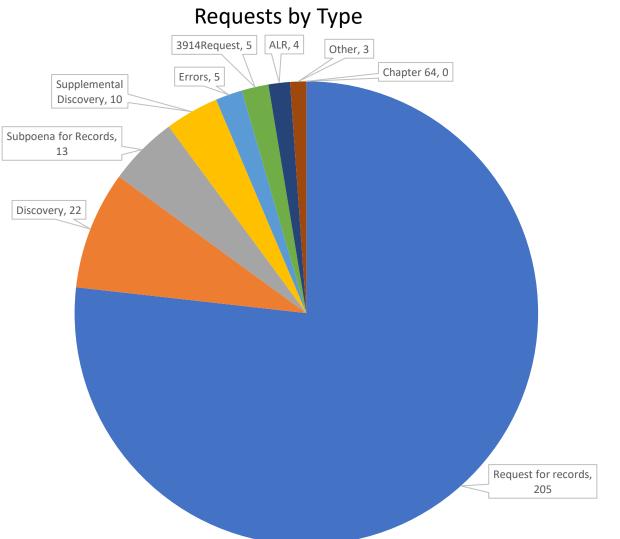
Evidence Handling

Total Items by Section

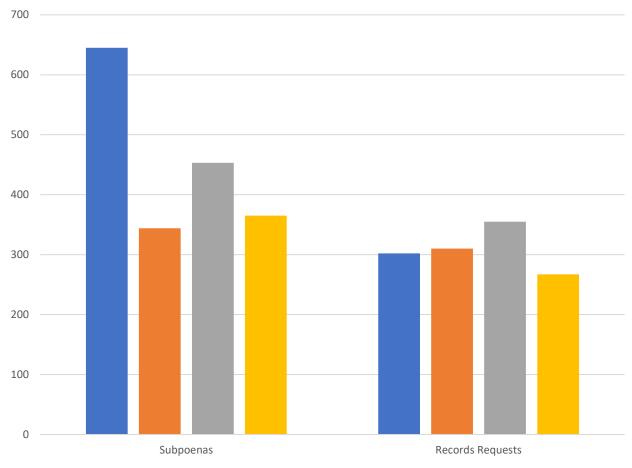


CS/CM – April

Administrative

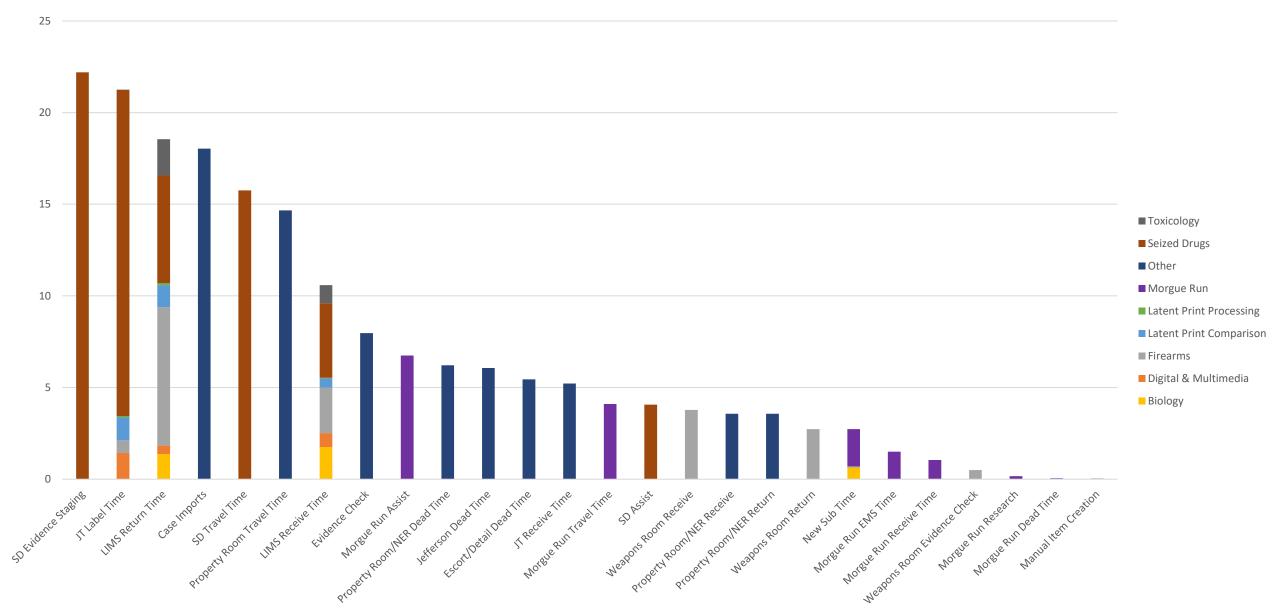


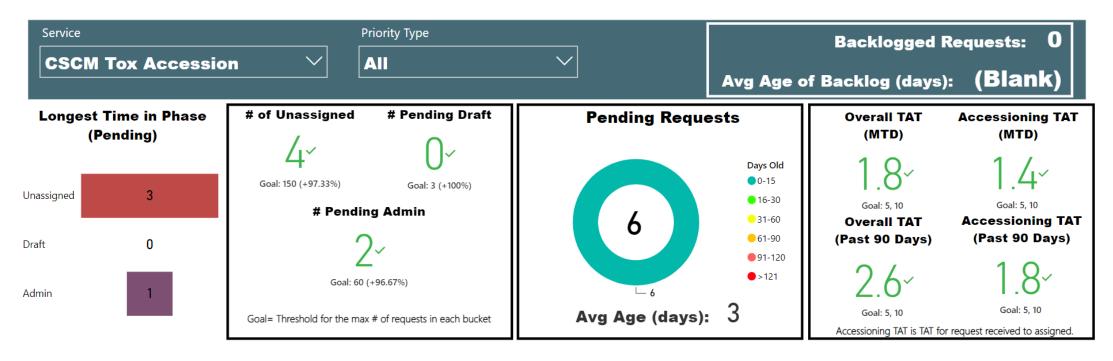
Subpoenas & Records Requests



Time Categories – April

Evidence Handling



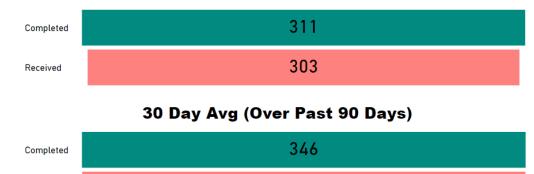


Received

TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)



Month to Date

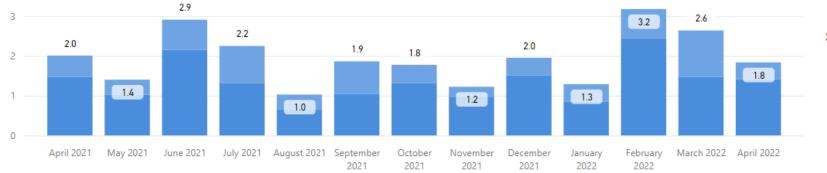


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Date Range



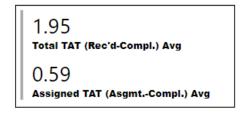
Rec'd-Assign TAT Assigned TAT Total TAT



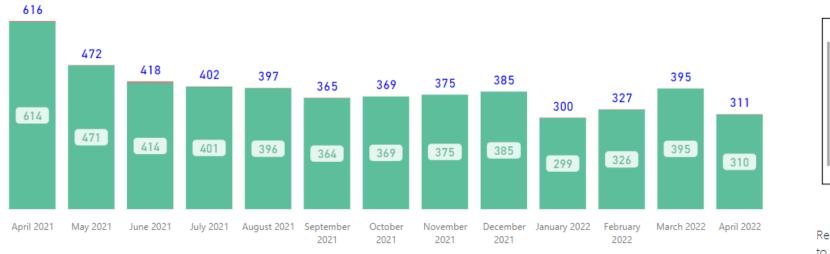
Total TAT by Month

Request Type CSCM Tox Accession ✓ Priority Type ✓

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed

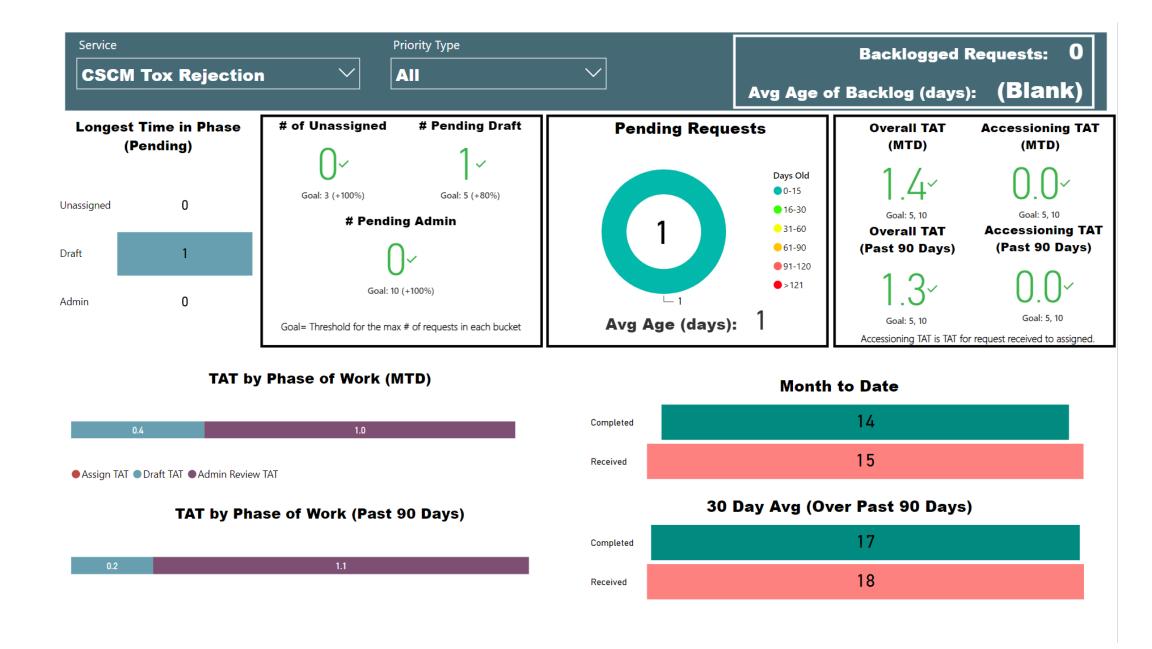


Requests Completed w/in 30 Days Requests Completed > 30 Days Old Total Completed

Received to Complete		
5132		
Requests Completed		
13		
Requests Completed > 30 Days Old		
0.25 %		
% Completed > 30 Days Old		

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



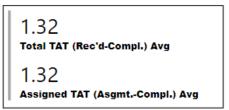




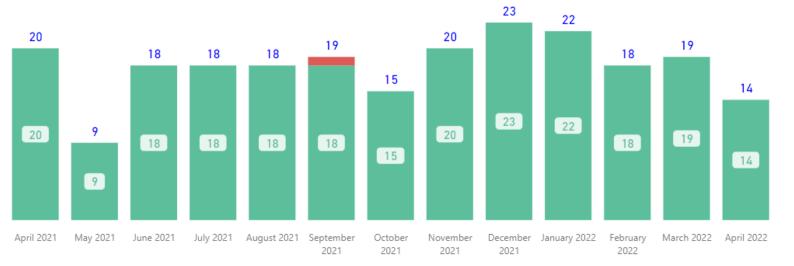


Request Type CSCM Tox Rejection Priority Type All \checkmark

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed



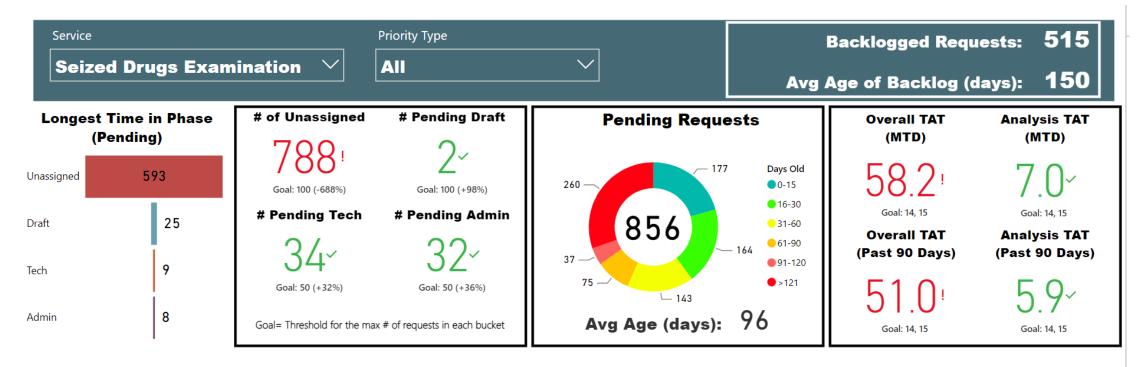


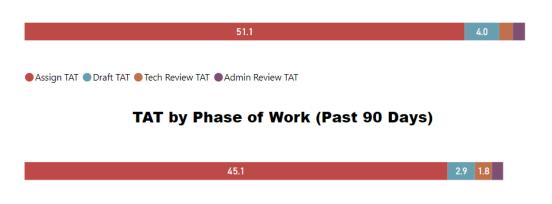
Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

