# COLD CASE TASK FORCE

**May 4, 2018**

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Present: Director John Camper, Deputy Director Jan Girten, AIC Rachel Harmon, AIC Kirby Lewis, Audrey Simkins, Hazel Heckers, Jessica Filipeli, Rob Wells, Beth Buchholtz, Paul Blee, Ramona Blee, Sandy Lowther, Angela Lowther, Sean Gruno, Avery-Grace Blanco, Greg Testa, Gary Scott, Sean Clifford, John Kellner, Melissa Kraker and Paula Williams**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

* Director Camper opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Introductions were made around the table. Meeting minutes from the last meeting were approved.

**CBI UPDATES**

**Cold Case Database**

As always, the Cold Case Database continues to be a work in progress. We are constantly adding new cases and updated case details. To date, these are the numbers in the database:

Homicide – 1348

Long-Term Missing – 328

Unidentified Remains – 29

Other - 3

Total - 1708

Last meeting we talked about adding images of the Cold Case Playing Cards to the database. This is still in process and is being worked on.

**Cold Case Training Class – POST Grant Funded**

Training was held on May 1 and May 2 and there were 15 people in attendance. We have received good feedback on the training and Silvia was able to present.

We are looking into the possibility of working with the County Sheriff’s of Colorado to jointly request additional grant funds.

**Playing Cards**

We are about halfway through with creating Deck #5. Our budget is very tight at this point and we will be looking at printing this deck during the next fiscal year.

We have had about 100 tips since the last meeting from the playing cards.

**Cold Case Review Team**

The next date for the Cold Case Review Team to meet is Tuesday, June 5th. A long term missing case will be presented for a woman missing since 1980.

**Forensic Services**

Stats for January – April of 2018:

Total Arrestee samples collected 21,976

Total Arrestee samples profiled and entered into CODIS 11,936

Total Convicted samples profiled and entered into CODIS 2,306

Total Offenders in CODIS 14,244

Types of Crime Scene Evidence:  
Property Crimes (not burglary) 308

Burglary\* 143

Sex Crimes 112

Robbery 34

Homicide 13

\*The burglary numbers are in addition to property crimes, not broken out from property crimes

We are still working on familial DNA. We have had 17 requests. The status of these is:

4 searches are complete

3 are ready to start the process

3 were denied (mixture, CODIS hit, has a suspect)

2 are waiting for DA approval

3 have the cases be researched

2 are in the regional labs

Rapid DNA – We are testing instruments from 2 different vendors right now. The only legal way to use them is at the booking stations. We can’t process without charges in Colorado.

**Recent Successes**

The Ashanti Act was introduced during the 2018 legislative session in the state of Virginia. The Ashanti Act, if passed, would create a Virginia Critically Missing Adult Alert Program. This Alert would be similar to the Endangered Missing Person Alert already active in Colorado.

In the state of Utah, Rosie’s Bill is being introduced and it looks like it will be passed. Rosie’s Bill would require Utah law enforcement to create a statewide cold case database. The bill was named after 6 year old Rosie Tapia who disappeared from her Salt Lake City home in 1996. Audrey has been in contact with members of Utah State Police sharing information about what is being done in Colorado.

**Open Forum**

* John Camper let the group know that Dr. Amy Martin has submitted her resignation to the group. We would like to get a replacement for her and may reach out to the Coroners Association.
* The Sunset Review was discussed. This review will help determine whether this task force will continue. Saul Larsen has met with many people in the group and others in the group are encouraged to speak with him.
* Director Camper discussed the CBI's efforts to develop a legislative Decision Item requesting an active Cold Case Team.  It is very early in the process, but we will keep you posted on how it is coming and when active support from Task Force members would be helpful.
* Director Camper was contacted by Sheriff Masters after he was approached by a TV producer about getting a case on an upcoming program. Rob Wells reported that we have had some leads come up from a few of these programs. Chief Testa has done quite a few of these programs over the years and they profiled a trafficking case last year. This report resulted in charges. Rob Wells offered his group’s help in vetting these requests to determine which programs are good avenues to get information distributed. They can also assist families and help to explain what may happen with the reporting.
* Chief Testa reported that Boulder County has 5 homicide trials scheduled for this spring. They just got a conviction in the case that spanned into Arkansas. Chief Testa thanked the CBI staff for all of the work they do.
* The 18th judicial asked if our familial DNA only searched our state database. It currently only searches our state database but we are working on getting a process set up to search other state’s databases too.
* Sean Gruno would like to give his input on the idea of a Cold Case team. Rob Wells offered for Sean to go to Washington, DC with him in December to work on this.
* Mr. Blee wanted an update on whether his daughter’s case will go to the review team.
* Kirby Lewis reported that the CBI is assisting the Houston PD with a case. The suspect is here in Colorado. They are also assisting with Montana and Northern California cases too.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be held August 3, 2018 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at 690 Kipling Street, Denver, CO 80215 in the first floor conference room