Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

AAFS UPDATE 2019
The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

• AAFS
• ASCLD
• AAPL
• IAI
• NAME
• SOFT/ABFT

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

- American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) joined
Budget Efforts
FY19
(October 18-September 19)

• $30m in Coverdell funding (11m above authorization)
• $3m in funding for NIST OSAC
• $130m in DNA funding
• $48m SAKI
• $3m CARA
• Fully fund Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOS) for 50 states
Legislative Efforts Highlights
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

• Authorization expired/reauthorization introduced Feb 14, 2019
  • Provided edits on DNA capacity and enhancement language
  • Continue to work on language
Legislative Efforts Highlights
Debbie Smith Reauthorization

• Authorization expired/reauthorization introduced
  • Participated in Senate hearing July 18, 2018
  • Invited to testify in House hearing (hearing did not occur)
  • Gathered data from laboratories and sexual assault nurses re: collection
  • Continue dialogue regarding language in GAO report
Other Legislative Efforts Highlights

• Bill passed in support of National Forensic Science Week
• TAPS Act
• Justice Served Act (clarifying language in SAFER)
• Megan Rodini Sexual Assault Victims Protection Act
• Survivors Bill of Rights (DOJ panel)
• Migrant Bill
• Juvenile Justice Bill
Legislative Efforts Ongoing—FY2020

Appropriations
• Budget to be released second week of March
• CFSO actively meeting with appropriators
Legislative Efforts Highlights

Multiple meetings in Washington DC which included:

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

Multiple meetings in Washington DC which included:

• NIJ, DOJ, BJA, OVW, OAG, ODAG, NHTSA, OMB, GAO, NIST, CDC.
• House Science Committee staff (support of OSAC and general overview)
• Multiple meetings on forensic needs assessment at DOJ
• At least four listening sessions at GAO regarding DNA funding, opioid issues, OFS/Coverdell
Position Papers and Letters of Support Highlights

• Facilitated a “Dear Colleague Letter” to the AG signed by 32 members of the US Senate.

• Facilitated multiple bipartisan “Dear Colleague Letters” to CDC Director regarding issues surrounding Medical Examiner and Toxicology issues.

• Compiled a list of all federal opioid bills and circulated
CFSO Presentations:

- Congressional Tours at DCFS lab (40 staffers)
- Provided webinar on Coverdell (JFAA changes)
- Provided a membership webinar on CEBR changes
- ABA meeting at Fordham Law School (NYC)
- NAAG meeting in D.C.
- Various national and regional forensic science meetings
- Met with CDC/DOJ/NHTSA/DOT regarding data collection
- SAKI webinar
- National Governor Association briefings
The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), in partnership with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) at RTI International (Research Triangle Institute), has formed the Forensic Laboratory Needs - Technology Working Group (FLN-TWG). The FLN-TWG will support NIJ’s mission to improve knowledge and understanding of the forensic technology needs of federal, state, local, and tribal forensic practitioners and crime laboratories.
Value of Partnership

• Accreditation Initiative (ASCLD/IAI)
• Puerto Rico (ASCLD/AAFS Anthropology/NAME)
• ISO TAG (AAFS ASB/ASCLD/IAI?)
• Data Sharing Initiative at CDC/DOJ/DOT
• Opioid Working Groups (AAFS, NAME, ASCLD)
• Trauma and Stress Working Group (ASCLD/AAPL)
OSAC 2.0

Presently OSAC 1.0
Request for Information on the Development of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science 2.0

A Notice by the National Institute of Standards and Technology on 08/30/2017

AGENCY:
National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION:
Notice; request for information.

SUMMARY:
The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) established the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science in 2013 as part of a larger effort to strengthen forensic science in the United States. NIST has primary responsibility to support the OSAC process. This Notice seeks input from the forensic science community on the OSAC process for Forensic Science 2.0.
Resources

• Visit our website: CFSO.org

• Watch for newsletters and emails from CFSO
Things to watch for:

- GAO Report (March 2019)
- Forensic Needs Assessment (May 2019)
- Federal Budget Release (March 2019)
- Fordham Law School Training (May 2019)
- FLN-TWG Meetings
- National Forensic Science Week (September 2019)
Ten year anniversary of the NAS Report

- NCFS
- OSAC
- Black Box Studies
- SoFS
- FTCoE
- Needs Assessment
- AAAS Reports
- PCAST Report
- GAO Reports

- NIJ/NIST Investments in R&D
- NIJ/BJA Grant Funding Increases
- DAG Forensic Science Advisor
- FLN-TWG
- Increased Congressional Interest
- Interest from other Federal Agencies
- Higher Prioritization by Federal Government
- More Accreditation and Certification