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

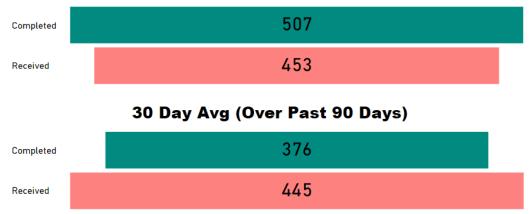


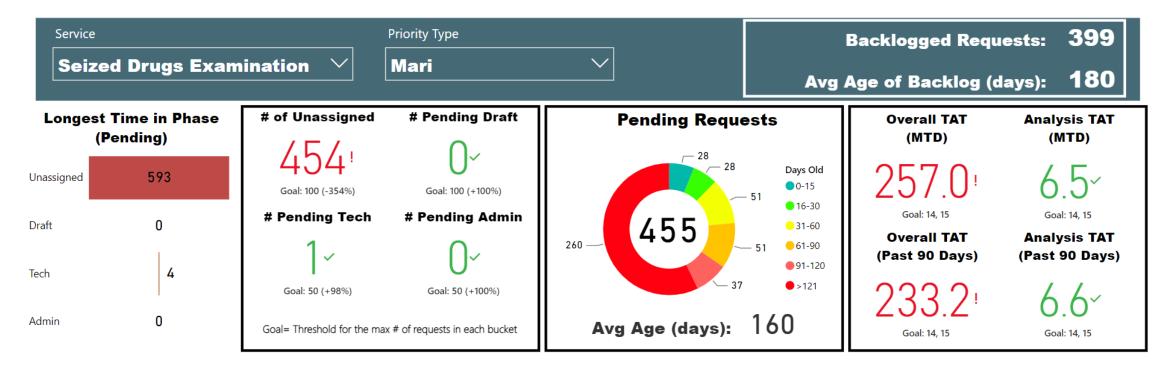
Seized Drugs

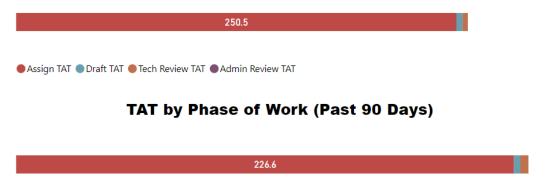




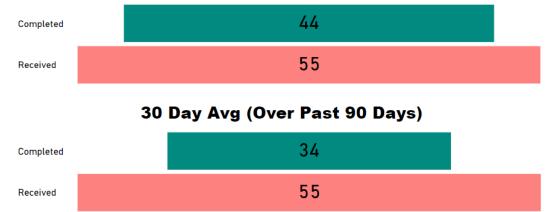
Month to Date





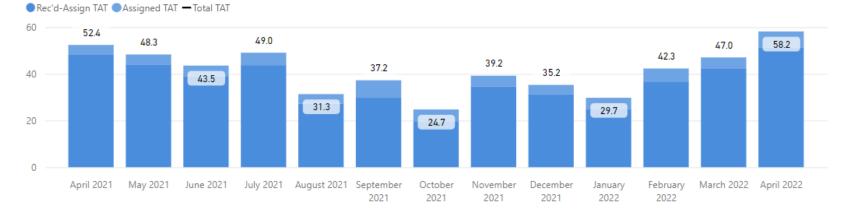


Month to Date



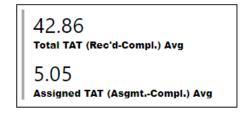
4/1/2021	4/30/2022	
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Total TAT by Month

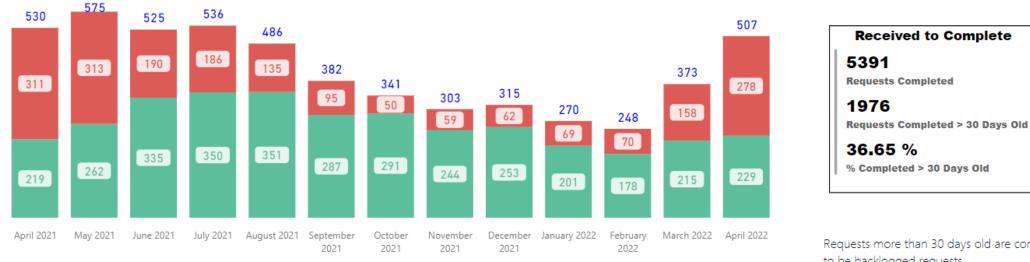


Request Type Seized Drugs Examination 🛛 🗸 Priority Type All \sim

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed

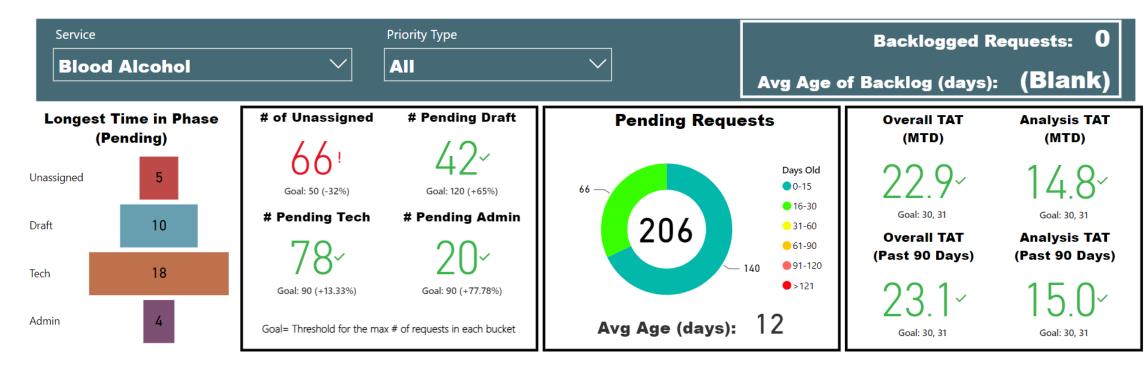


Requests Completed w/in 30 Days

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



Toxicology

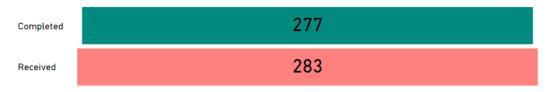




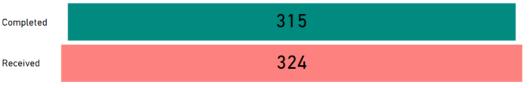
TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



Month to Date



30 Day Avg (Over Past 90 Days)



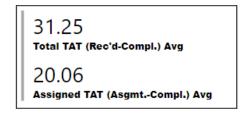


Total TAT by Month

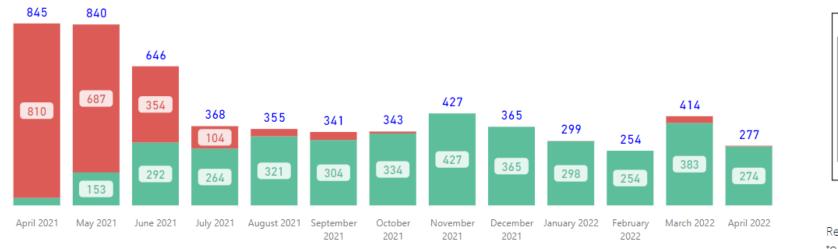


Request Type Blood Alcohol \checkmark Priority Type All \checkmark

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed



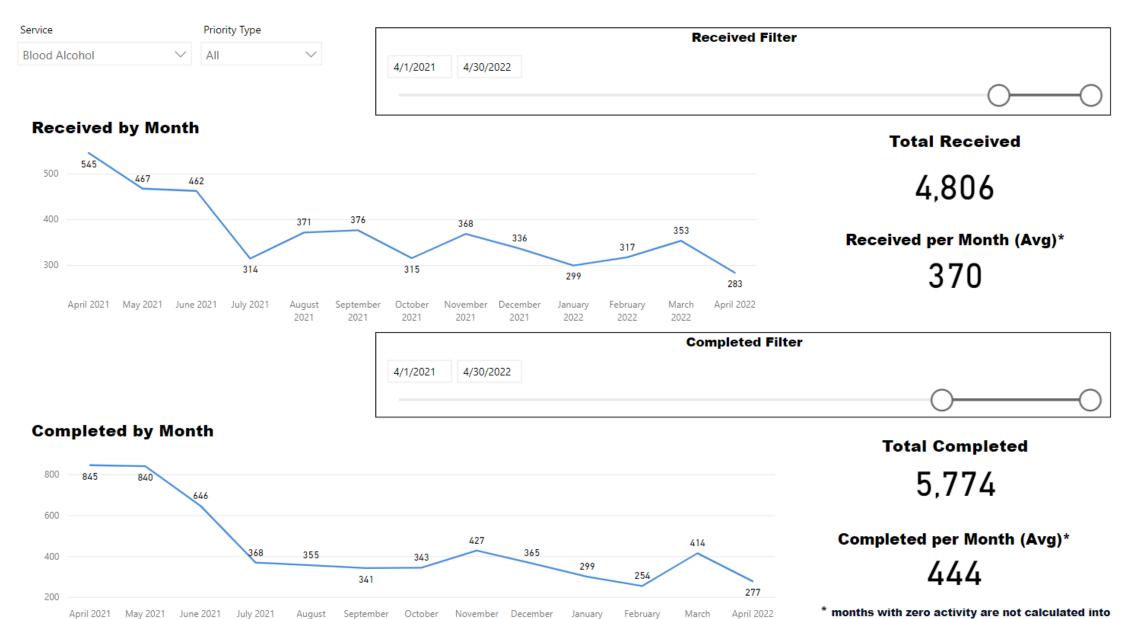
Requests Completed w/in 30 Days Requests Completed > 30 Days Old Total Completed

5774 Requests Completed 2070 Requests Completed > 30 Days Old 35.85 %

Received to Complete

% Completed > 30 Days Old

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



December

2021

January

2022

November

2021

February

2022

March

2022

August

2021

September

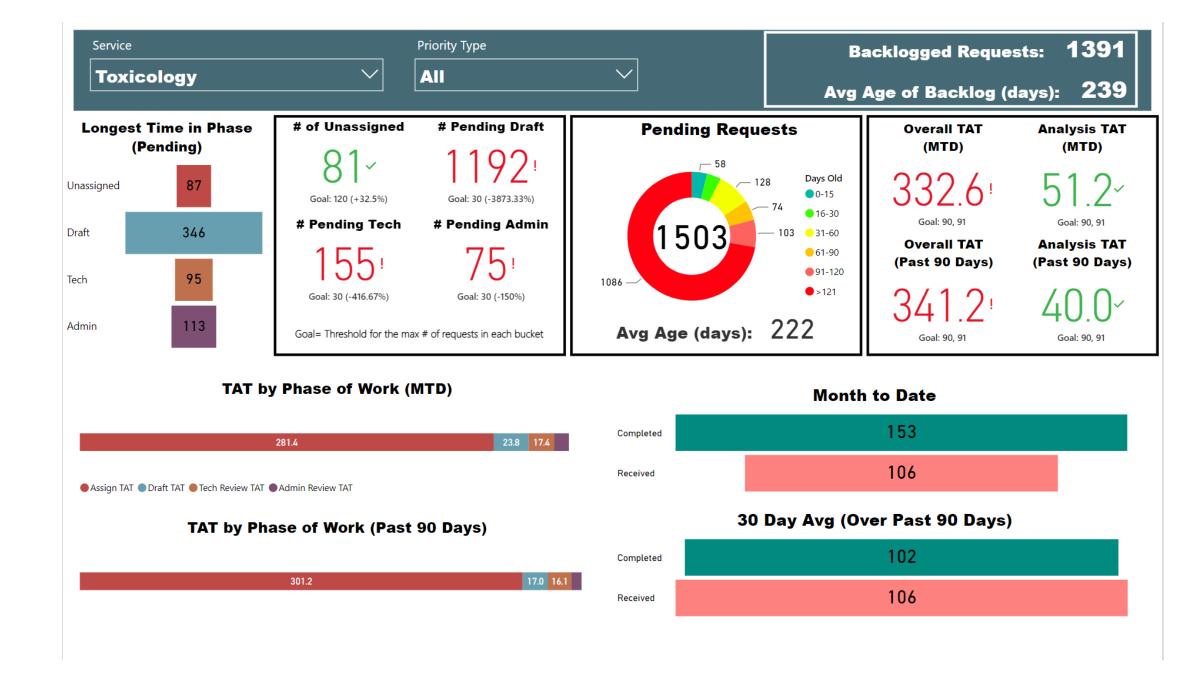
2021

October

2021

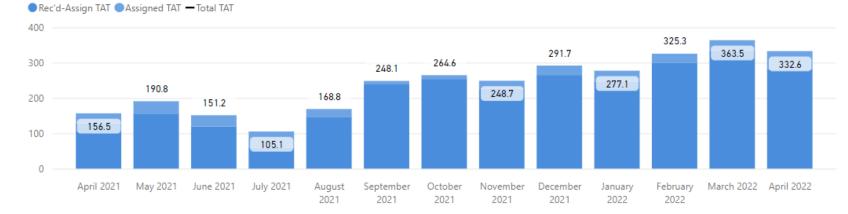
* months with zero activity are not calculated into the average

