



Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) – FRO

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Central Purpose

The mission of the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) is to produce high quality, timely, accurate, and reliable forensic science with the use of the best available technology and practices, unbiased science, and transparency with the overall goal of enhancing public health and safety.

Key Facts

- The Department became operational on October 1, 2012 (D.C. Code § 5-1501.02).
- The DFS is the first independent (of law enforcement) forensic agency created based on the 2009 report from the National Research Council of the National Academies of Science, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the US: A Path Forward*.
- Accreditation was mandated for the DFS by statute, and achieved for the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Division under ISO 17025 in November 2013, two months ahead of the mandated deadline.
- Accreditation for Public Health Laboratory (PHL) Division was achieved under the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) in 2013. PHL is now a Tier 1 laboratory for biological terrorism samples, one of only a handful of facilities in the nation capable of handling and testing these materials.
- DFS is located in the District's Consolidated Forensic Laboratory, a LEED Platinum facility.

Goals/Performance Measures

- Improve forensic laboratory services to stakeholders:
 - Measured through turnaround time, reports per FTE, number of quality-based corrective actions and preventative corrective actions;

- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public health laboratory services:
 - Develop and apply FORESIGHT-like measures;
- Improve evidence handling and processing at crime scenes and in the laboratories:
 - Measured through the deployment of DFS Crime Scene Sciences Unit, and the DFS Central Evidence Unit;
- Develop new forensic services to improve scientific information for public safety:
 - Measured through the launching of the Digital Evidence Unit and the Materials Analysis Unit; exploration of new laboratory service for newborn screening;
- Develop and implement the Laboratory Information Management System to provide seamless accountability and tracking of evidence from receipt to return for all DFS services;
- Achieve and maintain accreditation under International Operating Standards (ISO) 17025.

Programs/Services

- DFS provides independent analysis of evidence and samples submitted by agencies within the District of Columbia and its federal neighbors.
- The Forensic Science Laboratory Division analyzes evidence submitted from criminal cases, including DNA, fingerprints, firearms, materials, and digital evidence. The DFS also provides expert witness testimony in defense of their analytical reports in the District's courts of law.
- The Public Health Laboratory Division provides diagnostic and analytical testing for biological pathogens and chemical agents from clinical, environmental, or food sources and provides emergency response testing.
- The Crime Scene Sciences Division provides the collection, analysis, processing, and preservation of evidence found at crime scenes in the District.

- The DFS Directorate supports the work of the entire agency through strategic direction, training, quality assurance, research, recruitment and hiring of personnel, information technology, data management, fleet management, procurement, and other legal, administrative and operational support services.
- The Scientific Advisory Board is supported by DFS staff and provides guidance to DFS by providing peer review to ensure that scientifically valid protocols are developed, followed, and updated.

First Quarter CY2015 Hot Button Issue(s)

- Crime Scene Sciences Unit Deployment
Deployment of 27 FTEs by December 2014 to crime scenes will require a transition period and agreement between MPD and DFS on responsibilities at crime scenes. Unknown number of crime scenes, demands of crime scene responsibilities, and MPD requests for response may drive up DFS overtime costs, currently budgeted at \$8,500. Efforts to address limited staffing and resources are addressed in the next item.

- Crime Scene Sciences Division Staffing and Resources
The Division is comprised of Crime Scene Sciences Unit with 27 FTES, Central Evidence Unit with 9 FTES. Both operate under a 24 hours, 7 days a week schedule with 3 shifts. The staffing and resources allocated to these units are severely limited. Funding allocated to support this Division came through a Mayoral Directive in first quarter FY12, funds and FTE were approved by OCFO and OBP in December 2012. Resources such as training, uniforms, equipment, supplies, personal protective equipment, vehicles and radios were provided through various reprogramming efforts between FY13 and FY14.

