

PROJECT TIME LINE AND POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

Additional Laboratory Personnel

1. One additional Forensic Science Examiner 1 (FSE1) in the DNA Section would be utilized primarily to be working on backlogged No-suspect cases and convicted offender processing. They would also assist in the processing of rush/overflow cases from those cases involving suspects. All Connecticut cases for which DNA analysis is required, including all crimes against persons (homicides, sexual assaults, threatening and assaults) and all property crimes are submitted to this laboratory. Results of STR and Y-STR DNA analysis have been accepted in State courts to link individuals to a particular crime, to exonerate persons not linked to physical evidence and to identify suspects in previously unsolved cases. The DNA Section has been expanding over the past several years with evidence requests as well as with the expansion of the Convicted Offender Database. This has resulted in an increase demand for DNA testing which has created a backlog in the DNA Section. The current turnaround time for laboratory cases that have not been expedited is approximately 12 months from the date of submission to the release of the final report. When a case from a submitting agency has been deemed a priority case (homicide, sexual assault, serious assault) the laboratory will prioritize an analysis, i.e. to be the next case analyzed, the turnaround time is approximately 6-8 weeks. Most physical evidence that needs DNA analysis is first sent to the Biology or Trace Sections of the Laboratory prior to going to the DNA Section. Backlogs also exist in these sections as well and a Trace Examiner will be requested as well. In 2007, the DNA Section received 1,366 requests for analysis, in 2008 they received 1,897 an increase of 28%

2. One additional Forensic Science Examiner 1 (FSE 1) in the Trace Section of the Laboratory. The Trace Section received approximately 300 requests for examinations in 2008. The additional Forensic Science Examiner would be utilized to examine evidence from cases such as fatal Hit & Run accidents, Motor Vehicle incidents, Homicides and Sexual Assaults and other crimes. Examinations range from paint comparisons, fiber identification and comparisons to hair identification and comparisons. A typical homicide case can have numerous hairs with some cases having hundreds. Also, Accreditation requires that a second examiner be qualified to conduct technical reviews on cases completed in the Trace Section. The technical reviews are currently being conducted by the Director of the Forensic Laboratory. The addition of an FSE 1 in the Trace Section would speed up the technical review process and decrease the current backlog in this section. In 2007, the Trace Section received 209 requests for analysis and in 2008 received 294 requests.
3. One additional Forensic Science Examiner 1 (FSE1) Computer Crime & Electronic Evidence Laboratory. The Connecticut ICAC taskforce has made great strides in the fight against Child Exploitation cases across the entire state. The number of investigations has increased substantially over the past several years resulting in an increase in the number of forensic examination requests. This forensic examiner would be utilized specifically to conduct forensic examinations of computers and digital media resulting from cases involving children and undercover predator investigations. The Computer Crime Section continues to average approximately 164 cases per year.

4. Three Connecticut Career Trainees (CCT's) In the Identification Section of the Forensic Laboratory consists of the Firearms Section, Fingerprint Section, Questioned Documents & Imprint Section and Photography. Over the past 10 years the amount of Forensic Science Examiners in this section has stayed the same while there has been a substantial increase in the number of cases and forensic examination requests especially in the Firearms and Fingerprint Sections. Currently, the Firearms Section has over 1000 cold hits utilizing NIBIN and the Fingerprint Section also has over 1000 cold hits utilizing the AFIS System. Due to the training requirements to become an examiner in any of these sections, we are requesting 3 Connecticut Career Trainees (CCT's) that can be trained in the various identification disciplines which includes Firearms, Fingerprints and Questioned Documents & imprints. Over the course of the next two years, they would be trained and given proficiency tests so that they can become forensic examiners in these disciplines. This position will allow recent college graduates in the forensic field with a BS Degree or MS Degree, an opportunity to receive training and experience they would not be able to receive elsewhere. Appointment to positions in this class will be for a period not to exceed a maximum of three years unless there is a change in the employing agency or designated target class.
5. Three Evidence Control Officers to coordinate and manage the flow of evidence between the three laboratories within the Division of Scientific Services (Forensic Laboratory, Toxicology & Controlled Substance Laboratory and the Computer Crime & Electronic Evidence Laboratory) and the various state and local law enforcement agencies that we serve. Currently, evidence is located in the three different laboratories as well as with the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) within the Connecticut State Police. The three

Evidence Control Officers would be responsible for coordinating the flow and inventory of narcotic evidence, weapons, vehicles and all other types of evidence from BCI to the Division of Scientific Services. At the end of 2009, the Toxicology & Controlled Substance Laboratory will be moving from its current location in Hartford to a new facility attached to the Forensic Laboratory in Meriden. Numerous pieces of evidence as well as forensic examination files and computer tracking and data entry will need to be moved as well. All narcotic evidence will be moved to an offsite facility that will also need evidence control within BCI. In 2007 7,091 requests came into the Forensic Science Laboratory and in 2008, 8,126 for an increase of 12%.

IMPLEMENTATION STEP	COMPLETED WITHIN TIME
Post Position with DAS	1 month
Silicate Applications	1 month
Interviews/Hiring	2-3 months
Train	3-6 months
Proficiency tested	6-9 months