April 2022



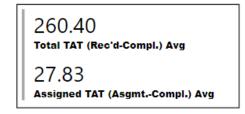
4/1/2021 4/30/2022

Total TAT by Month



Request Type Toxicology \checkmark Priority Type All \checkmark

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed



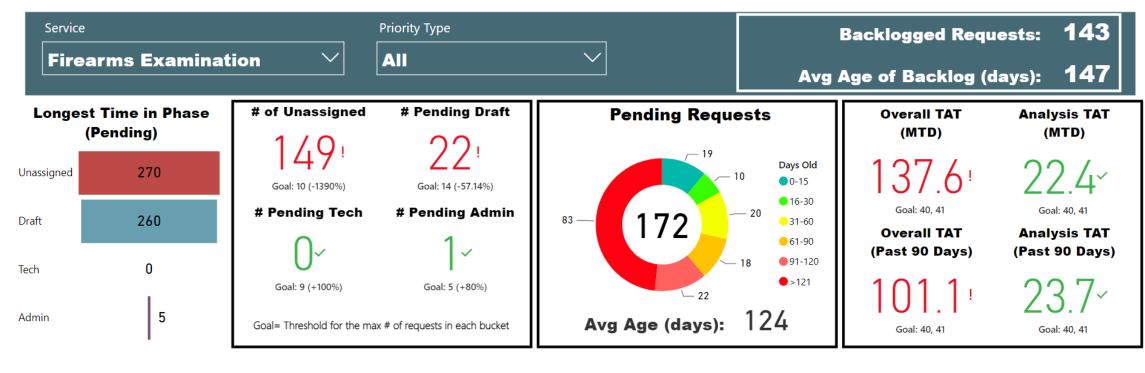


Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests

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

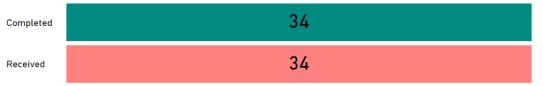


Firearms

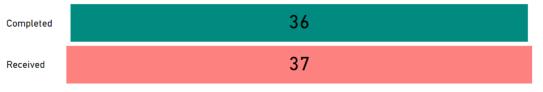




Month to Date



30 Day Avg (Over Past 90 Days)



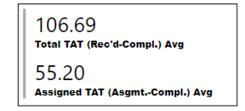
4/1/2021 4/30/2022

Total TAT by Month

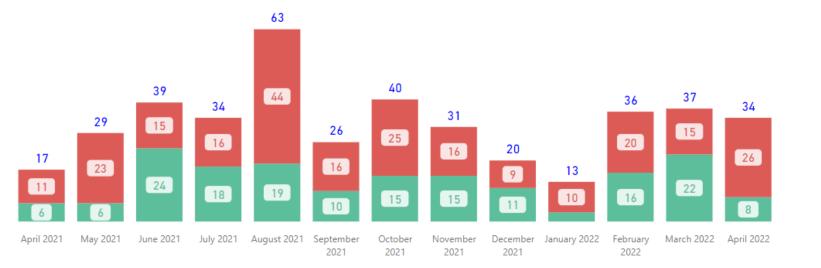


Request Type Firearms Examination \checkmark Priority Type All \checkmark

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed

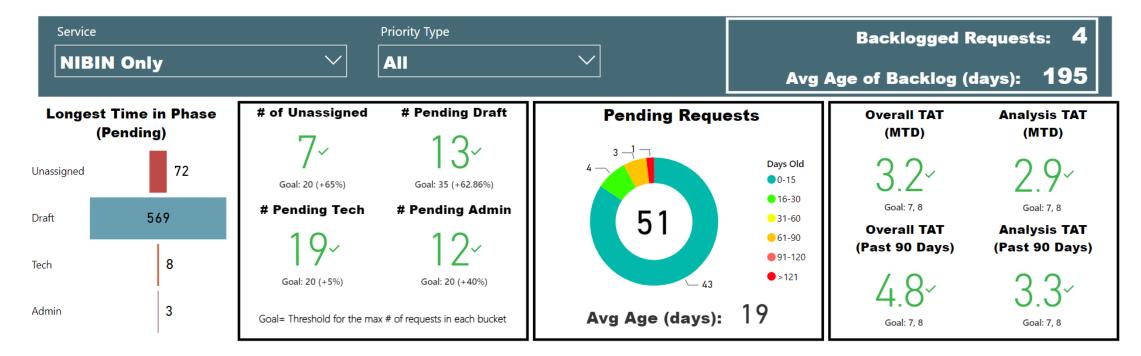


Requests Completed w/in 30 Days Requests Completed > 30 Days Old Total Completed

Received to Complete 419 Requests Completed 246 Requests Completed > 30 Days Old 58.71 % % Completed > 30 Days Old

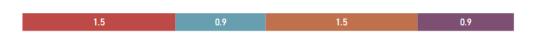
Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests



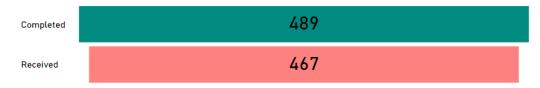




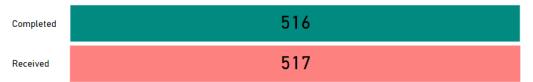
TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



Month to Date



30 Day Avg (Over Past 90 Days)

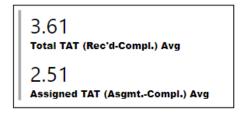


Total TAT by Month



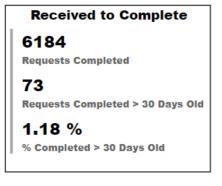
Request Type NIBIN Only \vdots Priority Type \vdots All \vdots

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed





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

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

Date Range

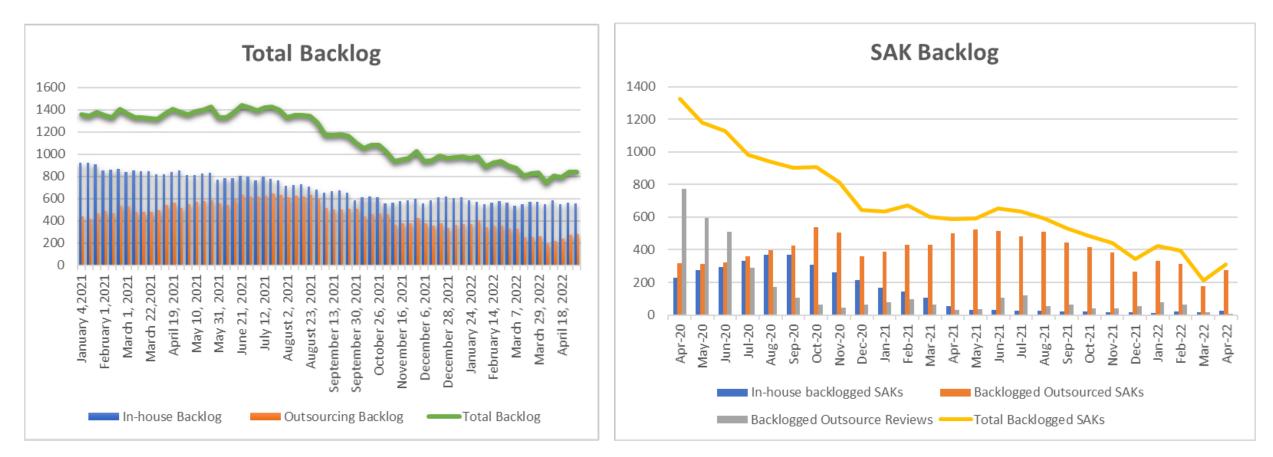
4/30/2022

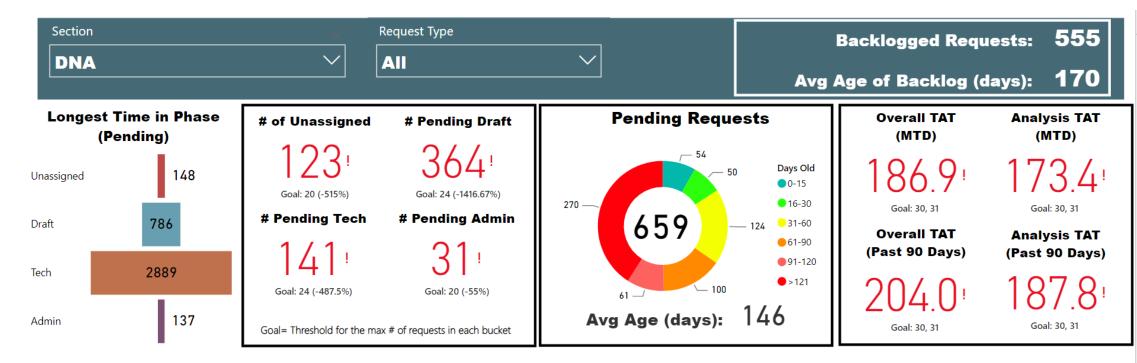
4/1/2021



Forensic Biology

DNA Backlog Update

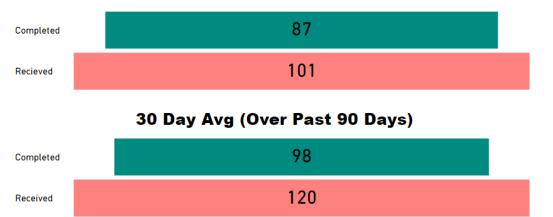


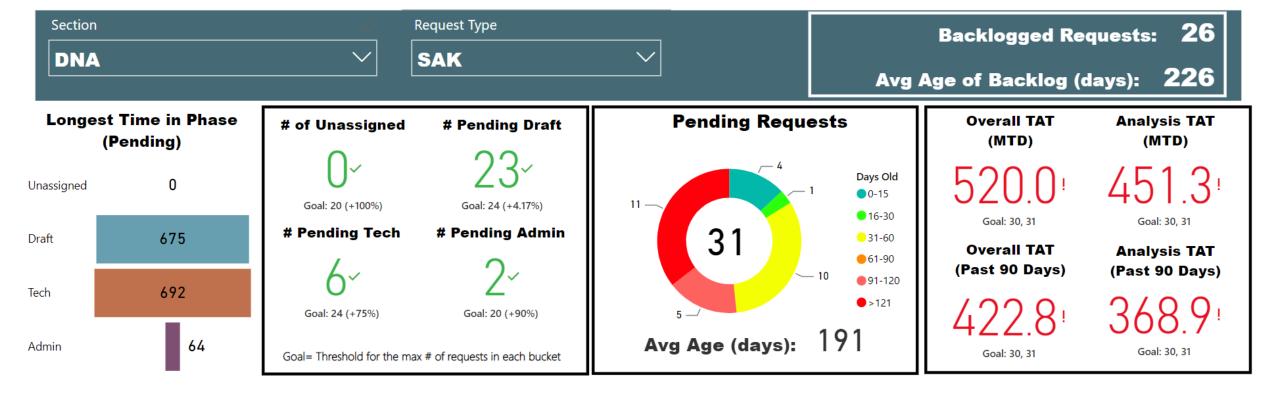




16.2 129.2 51.8 6.8

Month to Date



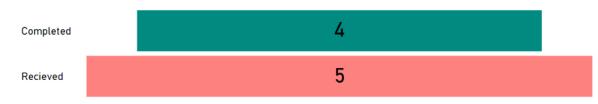


TAT by Phase of Work (MTD)