[Redacted]

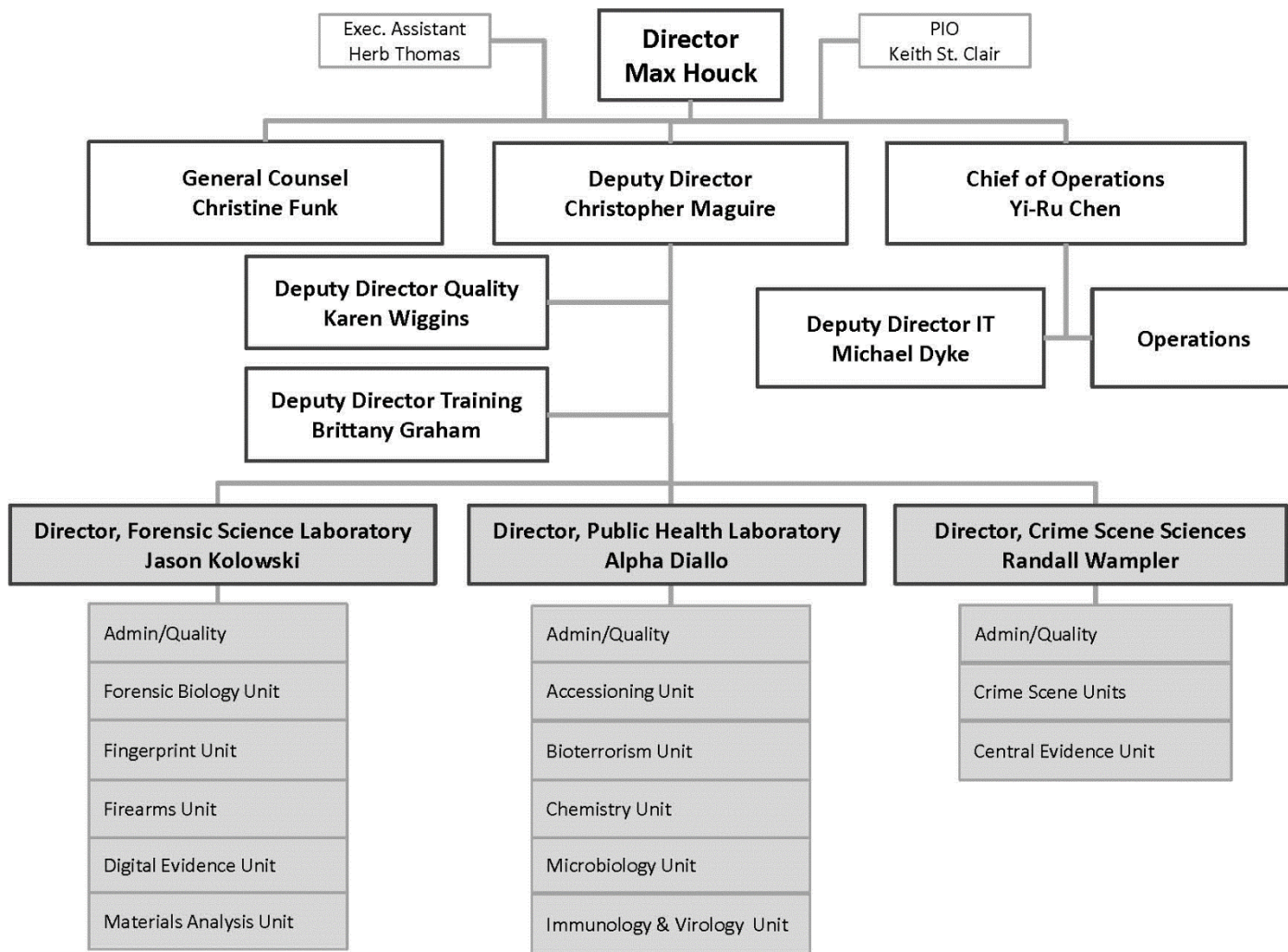
- Public Health Laboratory and the Department of Health

[Redacted]

DFS services for food surveillance, West Nile Virus, and rabies have not been finalized with DOH. This is pending DOH’s MOU proposal and requirements. FY14 MOU for DFS services was \$70,000. DFS has enough laboratory reagents to support the testing for one month.

