# COLD CASE TASK FORCE

**November 2, 2018**

**10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Present: Director John Camper, Deputy Director Chris Schaefer, Deputy Director Jan Girten, AIC Rachel Harmon, AIC Carrie Davis, Audrey Simkins, Beth Buchholtz, Dan Seidel, Linda Banovich, Hazel Heckers, Bobbie Jo Martinez, Paul Blee, Ramona Blee, Sean Gruno, Sandy Lowther, Elaine Moon, Silvia Pettem, 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**

* We still have a few membership roles that need to be filled but we are waiting on individuals to be appointed
* A decision item was submitted to build a Cold Case team. We were not completely successful but hope to work with the new administration to revisit this.
* Laura Saxton was presented with an award for her work with missing persons and cold cases at the annual CBI awards ceremony

**Cold Case Database**

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

Homicide – 1347

Long-Term Missing – 325

Unidentified Remains – 29

Other - 3

Total – 1704

At the end of each calendar year we send messages through the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) encouraging law enforcement agencies to submit cases that have aged to 3 years since the crime occurred. CBI will have interns checking on cases.

We also pull a report each year for active missing person and unidentified records in Colorado. These cases are reviewed and we try to make contact with law enforcement agencies to get a short case narrative and a photo of the victim to add to the database.

**Cold Case Training Class**

We are not applying to POST for the grant this year. We will have two classes next year. One will be in February and one will be in June. They will both be in the metro area.

**Playing Cards**

We are still collecting cases for Deck #5. The other decks are still out in the facilities. There are 2 requirements for creating the cards. First, the law enforcement agency must be on board with the request. Then, we must have a photo of the victim.

**Cold Case Review Team**

The last meeting of the Cold Case Review team was held in June 2018. During this meeting the Chaffee County Sheriff’s office presented the 1980 disappearance of Beverly England. Several agencies are preparing cases for the next meeting but the date for this has not been set yet.

**October 1 - JBC Report**

Each year the CBI is required to create an annual report outlining the highlights and accomplishments of the Cold Case Task Force for the year.  This year we highlighted the following:

Cold Case Review Team

Cold Case Playing Cards

Sunset Reviews

Requests for Assistance (Investigative and Forensic)

Cold Case Database

Successes

An electronic copy was emailed to each of you.

**Cold Case Sunset Review**

As many of you know the Department of Regulatory Affairs completed a Sunset Review of the Cold Case Task Force and the CBI Cold Case Team.

This initial legislation was passed in July 2007 and created the Cold Case Task Force, The Cold Case Team at the CBI and required the creation of the Cold Case Database.

This legislation again went under a Sunset Review in 2012.  From this review they added a forensic pathologist to the Cold Case Task Force.  That was the only change made that year.

The Sunset Review is complete for this year and legislation will be introduced in January to continue the Cold Case Task Force and the CBI Cold Case Team for a number of years into the future.  We do not anticipate any other changes this year.

A copy of the Sunset Review was emailed to you.

**Forensic Services**

Stats for January –October of 2018:

Total Arrestee samples collected 46,566

Total Arrestee samples profiled and entered into CODIS 29,305

Total Convicted samples profiled and entered into CODIS 5,034

Total Offenders in CODIS 34,339

Types of Crime Scene Evidence:  
Property Crimes (not burglary) 614

Sex Crimes 241

Homicide 37

We had 42 hits from AFIS last month.

We have stopped doing touch DNA from property crimes because we have not had a high success rate with this.

Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) would be a valuable tool for cold cases or cases with degraded DNA. Next year we plan to apply for a grant with NIJ for this.

**Recent Successes**

Rachel Harmon and Katie Fetherston attended a press conference in September for the Mary Lynne Vialpondo case. Ms. Vialpando was murdered in 1988 and a DNA match was made 30 years, 3 months and 16 days after the crime. The suspect has been identified and arrested.

Another recent success was the DNA match from the 1984 case involving the murders of the Bennett family in Aurora and of Patricia Smith in Lakewood.

**Open Forum**

* The FOHVAMP conference was recently held. The turnout was not what they were hoping for and they plan to explore moving next year’s meeting to September to avoid potential issues with the weather. The meeting was well received by those that attended. Video that was taken at the meeting is being edited and will be distributed soon.
* FOHVAMP is planning to bring in interns that will work on getting case information and also work on the database. Their plan is to contact law enforcement agencies to gather missing information. Audrey would like to help coordinate this outreach to make sure we are not duplicating efforts when contacting these agencies.
* Paul Blee would like to know when their case will go to the Cold Case Review team. John Camper will follow up on this.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be held May 3, 2019 from 1:00PM – 3:00 PM at 690 Kipling Street, Denver, CO 80215 in the first floor conference room