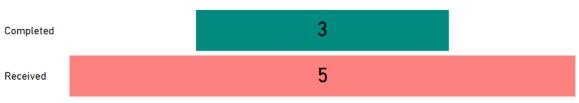


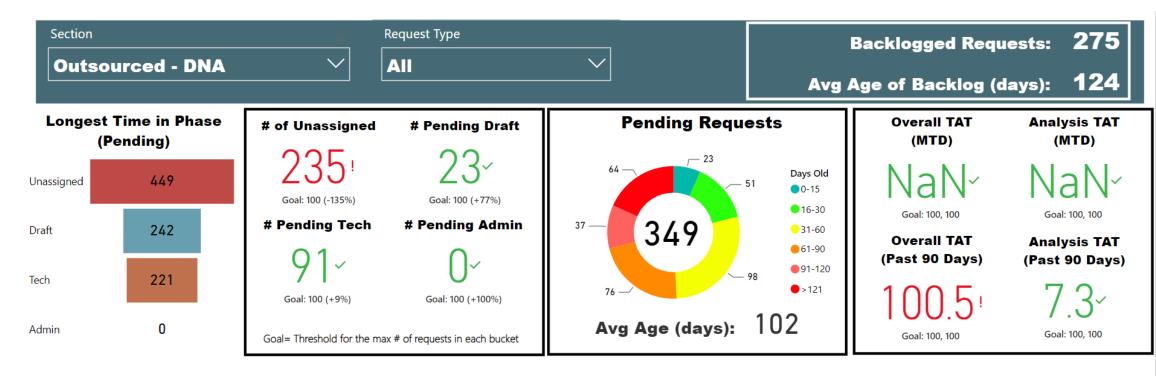


Month to Date

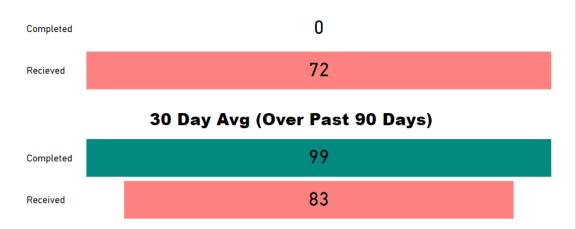


30 Day Avg (Over Past 90 Days)



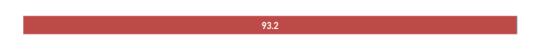


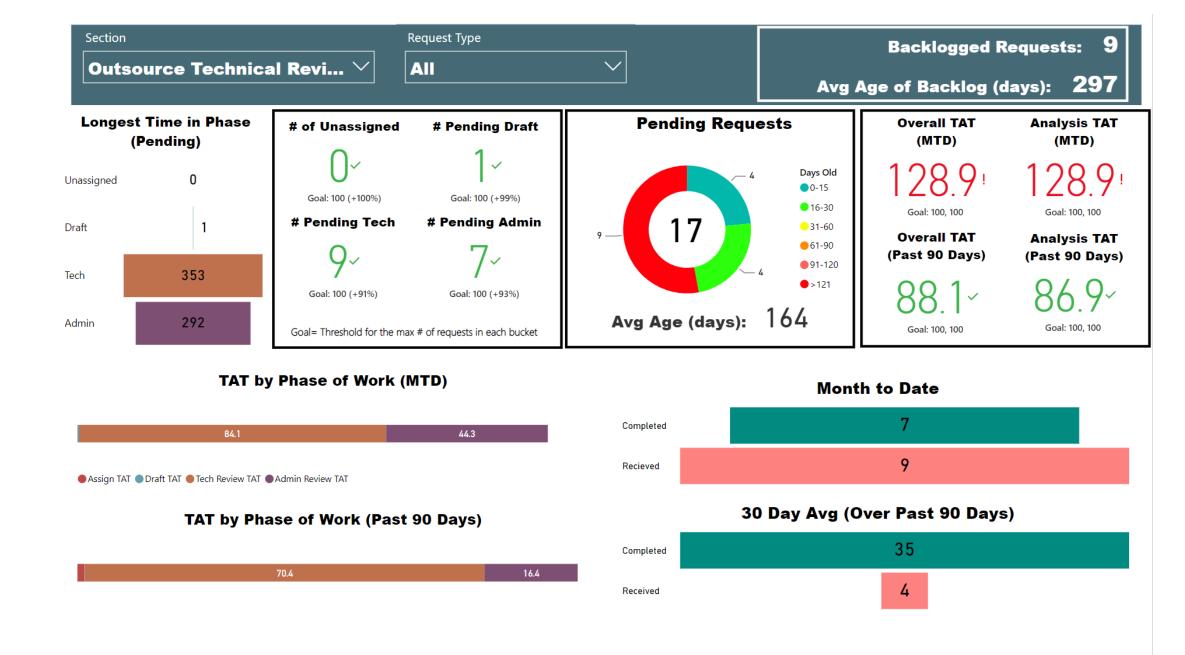




Assign TAT Draft TAT Tech Review TAT Admin Review TAT

TAT by Phase of Work (Past 90 Days)



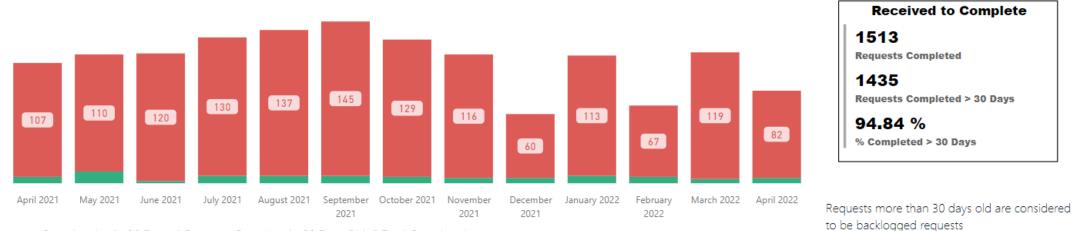


4/1/2021	4/30/2022
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Total TAT by Month



Requests Completed



Request Type

 DNA
 ✓

 Request Type
 All

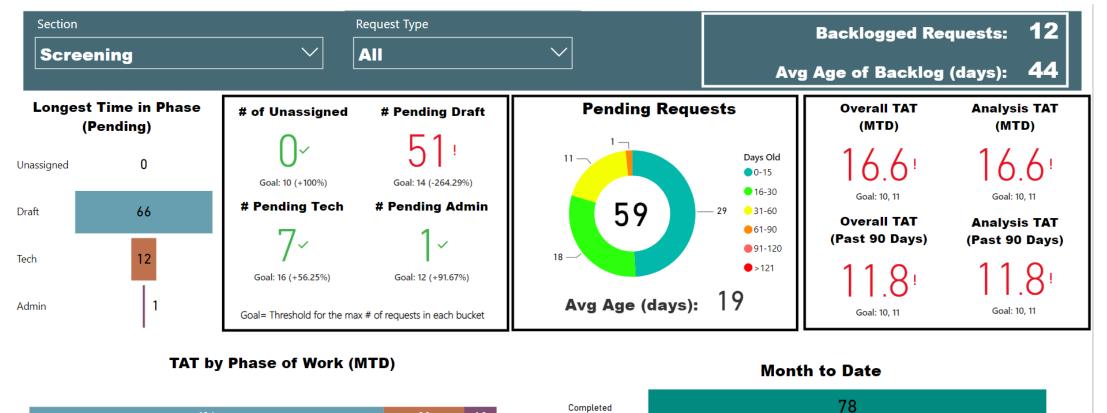
Selected Time Frame Averages

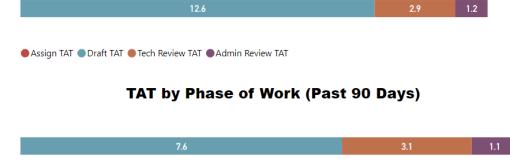
228.08 Total TAT (Rec'd-Compl.) Avg	
212.04 Assigned TAT (AsgmtCompl.) Avg	

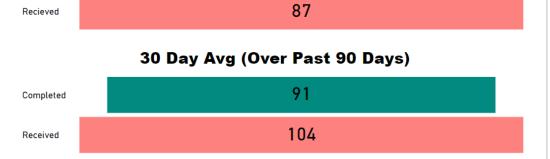
Rec'd-Assign TAT Assigned TAT Total TAT

Requests Completed w/in 30 Days



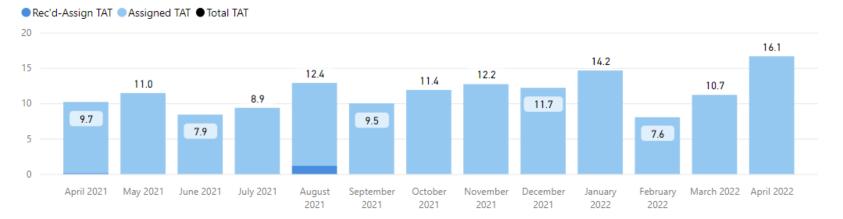






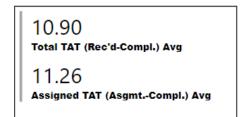
4/1/2021 4/30	/2022
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Total TAT by Month

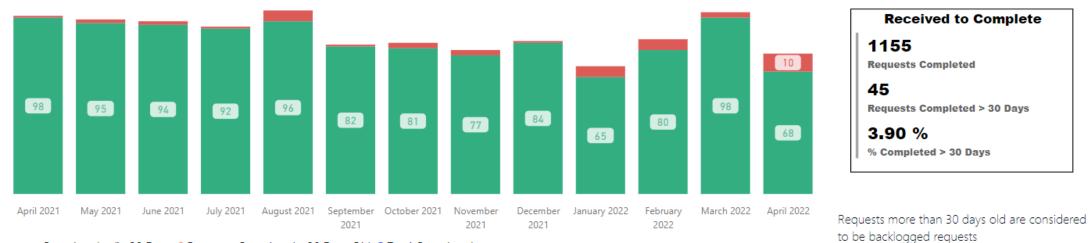




Selected Time Frame Averages

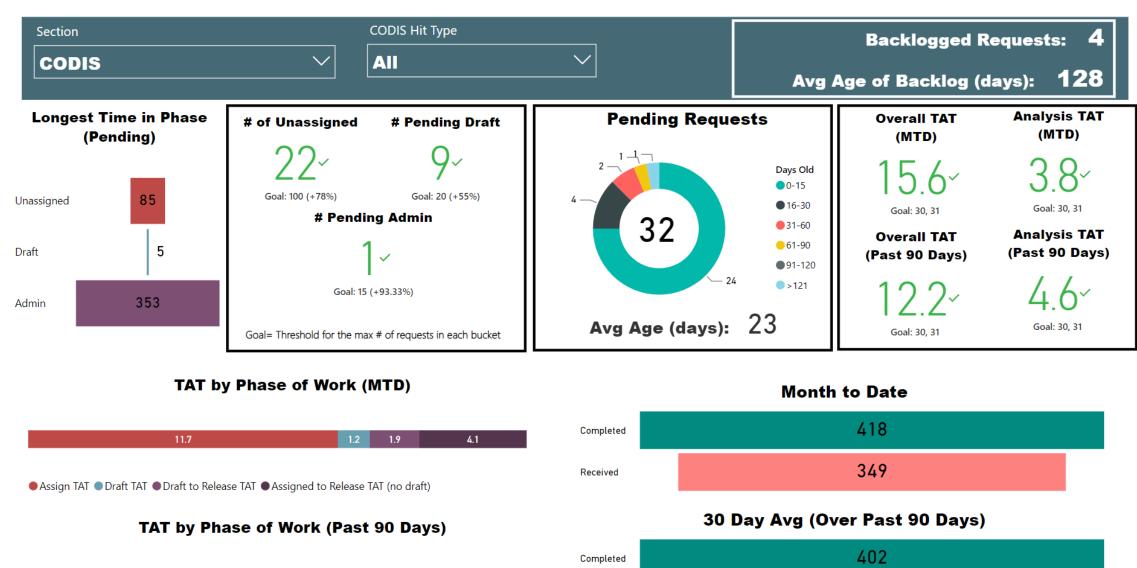


Requests Completed



Requests Completed w/in 30 Days





Received

389





 \sim

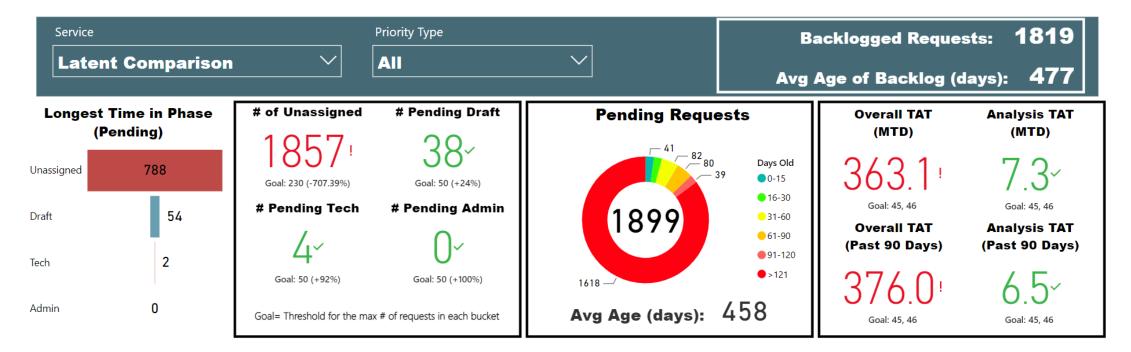
Requests Completed

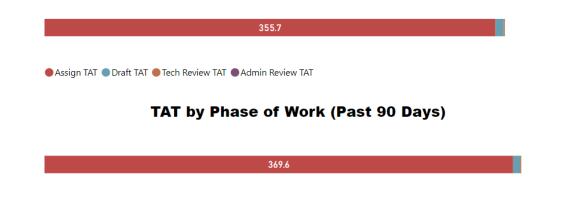


Requests Completed w/in 30 Days

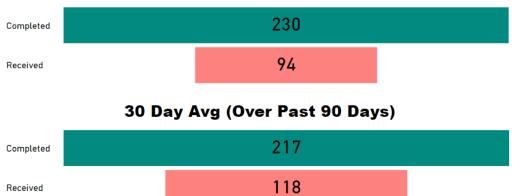


Latent Prints



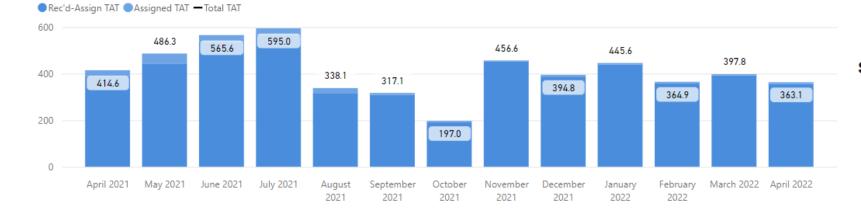


Month to Date



Date Range

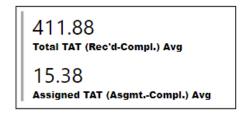
4/1/2021	4/30/2022
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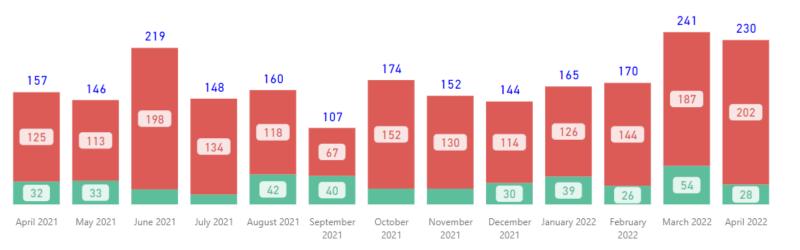
Total TAT by Month

