# COLD CASE TASK FORCE

**November 3, 2017**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Present: Interim Director Ted Mink, Assistant Director Katie Fetherston, Audrey Simkins, Tara Wrysec, Beth Buchholtz, Paul Blee, Ramona Blee, Sandy Lowther, Laura Saxton, Sean Gruno, Jim Bullock, Mark Hurlbert, Doug Stephens, Craig Scott, Matt Clark, Jillian Ganley, Gretchen Gebhardt, Raegan Pyles, Avery-Grace Blanco, Lucy Hooper, Angela Lowther, Amber Reese, Saul Larsen, Paul Goodman and Paula Williams**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

* Ted Mink opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. He thanked everyone for their attendance. The recent FOHVAMP meeting was a great success and a job well done. Tara Wrysec will relay that information to Rob Wells since he was unable to attend this meeting.

**CBI UPDATES**

**Cold Case Database**

The database contains information regarding unresolved cases dating back to 1970. We have 1742 cases in the database and they can be broken down in the following way:

Homicide – 1346

Long-Term Missing – 365

Unidentified Remains – 29

Other - 2

We are in the process of reviewing each case in the database to verify that information is complete with demographic information and photographs for each victim. We also continue to work on the archive project with the Laboratory. This project requires a review of all of the laboratory files since inception through 1995. We are in the process of creating a list of all homicides, long term missing and unidentified remains cases that the CBI was involved in. Once we have reviewed all of the files we will then conduct research to determine of those cases identified which are unresolved. Contact will be made with the investigating agencies to confirm the “Open” status and then those cases will be added to the Cold Case database.

The next step in our process will be to begin adding all unresolved homicide cases contained in the Cold Case Database to ViCAP. We plan to begin entering these cases into the system in the next 6 – 9 months.

**Playing Cards**

This program has been in place since October of 2014. We have created 4 decks and are getting ready to create Deck #5. We have had a total of approximately 300 tips from this program in the last year with 78 of those tips coming in since the last meeting. Although we have not yet closed a cold case due solely to the playing card program there are cases which have been closed through other means since the program began. Two of these cases were out of the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office and involved Rebecca Bartee and Derek Graham.

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.

**Cold Case Review Team**

The Cold Case Review Team has met several times this past year. We are in the planning stages for the next meeting which should occur in November or December. We have 2 agencies that are interested in presenting their cases and 2 more that are considering presenting.

**Cold Case Training**

Cold Case training has been scheduled in 2018 for February and for June. This year we were able to secure funds through the POST Grant. The training will tentatively be held on the following dates:

February 6-7 or 7-8

June 5-6 or 6-7

The February training class will be held at the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office at the south sub-station. The June training will be held at the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office.

**Sunset Review**

The Cold Case Task Force is scheduled to Sunset in July of 2019. The task force last went through the Sunset process in 2012. Our auditor from the Department of Regulatory Agency (DORA) is Saul Larsen. His contact information is saul.larsen@state.co.us and 303-894-2996.

**Forensic Services**

Since inception Stats:

Arrestee samples collected 412,136

Arrestee samples in CODIS 218.364

Convicted Offender samples in CODIS 193,772

Year to Date Stats:

Total received 53097 (not all in CODIS)

Arrestees in CODIS 26,689

Convicted offenders in CODIS 5,869

Turnaround time is 7 days after charges are attached.

Hits YTD:  
Total 1110

Arrestee only 571

Types of Crimes Offenders Hit YTD:  
Property Crimes (not burglary) 351

Burglary 279

Sex Crimes 241

Robbery 81

Homicide 37

The grant funding for the mitochondrial DNA program at the University of North Texas (UNT) has been reinstated.

Crime scene training next year will be slightly different. There will be two different trainings offered. One of the trainings will be for newer crime scene investigators and one will be more involved. Three sessions of each type of training will be offered.

**Recent Successes**

Mark Hurlbert reported a success for the 18th Judicial District. In 1995, a person was found murdered in Aurora and they now have a person in custody. CBI assisted with this case.

Jim Bullock reported a success for the 16th Judicial District. There was a case involving 2 high school girls that went missing in 1982 and a person of interest has been identified. They may be able to close this case soon.

In Denver, Shawn Winkler was arrested for the 1978 murder of Van Rogers.

**Open Forum**

Tara Wrysec reported on the annual FOHVAMP meeting which was a big success. Tara also represented FOHVAMP at the COVA conference. The co-victims are very interested in having missing person’s workshops at the COVA meeting. Audrey mentioned this was covered at the conference 2 years ago.

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

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be held February 2, 2018 from 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM at 690 Kipling Street, Denver, CO 80215 in the first floor conference room.