

COLD CASE TASK FORCE

**August 11, 2017
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Present: Deputy Executive Director Bec Spiess, Director Michael Rankin, Deputy Director Jan Girten, Deputy Director Ted Mink, Assistant Director Katie Fetherston, Audrey Simkins, Tara Wrysec, Sarah Chaikin, Rob Wells, Beth Buchholtz, Paul Blee, Ramona Blee, Sandy Lowther, Laura Saxton, Sean Gruno, Laurie Galvan, Melissa Kraker, Austin Budd, Silvia Pettem, Jim Bullock, Mark Hurlbert, Tim Garner, Dawn Weber, Doug Stephens, Bonnie Guzman, Gary Scott and Paula Williams

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Mike Rankin opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. He thanked everyone for their attendance.

CBI UPDATES

Cold Case Database

The database continues to be a work in progress with nearly 1700 cases. We are reviewing each case at this time to ensure we have a good clear case narrative and all of the necessary information has been collected and is available in the database. At the end of each calendar year we contact agencies across the state to determine if any cases need to be added, removed, or edited.

Playing Cards

In June we received a new shipment of playing cards. This was just a reprint of Deck 1 and Deck 4. Most of the decks have been distributed to local law enforcement and DOC and will be available in their facilities.

Since the last meeting we have received 78 tips on the tip line and this does not include any tips where the facility reached out to the investigating agency or the DA directly.

We are compiling cases to be added to Deck 5. If you have a case that you would like to be added to the deck please let Audrey Simkins know. We are also in the process of adding a photo of the playing card to the Cold Case Database which can be viewed by looking at the photos in each case. The cards have also expanded to the Netherlands

Forensic Services

Arrestee samples collected since inception 339,510

Arrestee samples in CODIS 210,426
Convicted Offender samples in CODIS 192,200
Total Hits from the Arrestee Samples 4044
Total Expungements 640

We continue to receive CODIS hits in a variety of cases from Homicide to property crimes

We are working towards a new technology called Rapid DNA. Rapid DNA produces a DNA profile in 93 minutes. There are a lot of steps that are being taken to make this emerging technology a reality from both a technological standpoint and legal/court. An example of where this technology could be used would be in a mass disaster event. The use of this technology is also being explored for use in a booking station. Current legislation requires a person be charged before their DNA can be searched in the CODIS database. The DNA Education Act of 1994 might need to be changed.

The Rapid DNA works really well with single source samples but it is not good for mixtures and case work samples. DNA testing is very expensive and normally takes about 5 days. Using the Rapid DNA is very cost effective but may not be the best for all circumstances.

COLD CASE REVIEW TEAM

The Cold Case Review Team met in May and reviewed 2 cases. Although, I do not have an exact date confirmed I am working with 2 agencies on upcoming presentations to the Cold Case Review Team. I expect the next meeting to be held October/November time-frame.

We have expanded our cases to fit the 1 year mark in missing person if the agency feels they have exhausted all possibilities.

The Brees would like to see more done with their case. They would like to see their case presented at review team. CBI will reach out to the agency and inform them of the review team.

MISSING IN CO EVENT

The Event will be held this Saturday, August 12, 2017 at the Lowry Conference Center located at 1061 Akron Way, Bldg, 697, Denver, CO . The event will be held from 10 - 4. Those setting up should plan to arrive at 9. There will be a briefing for those assisting in the event at 9:30.

We have about 20 people signed up to attend the luncheon that Ramona and Paul Blee graciously are willing to facilitate and then we have about 40 or so volunteers.

The CBI is covering the rental fees for the venue and a few ancillary items. Food and refreshments will be covered by private donations.

COLD CASE TASK FORCE SUNSET

Gabby Reed the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) Liaison provided an overview of the Sunset process. The Cold Case Task Force (TF) is set to Sunset in 2019. The review process begins 18 – 24 months before the repeal date and will last about a year. In preparation for the Sunset Review the Department of Regulatory Agency (DORA) is in the process of assigning an auditor to facilitate this review. It is likely the auditor will begin attending our TF meetings in November 2017. Part of the review process will be reaching out to members of the task force and talking about our processes and what the task force has to offer. The nature of the sunset review is to determine what things we are doing well and identify any areas of weakness. The 2018 Sunset report will be reviewed by CDPS and TF staff will be able to review the report and any recommendations before it is made public. Then in 2019 that piece of legislation will be introduced. Members of the TF are willing to come to the capital if needed to show support.

RECENT SUCCESSES

CBI along with the Gunnison County Sheriff's Office recovered remains of a missing male. They continue to investigate this case.

Mark Redwine, the father of Dylan Redwine was taken into custody in the last few weeks. This was a case that was presented to the Cold Case Review Team and also to a Grand Jury. There was no real magic key in resolving this case but the persistence on the part of the investigating agency was key as well as making sure that all leads identified were followed up. This was a joint effort between local LE/DA the victim family to bring some resolution to this case.

Boulder County Sheriff Greg Testa added they recovered the remains of a male who had been missing a year and a half ago.

Rob Wells thanked Sheriff Testa for their continuing efforts in his brothers' case.

Dora Lee Larson mentioned legislation regarding Domestic Violence. She indicated they would be accessing additional information and collaborating with CBI. They are also in the process of setting up several review boards. They will be looking for interested volunteers with experience related to domestic violence.

OPEN FORUM

FOHVAMP will be holding their Annual Meeting October 21, 2017 at Brittany Hill. The Agenda consists of the following;

Frank Birgfeld will present the Keynote address
Panel discussion regarding the Birgfeld case Lessons Learned
CBI and SO invited to attend
Will include a media panel

FOHVAMP is also planning a Unity in the Community in Longmont, CO. There will be music and food trucks. FOHVAMP is also partnering with a group to handle translation of documents from English to Spanish.

FOHVAMP has an intern conducting research on a Mississippi case using open source information to see if they can assist in moving this case forward.

Paul Blee inquired about “How do we go about getting the case to the review team?” It was suggested that they continue to work through their local LE as well as the DA to see if they are interested.

Director Rankin will be leaving the CBI in the next month and then Deputy Director Ted Mink will be retiring in November. Director Rankin expressed his thanks to members of the Task Force for all that you have done for LE and we appreciate your passion and commitment.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held November 3, 2017 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at 690 Kipling Street, Denver, CO 80215 in the first floor conference room.