Request Type Latent Comparison ✓ Priority Type ✓

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed

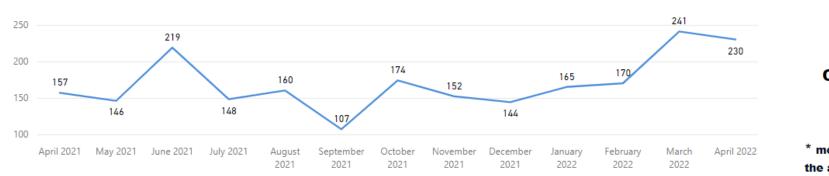


Received to Complete
2213
Requests Completed
1810
Requests Completed > 30 Days Old
81.79 %
% Completed > 30 Days Old

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

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



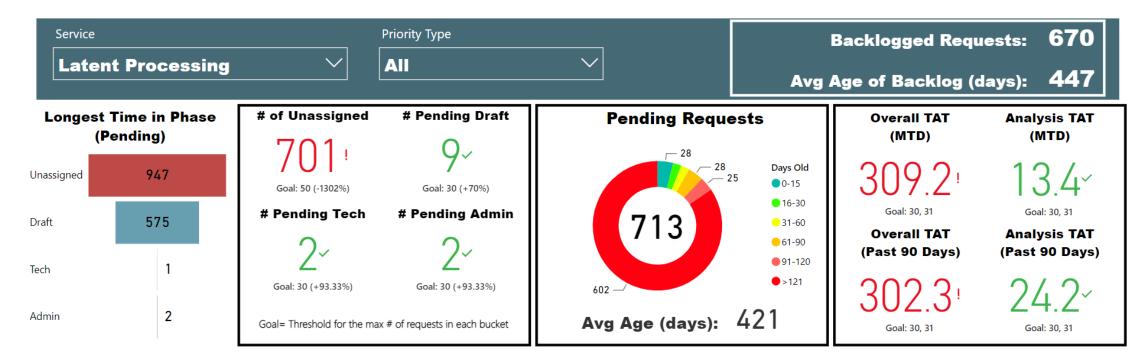


2,213

Completed per Month (Avg)*

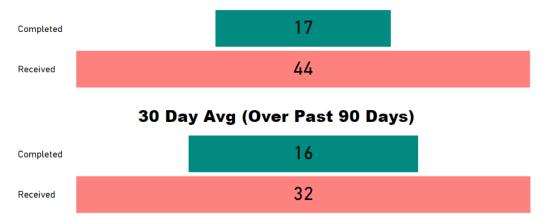
170

* months with zero activity are not calculated into the average





Month to Date

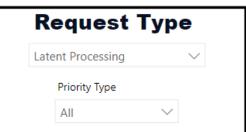


Date Range

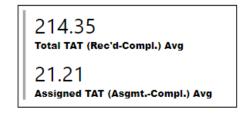


Total TAT by Month

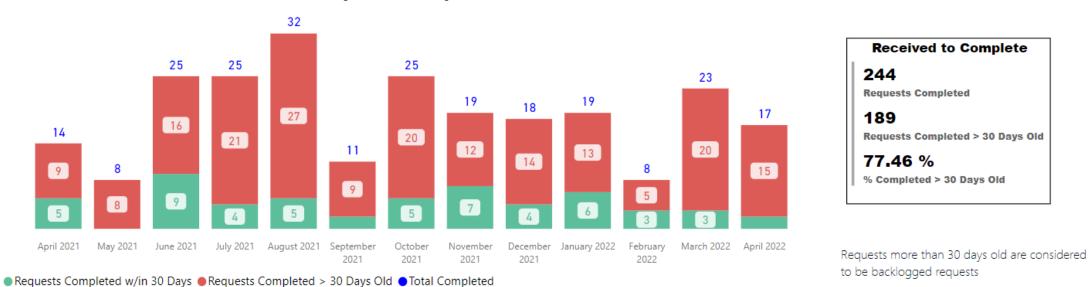


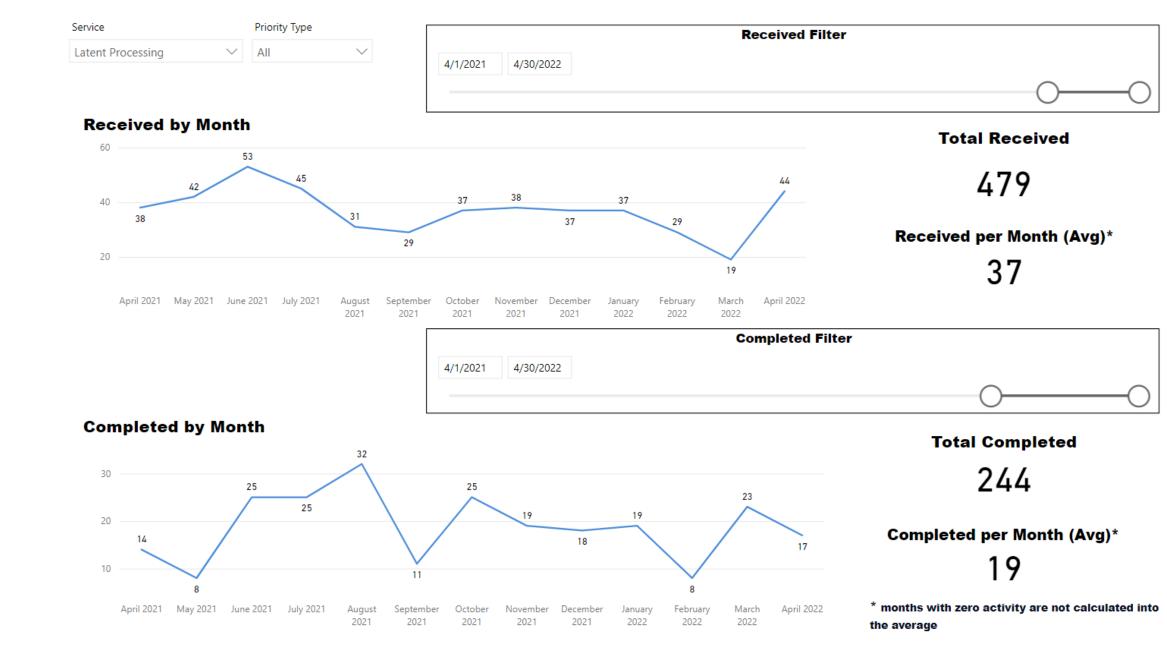


Selected Time Frame Averages

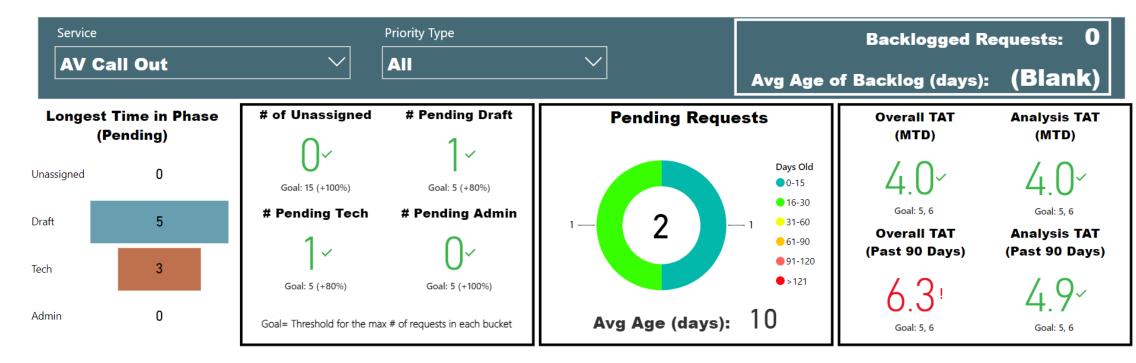


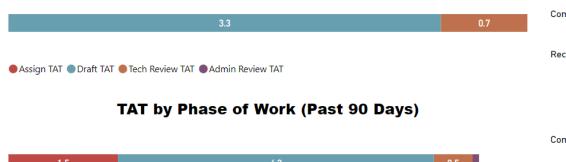
Requests Completed



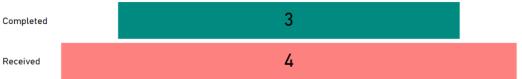


Digital Multi-Media

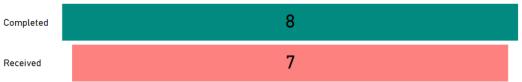




Month to Date



30 Day Avg (Over Past 90 Days)





3.0

December

2021

7.6

February

2022

3.3

January

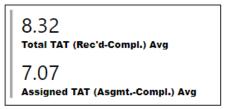
2022

6.4

March 2022 April 2022

4.0

Selected Time Frame Averages



Received to Complete

Requests Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests more than 30 days old are considered

% Completed > 30 Days Old

Requests Completed

84

1

1.19 %

to be backlogged requests

Requests Completed

6.7

October

2021

9.3

2021

13.9

November

2021



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

8.8

7.0

April 2021 May 2021 June 2021 July 2021 August 2021 September

2.8

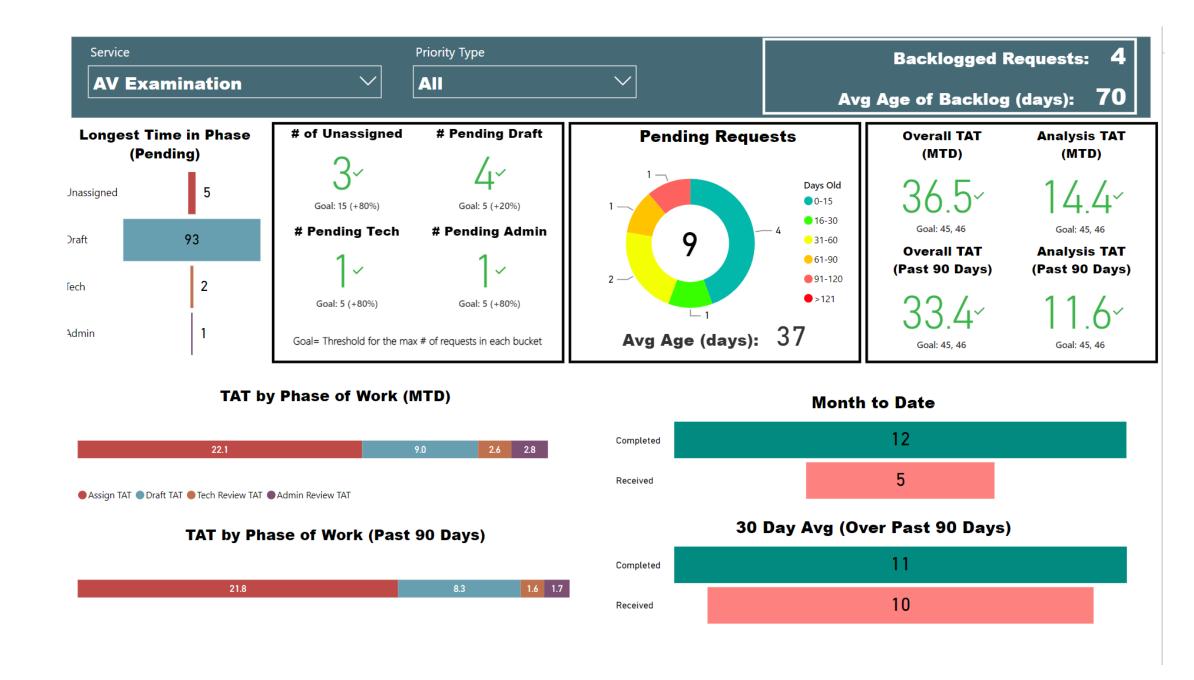
20

10

0

5.2





Date Range

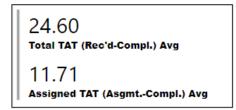


Total TAT by Month



Request Type AV Examination ✓ Priority Type ✓ All ✓

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed

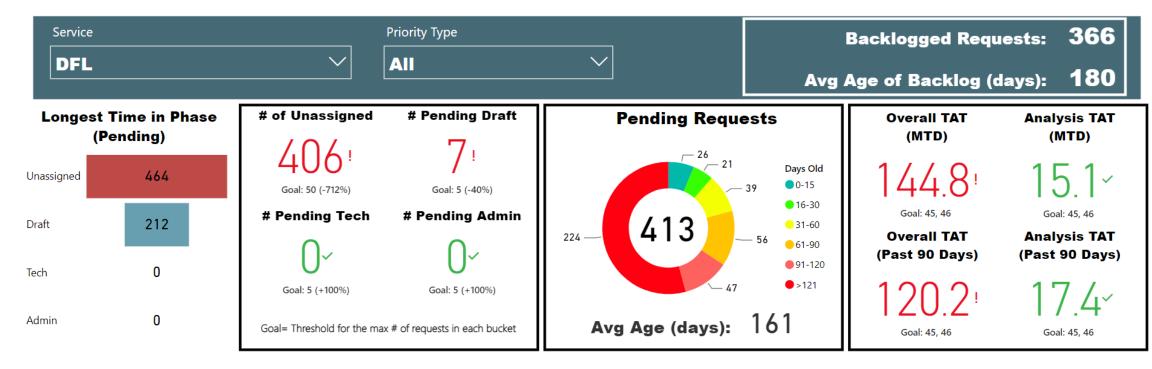


Requests Completed w/in 30 Days Requests Completed > 30 Days Old Total Completed



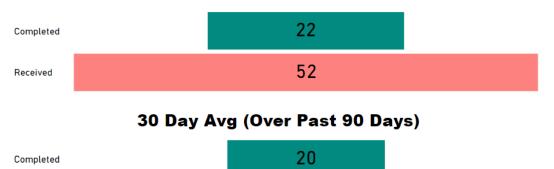
Requests more than 30 days old are considered to be backlogged requests