[Redacted]

Organization Chart



Boards and Commissions relevant to the agency (if any)

Board Name	Name of Chairperson	No. of Members
Science Advisory Board	Irv Litofsky	9

Budget FY2015

Total Operating Budget	\$ 16,218,598.07
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No. of Employees

Current No. of FTEs	137
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Union Representation

Union(s)	Union Representative	No. of Members
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)	[REDACTED]	7
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)	[REDACTED]	2
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)	[REDACTED]	60

Facility Location(s)

Facility Name / ID	Address	Zip Code	Ward	Main Phone No.
Consolidated Forensic Laboratory	401 E Street, SW	20024	6	(202) 727-8267
Public Health Laboratory Annex	7 DC Village Lane, SW	20032	8	(202) 727-8267

Key Projects/Initiatives

Project/Initiative Name	Brief Description	Delivery Date
Crime Scene Sciences Unit Deployment	Upon completion of training program for Crime Scene scientists (total 27 FTEs), standard operating procedures, procurement of 5 vehicles, 17 radios, uniforms, evidence collection supplies and equipment, DFS CSS will deploy to crime scenes.	December 2014
Operationalize the Digital Evidence Unit	This is a new service start-up for DFS' stakeholders and the District to provide analysis of electronic devices and other sources of electronic information. This includes staffing the unit (total 7 FTEs), writing standard operating procedures for materials to be analyzed, and the instrumentation required.	September 2015
Operationalize the Materials Analysis Unit	This is a new service start-up for DFS' stakeholders and the District to provide analysis of manufactured materials that have significant industrial basis. This includes staffing the unit (total 3 FTEs), writing standard operating procedures for materials to be analyzed, and the instrumentation required.	September 2015

Capital Program(s)

Project Name	Budget ID	Funding Source	Project Budget	Current Balance	Delivery Date
Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)	LIM5C	Capital Funds	\$ 2,908,637.68	\$ 2,454,359.68	September 2017

Important/Significant Dates

Event	Brief Description	Delivery Date
N/A		

Key Contracts

Project Name	Vendor Name	Total Contract Value	Contract Term
Roberts Oxygen	Roberts Oxygen	\$ 35,000	March 2013 to March 2015
ISO 17025 Accreditation	FQS	\$ 7,600	March 2014 to March 2015
Department of Forensic Sciences Service Maintenance Agreements for laboratory instruments and equipment	TBD – we are submitting requisitions to OCP for review and approval for all service contracts.	\$550,000	November 2014 to September 2015

Key Agreement(s) / Memorandum(s) of Understanding

Project Name	Brief Description	Agreement Term
FY2013 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant	MOU with JGA (NIJ Grant Funds); Intended to aid in backlog reduction in the Firearms Examination Unit through the use of OT and a software tracking system. \$58,186	Oct. 2013 to March 2015
FY2014 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant	MOU with JGA (NIJ Grant Funds); Intended to aid in backlog reduction in the Firearms Examination Unit and Latent Fingerprint Unit through the use of a part-time Administrative Assistant. \$31,514.50	Oct. 2014 to Sept. 2015
2014 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases	MOU with DOH-CPPE (CDC Grant Funds); Intended to provide supply and training funds to DFS PHL to support Laboratory Capacity. \$75,545	Oct. 2014 to July 2015
FY2015 Physical Evidence Recovery Kit Processing and Data Initiative	MOU with OVS; Intended to reduce turnaround time in sexual assault kit processing through the use of two grant funded DNA analysts and one part-time legal assistant. \$191,911.60	Oct. 2014 to Sept. 2015
FY2015 Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)	MOU with DOH-HEPRA (CDC Grant Funds); Intended to insure healthcare and public health emergency preparedness capabilities are met per federal guidelines. \$240,070.01	Oct. 2014 to Sept. 2015

Grant(s) Awarded (or Pending Award) to Agency

Grant Name	Name of Grantor	Total Grant Amount	Current Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
FY2013 DNA Backlog Reduction Program	Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice	\$ 438,971	\$ 344,884.94	March 2015
FY2014 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program	Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice	\$ 458,004	\$ 458,004	Sept. 2016
Laboratory Information Management System Integration (LIMS <i>i</i>)	Association of Public Health Laboratory (CDC Funds)	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	June 2015

Active Litigation(s)

Project Name	Brief Description
N/A	

Consent Decree(s)

Project Name	Brief Description	Agreement Term
N/A		