Month to Date





DFL and DME

Date Range

4/1/2021 4/30/2022

Total TAT by Month

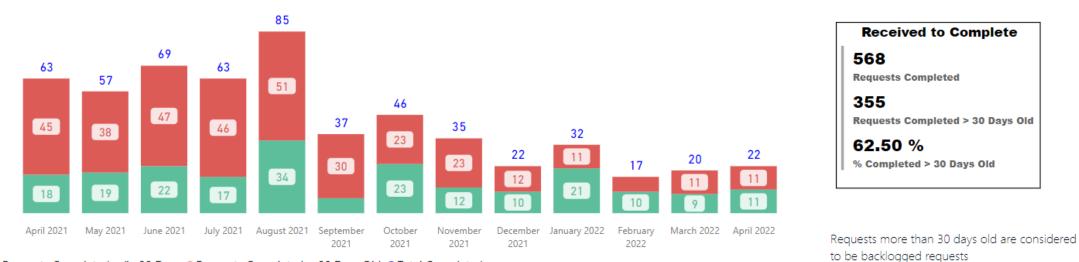


Request Type Multiple selections Priority Type All

Selected Time Frame Averages



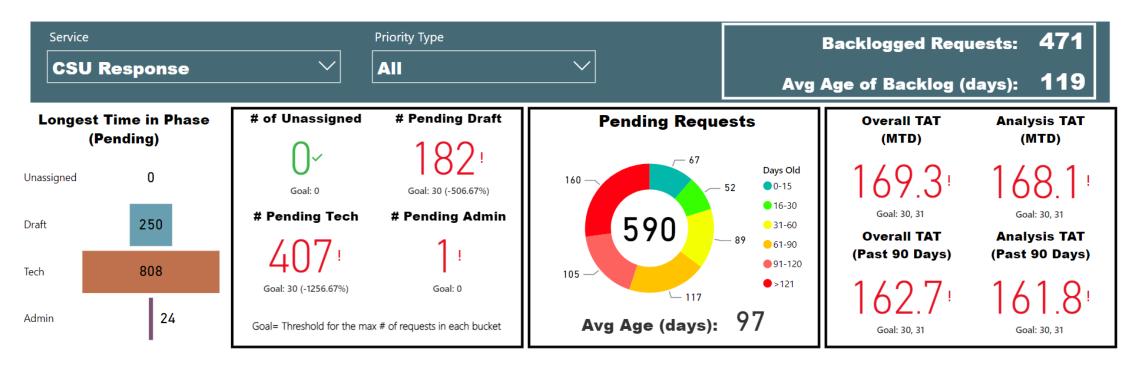
Requests Completed



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

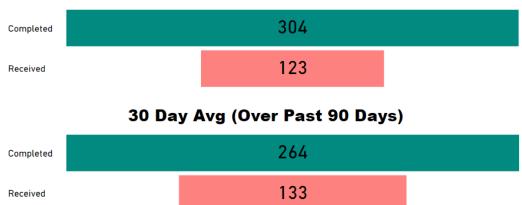


Crime Scene Unit





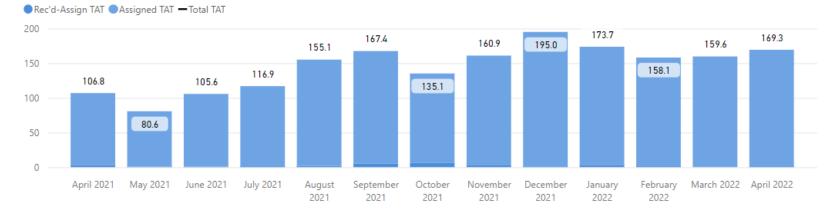
Month to Date



Date Range



Total TAT by Month

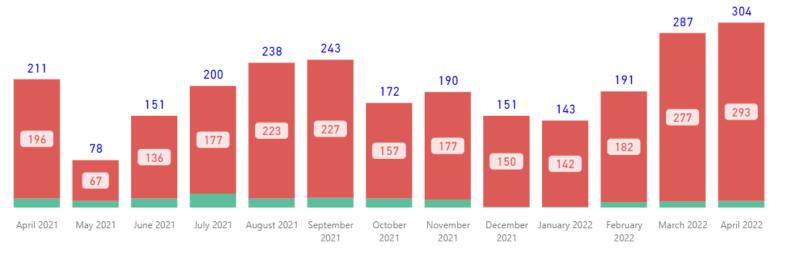


Request Type CSU Response \checkmark Priority Type All \checkmark

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed



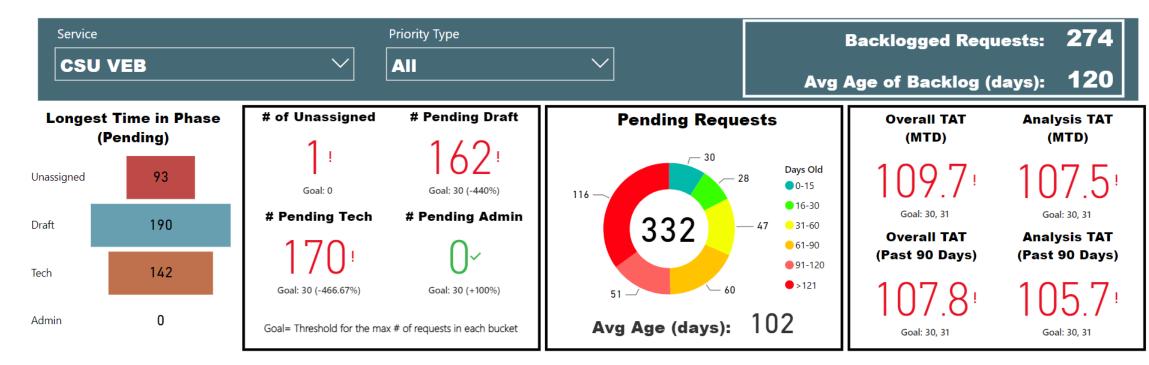


Received to Complete

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

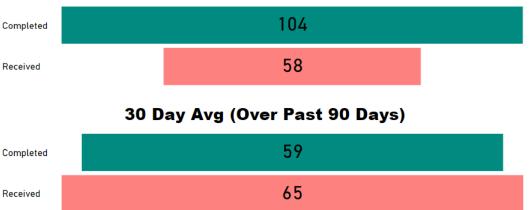
Requests Completed w/in 30 Days Requests Completed > 30 Days Old Total Completed







Month to Date

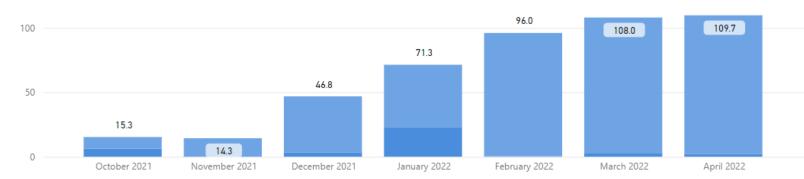


Date Range



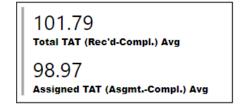
Total TAT by Month

Rec'd-Assign TAT Assigned TAT Total TAT

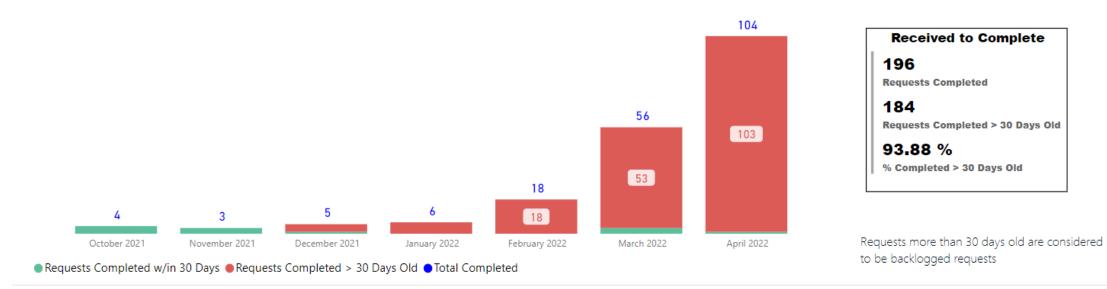


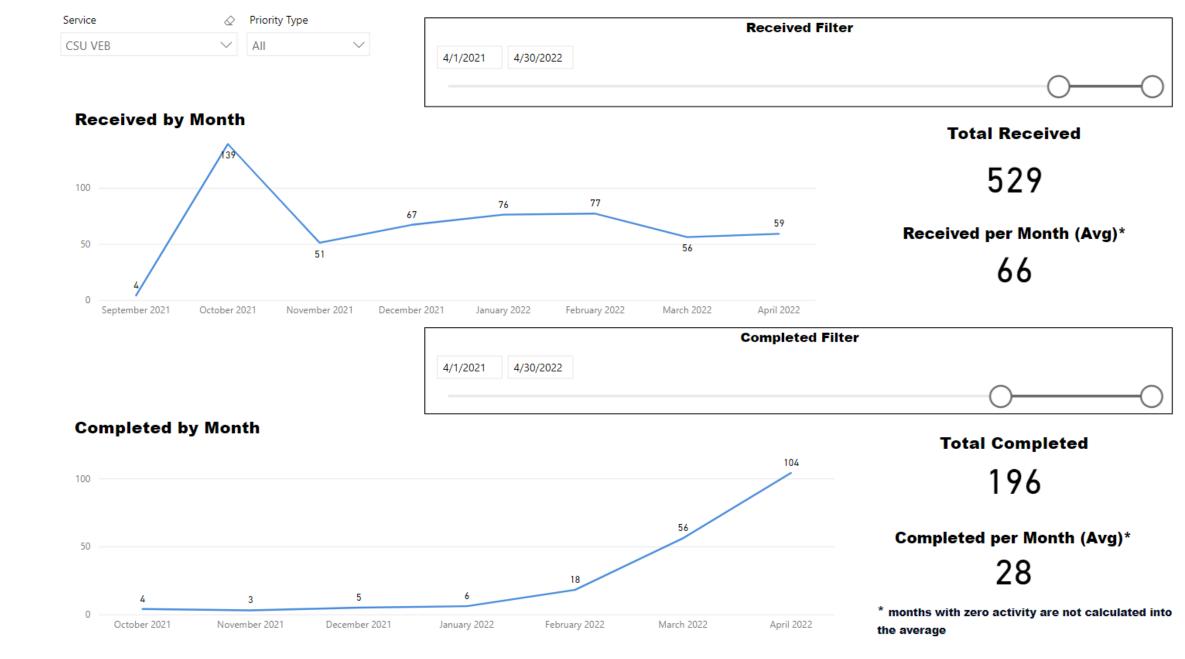
Request Type CSU VEB \checkmark Priority Type All \checkmark

Selected Time Frame Averages



Requests Completed





HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item No.:	8. Consider approval of a subrecipient agreement between the City of Houston and the corporation, for the purpose of enhancing the laboratory's ability to provide forensic services related to public safety needs arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, total approved budget not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and possible related action.
Subject:	Consider approval of an agreement between the City of Houston (the City) and HFSC to provide the corporation with ARPA funding to support necessary forensic services.
Background:	On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA"), which established the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("Fund") and provided the Fund to the United States Department of Treasury. Pursuant to ARPA, the United States Department of Treasury has provided the City with a direct payment from the Fund for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19, including funding to support public safety expenditures, that are and were incurred on or after March 3, 2021, through and including December 31, 2024. The Mayor's Task Force on Policing Reform recommended utilizing the Fund to expand existing partnerships between the City and the HFSC to lessen the pandemic backlog, manage increased crime scene unit responses, and perform casework related to gun violence. The City has determined that the funds being provided to HFSC under this Agreement are reasonable and necessary expenditures to address the COVID-19 public health emergency and such funds were not included in the City's approved budget or HFSC's Board approved budget as of March 3, 2021.
Executive Summary:	The primary goal of the Agreement is for the City to provide HFSC \$1,500,00.00 from the Fund pursuant to ARPA, so the corporation may provide essential services to advance public safety measures consistent with the Department of the Treasury Federal Assistance Listing 21.027 (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds- SLFRF). The Agreement provides funding of up to \$700,000 for toxicology outsourcing, \$300,000 for overtime pay in the Crime Scene Unit ("CSU") and firearms section, and \$500,000 for the purchase of two 3D microscopes for use in the firearms section. If the Agreement is approved by the Board, the document will be considered by City Council for final approval and signature.
Fiscal Impact:	Additional funding will increase HFSC's anticipated revenue and budget.
Staff	Staff recommends approval.
Recommendation: By:	Dr. Peter Stout, President and CEO
	Legal review by General Counsel

HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item No.:	9. Consider delegating authority to Dr. Stout to negotiate and enter into a contract for toxicology outsourcing services between the corporation and National Medical Services (NMS), to be funded by the corporation's subrecipient agreement with the City of Houston and designated 2021 American Rescue Plan Act funds (recipient government, City of Houston), total budget not to exceed \$700,000.00.
Subject:	Delegating authority to Dr. Stout to negotiate and enter into a contract for toxicology outsourcing services, upon final approval of the subrecipient agreement with the City.
Background:	On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA"), which established the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("Fund") and provided the Fund to the United States Department of Treasury. Pursuant to ARPA, the United States Department of Treasury has provided the City of Houston ("the City") with a direct payment from the Fund for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19, including funding to support public safety expenditures, that are and were incurred on or after March 3, 2021, through and including December 31, 2024. The Mayor's Task Force on Policing Reform recommended utilizing the Fund to expand existing partnerships between the City and the HFSC to lessen the pandemic backlog, manage increased crime scene unit responses, and perform casework related to gun violence.
Executive Summary:	The City has allocated ARPA funding to HFSC through a subrecipient agreement, providing additional resources to address the pandemic backlog, namely, the toxicology backlog. Upon final approval and signature of the subrecipient agreement by both parties, HFSC will begin outsourcing of toxicology cases as soon as possible. The total allotted budget for this project may not exceed \$700,000. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 2254.003, HFSC has selected NMS on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications to perform the services for a fair and reasonable price. Staff requests the Board delegate authority to Dr. Stout to negotiate and enter into an agreement with NMS once the final subrecipient agreement is signed by HFSC and the City, and the funds are officially released.
Fiscal Impact:	Additional funding will increase HFSC's anticipated revenue and budget.
Staff Recommendation:	Staff recommends approval.
By:	Dr. Peter Stout, President and CEO Legal review by General Counsel
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HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item No.:	10. Consider delegating authority to Dr. Stout to procure and select two 3D microscopes, to be funded by the corporation's subrecipient agreement with the City of Houston and designated 2021 American Rescue Plan Act funds (recipient government, City of Houston), total budget not to exceed \$500,000.00.
Subject:	Delegating authority to Dr. Stout to procure instruments needed for firearms casework.
Background:	On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA"), which established the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("Fund") and provided the Fund to the United States Department of Treasury. Pursuant to ARPA, the United States Department of Treasury has provided the City of Houston ("the City") with a direct payment from the Fund for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID- 19, including funding to support public safety expenditures, that are and were incurred on or after March 3, 2021, through and including December 31, 2024. The Mayor's Task Force on Policing Reform recommended utilizing the Fund to expand existing partnerships between the City and the HFSC to lessen the pandemic backlog, manage increased crime scene unit responses, and perform casework related to gun violence.
Executive Summary:	The City has allocated ARPA funding to HFSC through a subrecipient agreement, providing additional resources to address the surge in casework related to gun violence. HFSC seeks to implement 3D scanning/imaging technology for comparison of firearms-related evidence (i.e., bullets and/or cartridge cases) to meet the public safety needs of the city. Upon final approval and signature of the subrecipient agreement by both parties, HFSC will enter into an agreement with the selected vendor/vendors to begin the lengthy process of obtaining the 3D microscopes and successfully bringing them online. The total allotted budget for this project may not exceed \$500,000.00. Staff requests the Board delegate authority to Dr. Stout to initiate the procurement process and select the successful vendors. However, no contract will be entered into until the final subrecipient agreement is signed by HFSC and the City, the funds are officially released, and the agreement and/or purchase order has been presented to the Board. All potential vendors will be informed of these contingencies.
Fiscal Impact:	Additional funding will increase HFSC's anticipated revenue and budget.
Staff	Staff recommends approval.
Recommendation:	Dr. Deter Stant Dresident and CEO
By:	Dr. Peter Stout, President and CEO Legal review by General Counsel

	FY22 Budget	FCST 3/2022	Adjustment V1	FY22 Budget V2
Capital Expenditures				
Capital - Vehicles	168,000			168,000
Computer Hardware/SW	30,000			30,000
Scientific/Foren Eqmt	718,021	308,257	(409,764)	308,257
Const in Progress	aut			-
Total Capital Expenditures	916,021	308,257	(409,764)	506,257
Total Expenses w/ CapX Before Depr.	28,884,334	29,600,130	1,600,000	30,484,334
Depreciation	1,856,298			1,856,298
Reconciliation Discrepancies				
Total Expenses w/ CapX	30,740,632	29,600,130	1,600,000	32,340,631
	(602.000)	(20, 600, 420)	(4, 600, 000)	(2,202,000)
NI less Capital Spending	(602,809)	(29,600,130)	(1,600,000)	(2,202,809)
City of Houston Direct Overhead	-			
Grant and Training Expense	1,600,000		(1,600,000)	-
456505 - FA Gain/Loss		7		M
Net Ordinary Income After Capital Expenditures	(2,202,809)	(29,600,130)	0	(2,202,809)
Net Ordinary Income BEFORE Capital Expenditure		7		4M

	FY22 Budget	FCST 3/2022	Adjustment V1	FY22 Budget V2
City of Houston-Appropriations	\$28,508,207			\$ 28,508,207
Fund 2213	900,451			900,451
HFSC Operations	27,607,756			27,607,756
Donations	12			12
In-Kind Donations	3,509			3,509
Training Services	(300)			(300)
Grants	1,600,000			1,600,000
Forensic Services	9,275			9,275
Interest Income	17,120			17,120
	30,137,823			30,137,823

	FY22 Budget	FCST 3/2022	Adjustment V1	FY22 Budget V2
	TTZZ Duuget	1051 5/2022	Aujustinent VI	TTZZ Duuget VZ
Personnel:				
Salary Base - Civilian	16,588,420	16,467,562	(24,000)	16,564,420
Pension - Civilian	1,010,819	1,020,915	15,000	1,025,819
FICA - Civilian	1,174,336	1,182,143	10,000	1,184,336
Health Insurance - Active Civil	1,429,632	1,351,407	(70,000)	1,359,632
Basic Life Ins - Active Civil	60,998	20,635	(35,000)	25,998
Workers Comp - Civilian Adm	27,216	35,170	10,000	37,216
Workers Comp - Civil Claims	135	-	(135)	0
Unemployment Taxes - Admin	35,108	12,276	(20,000)	15,108
	20,326,664	20,090,109	(114,135)	20,212,529

	FY22 Budget	FCST 3/2022	Adjustment V1	FY22 Budget V2
Supplies:				
Chemical Gases & Special Fluids	25,907	18,436	(5,000)	20,907
Computer Supplies	(35)	4,374	6,000	5,965
Paper & Printing Supplies	9,535	14,227	6,000	15,535
Publications & Printed Material	2,866	7,737	6,000	8,866
Postage	441	394	500	941
Miscellaneous Office Supplies	69,217	75,002	7,000	76,217
General Laboratory Supply	1,122,888	1,000,879	(60,000)	1,062,888
Small Technical & Scientific Eq	16,899	21,128	6,000	22,899
Fuel	23	15	100	123
Clothing	15,186	22,417	9,000	24,186
Food/Event Supplies	4,235	12,794	10,000	14,235
Weapons Munitions & Supplies	6,997	17,014	12,000	18,997
Small Tools & Minor Equipment	6,171	14,478	10,000	16,171
Miscellaneous Parts & Supplies	37,988	29,161	(5,000)	32,988
	1,318,318	1,238,056	2,600	1,320,918

	FY22 Budget	FCST 3/2022	Adjustment V1	FY22 Budget V2
ervices:				
Accounting & Auditing Svcs	53,953	75,342	25,000	78,953
Medical Dental & Laboratory Ser	100,000	1,353,516	1,400,000	1,500,000
Management Consulting Services	218,370	210,438	(4,000)	214,370
Banking Services	3,893	3,785	500	4,393
Misc Support Serv Recruit Relo	55,751	52,454	(1,000)	54,751
Real Estate Rental	916,405	848,445	(35,000)	881,405
Refuse Disposal	25,763	32,021	8,000	33,763
Computer Equip/Software Maint.	1,108,619	1,217,000	150,000	1,258,619
IT Application Services	65,680	19,096	(40,000)	25,680
Vehicle & Motor Equip. Services	-	19	500	500
Other Equipment Services	309,765	505,288	250,000	559,765
Printing & Reproduction Serv.	2,738	361	(2,000)	738
Public Information Svcs	2,082	679	(1,000)	1,082
Insurance (Non-Medical)	227,393	170,036	(38,139)	189,254
Membership & Prof. Fees	20,271	33,675	18,000	38,271

	FY22 Budget	FCST 3/2022	Adjustment V1	FY22 Budget V2
	FT22 Budget	1031 3/2022	Aujustment VI	FT22 Budget V2
Services:				
Education & Training	272,289	402,625	135,000	407,289
Tuition Reimbursement	16,519	20,574	6,000	22,519
Travel - Training Related	116,695	117,990	3,000	119,695
Travel - Non-training Related	10,579	25,570	17,000	27,579
Building Maintenance Services	9,327	86,633	85,000	94,327
Utilities	121,299	239,493	130,000	251,299
Data Services	204,992	193,073	(6,000)	198,992
Voice Services, Equip & Labor	45,092	73,256	35,000	80,092
Other Rental Fees	50,912	48,596	5,000	55,912
Parking Space Rental	195,888	194,346	3,000	198,888
Legal Services	25,000	19,056	(2,000)	23,000
Metro Commuter Passes	3,792	(656)	(3,000)	792
Freight	22,205	28,117	7,500	29,705
Misc. Other Services & Chrgs	31,323	122,737	100,000	131,323
Sub-Contractor (COH)	900,451	595,429	(251,000)	649,451
Total Services:	5,137,045	6,688,992	1,995,361	7,132,406
Total Services less CoH	4,236,594	6,093,563	2,246,361	6,482,955

	FY22 Budget	FCST 3/2022	Adjustment V1	FY22 Budget V2
Interest Expense	1,060,504	1,077,712	20,000	1,080,504
Non-Capital Expenditures				
Furniture and Fixtures	25,000	22,704	3,500	28,500
Computer Equipment	91,030	166,986	100,000	191,030
Scientific/Medical Equipment	9,752	7,314	2,438	12,190
Non-Capital - Other	-		-	-
Total Non-Capital Expenditures	125,782	197,005	105,938	231,720

	FY22 Budget	FCST 3/2022	Adjustment V1	FY22 Budget V2
Capital Expenditures				
Capital - Vehicles	168,000			168,000
Computer Hardware/SW	30,000			30,000
Scientific/Foren Eqmt	718,021	308,257	(409,764)	308,257
Const in Progress	aut			-
Total Capital Expenditures	916,021	308,257	(409,764)	506,257
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NI less Capital Spending	(602,809)	(29,600,130)	(1,600,000)	(2,202,809)
City of Houston Direct Overhead	-			
Grant and Training Expense	1,600,000		(1,600,000)	-
456505 - FA Gain/Loss		7		M
Net Ordinary Income After Capital Expenditures	(2,202,809)	(29,600,130)	0	(2,202,809)
Net Ordinary Income BEFORE Capital Expenditure	es 4	7		4M

HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER, INC.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

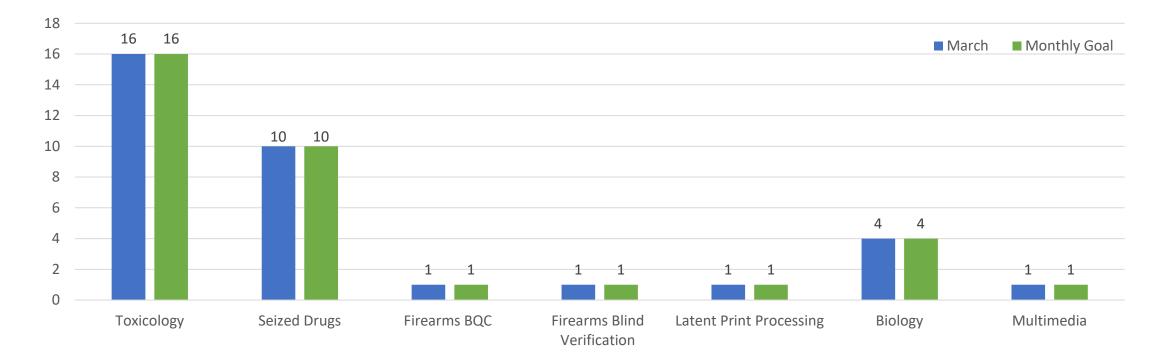
May 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Action Item No.:	12. Consider authorizing the president and CEO to enter into a lease agreement, with option to purchase, between De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc. and the corporation for one LC-QQQ device, related components and service, total contract amount of \$451.738.20 and possible related action.
Subject:	Authorizing the President and CEO to sign a lease agreement to acquire one LC-QQQ for use in lab's toxicology section.
Background:	As previously reported, HFSC needs a new LC-QQQ device to continue ongoing efforts to increase capacity within the lab's toxicology section and meet the growing needs of our stakeholders. Due to the cost of this equipment, HFSC sought a lease agreement, with an option to purchase one LC-QQQ manufactured by Agilent Technologies. HFSC is currently leasing three LC-QQQ devices approved during the April 2019, July 2019, and September 2020 Board meetings. Staff now requests approval to lease a fourth LC-QQQ based on the following considerations: subsequent analysis of HFSC's operational needs in toxicology; HFSC's forecasted financial position; and significant efficiencies gained by simultaneously utilizing four LC-QQQ devices.
Executive Summary:	Before the agreement can be signed, the Board must approve the total expenditure (\$451.738.20) of the lease agreement over the 60-month term, which includes the LC-QQQ, components, service and maintenance. Pursuant to Board Resolution No.2015-001 and the Corporation's financial procurement policies, any expenditure over \$300,000 shall be approved by the Chair of the Board, President and CEO, as well as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. The Board may also delegate its authority to the President and CEO to enter into this agreement. Components for the acquired LC-QQQ are sole source and will subsequently be identified as such in any future purchases.
Fiscal Impact:	Anticipated costs will fit within existing budget line items and will be included in subsequent budgets, for the duration of the lease agreement.
Staff Recommendation:	Staff recommends approval.
By:	Dr. Amy Castillo, Vice President and COO Legal review by General Counsel

Quality Division Report May 13, 2022

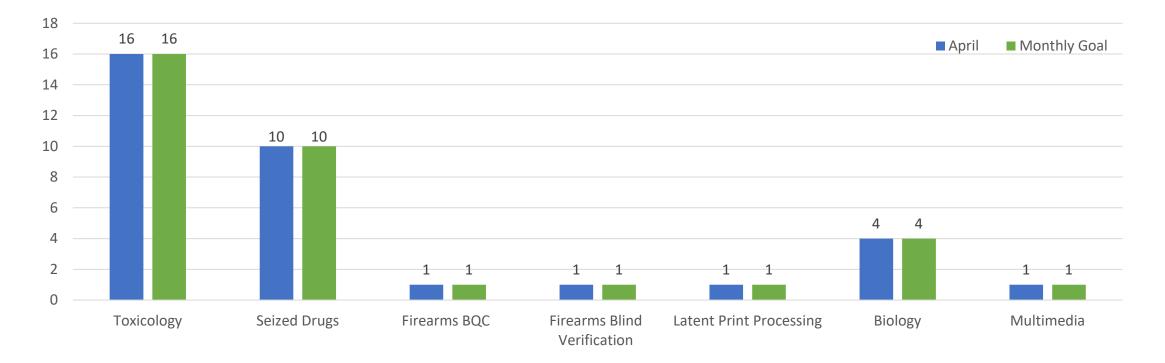


Blind Quality Controls Submitted in March





Blind Quality Controls Submitted in April





Blind Quality: Accomplishments and Challenges

Blind Testing in Firearms: Preliminary Results from a Blind Quality Control Program manuscript published in Journal of Forensic Sciences on March 29, 2022

- Included in American Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) conference presentation in May
- June webinar for the Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence (CSAFE)
- June presentation at the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE) conference
- Contacted by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) regarding data for firearms discipline scientific foundation review

Forensic Discipline	Cases Completed in March	Cases Completed in April	
Toxicology	21 (BAC)	10 (BAC)	
Toxicology	0 (Drugs)	0 (Drugs)	
Seized Drugs	10	13	
Dialagu	4 (DNA)	0 (DNA)	
Biology	5 (screening)	3 (screening)	
Firearms	1	0	
Firearms	2	2	
Blind Verification	2	L	
Latent Print	12	10	
Processing	12	10	
Latent Print	2	8	
Comparison	Z		IENCE
Latent Print Blind	0		Mha
Verification	0	0	STO
Multimedia	1	0	F

Disclosures/Corrective Actions

Texas Forensic Science Commission investigative panel formed for Forensic Biology disclosure

- HFSC analyst testified in 2017 for Texas Department of Public Safety Colone capital murder case
- Analyst provided testimony regarding 2013 evidence examination performed while employed at TX DPS
- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals issued an opinion and mandate in March 2022 overturning the death sentence conviction
 - Opinion found the analyst gave the jury a false impression when he suggested that there was nothing awry with the manner in which the evidence was handled at TX DPS



Disclosures/Corrective Actions

Texas Forensic Science Commission investigative panel formed for Forensic Biology disclosure

- HFSC requested TFSC assist with the investigation since it involves multiple agencies
- TFSC will determine if either a finding of professional negligence or professional misconduct for the analyst is appropriate



Disclosures/Corrective Actions

Texas Forensic Science Commission voted "no further action" on Forensic Biology disclosure involving HFSC analyst testimony regarding statistics

- Analyst is a contract employee who is a former full-time employee
- Transcript reviewed during transcript review project
- Statistics stated correctly by analyst but inappropriately rephrased by counsel
- Analyst will be retrained on statistical concepts and testimony
- Additional transcripts being reviewed



2022 Internal Audits

Seized Drugs (March 7 – 11)

• 0 findings

Multimedia (March 28 – April 1)

- 3 findings
- Firearms (April 11 15)
 - 0 findings

Latent Prints (April 11 – 15)

• 3 findings

Toxicology (April 18 – May 6)

• 0 findings

Forensic Biology and Crime Scene Unit (May 9 – 27)



Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

Conformance deadlines met for following standards:

Forensic Biology:

• Standard for Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems

Firearms:

- Best Practice Recommendation, Safe Handling of Firearms and Ammunition
- Standard Test Method for the Forensic Examination and Testing of Firearms



Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

Upcoming Deadlines:

Biology

Deadline August 3, 2022

- Standard for Training in Forensic Serological Methods
- Standard for Training in Forensic DNA Isolation and Purification Methods
- Standard for Training in Forensic DNA Quantification Methods
- Standard for Training in Forensic Short Tandem Repeat Typing Methods using Amplification, DNA Separation, and Allele Detection

Seized Drugs

Deadline November 2, 2022

 Standard Practice for Quality Assurance of Forensic Science Service Providers Performing Forensic Chemical Analysis



2022 Testimony Data

- 2022: 29 analysts have testified this year
 - 25 were monitored
 - 4 not monitored will need to be monitored in future testimony or transcript will be reviewed
- 2021 updated: 50 analysts testified last year
 - 42 were monitored
 - 8 not monitored all transcripts reviewed
- Transcript review project
 - First round: 4 transcripts under evaluation



Detailed Data



2021 Proficiency Testing

Discipline		Tests in Progress	Tests Completed	Comments
Seized Drugs		0	14	
Toxicology		0	25	
Firearms		0	14	
Crime S	Crime Scene		26	
Latent Prints		0	18	
Multimedia	Audio/Video		5	
wultimetia	Digital	1	5	
Forensic Biology		1	43	



2022 Proficiency Testing

Discipline		Tests in Progress	Tests Completed	Comments	
Seized Drugs		6	0		
Toxicology		10	0		
Firearms		1	0		
Crime S	Crime Scene		0		
Latent	Latent Prints		0		
Multimedia	Audio/Video		0		
Multimedia	Digital	0	0		
Forensic Biology		23	0		





Corrective Actions, Incidents, and Preventive Actions

Quality Tracking Number	Section	Classification	Notification Date	Summary of Notification
2022-020	Biology/DNA	Incident	3/10/2022	A firearms examiner's DNA profile was found on an item of evidence. The firearms examiner had previously processed this item of evidence and it was determined to have been inadvertently accepted by the Forensic Biology laboratory.
2022-021	Biology/DNA	Incident	3/1/2022 The quantification results were reported for items whose associated reagent b were contaminated. Because the reagent blank was contaminated, no results (including quantification results) should have been reported.	
2022-023	Biology/DNA	Incident	3/29/2022	A forensic biology analyst performed a quantification without making the requested dilution for a proficiency test sample. The dilution was requested by the report writing analyst because the original quantification results could not be used due to inhibition detected in the sample. This same sample was also amplified on two different dates. The second amplification was unnecessary.
2022-025	Biology/DNA	Incident	4/14/2022	A portion of a cigarette butt was inadvertently dropped onto the floor by a screening analyst during evidence examination. The portion was packaged separately from the remainder of the item and was not submitted for DNA analysis.
2022-027	Biology/DNA	Incident	4/18/2022	Three cases were identified where CODIS profiles were discovered to have been entered into CODIS, uploaded to the state CODIS database but later were inadvertently removed from the state CODIS database.
2022-029	Biology/DNA	Incident	4/27/2022	A fingernail clipping was inadvertently dropped onto the floor by a screening analyst during evidence examination. The dropped clipping was then packaged separately from the other clippings and was not swabbed or submitted for DNA analysis.
2022-018	Crime Scene	Corrective Action	3/3/2022	A crime scene investigator mistakenly formatted her camera's SD card prior to retaining her scene photos. The photos have been determined to be unrecoverable; however, officers were able to recover surveillance video from the scene.
2022-028	Crime Scene		4/8/2022	Several technical reviewers in the Crime Scene Unit used outdated forms to document report defects.
2022-022	Firearms	Incident	3/24/2022	The firearms section did not facilitate the calibration of one of their trigger pull gauges (gauge #4) as is required by the firearms' section standard operating procedures.

HFSC'S Quality Division investigates nonconforming work and helps develop solutions in compliance with accreditation and legal standards. For the purposes of this board report, Quality tracking numbers associated to nonconformances are subject to re-assignment based upon further investigation and/or risk assessment.



Corrective Actions, Incidents, and Preventive Actions

Quality Tracking Number	Section	Classification	Notification Date	Summary of Notification		
2022-026	Firearms	Incident	4/6/2022	An original casework worksheet cannot be located by a Firearms Examiner. The missing worksheet was discovered during the technical review process and was recreated based on the examiner's case images and clearly marked that the recreated document was not the original.		
2022-019	Latent Print Section	Incident	3/9/2022	Two latent print worksheets were inadvertently retired in Qualtrax (HFSC's document control software) and therefore the controlled versions of these worksheets were not updated in accordance with the changes made to the worksheets within the JusticeTrax software.		
2022-024	Latent Print Section	Corrective Action	4/1/2022	The training records for a former Latent Print examiner were not able to be located. The records were requested by the former examiner to serve as documentation of previous experience; however Latent Print management has determined the records to be unrecoverable.		
2022-IA-02	Latent Print Section	Incident	4/19/2022	The secondary weights used to performance check the Latent Print Processing balances were not verified in 2021.		
2022-I A -03	Latent Print Section	Incident	4/19/2022	Section meeting attendance was not recorded for two meetings that occurred between August and September 2021. Attendance documentation is required by the Quality Manual.		
2022-IA-04	Latent Print Section	Incident	4/19/2022	The Latent Print section did not complete the annual review refresher training in 2021. The training is required by the Quality Manual to be completed by all staff members authorized to perform technical reviews.		
2022-IA-01	Multimedia	Incident	3/30/2022	During the 2022 internal audit, the audit team discovered that two controlled documents had surpassed a year without a documented review as required by the Quality Manual.		
2022-030	Toxicology	Incident	4/18/2022	The toxicology's section's process for updating the retention times in the data analysis software on instances where blood alcohol analysis runs were restarted after being aborted due to an instrument error was not in compliance with the section SOP. A review of all affected cases confirmed there was no impact to any reported results.		

HFSC'S Quality Division investigates nonconforming work and helps develop solutions in compliance with accreditation and legal standards. For the purposes of this board report, Quality tracking numbers associated to nonconformances are subject to re-assignment based upon further investigation and/or risk assessment.



Corrective Actions, Incidents, and Preventive Actions

Quality Tracking Number	Section	Classification	Notification Date	Summary of Notification
2022-031	Toxicology	Incident	4/27/2022	Records of the original analytical data and peripheral files such as sequence logs for batches run from April 2021 (with some exceptions) are not available for one of the Toxicology section's Headspace instruments."

HFSC'S Quality Division investigates nonconforming work and helps develop solutions in compliance with accreditation and legal standards. For the purposes of this board report, Quality tracking numbers associated to nonconformances are subject to re-assignment based upon further investigation and/or risk assessment.