

Cold Case Task Force Meeting
May 6, 2022
10:00 AM – 12 Noon
In-Person/ Virtual - Google Meet

Present: Director Camper, Deputy Director Chris Schaefer, Audrey Simkins, Chief Douglas Stephens, Kirby Lewis, Hazel Heckers, Sarah Chaikin, Chief Dan Mc Caskey, Sheriff Steve Reams, Ken Kupfner, Silvia Pettem, Byron Kastilahn, Rob Shapiro, Sean Gruno, Sheriff Bill Masters, Paul and Ramona Blee, Sean Clifford, Matt Clark, Lance Allen, Bobbie Jo Martinez, Melissa Mc Gaw, and Melissa Kraker.

Introductions

This meeting was held virtually via google meet and in-person in the 1st floor conference room.

Director Camper talked about an opportunity the CBI has to put forth a Decision Item (DI) that will right size the CBI. This will allow the CBI to gain more personnel to accomplish the tasks that we are legislatively required to complete and offer assistance to our law enforcement partners. We are hopeful that during this process there might be an opportunity to create a full-time Cold Case Unit staffed with laboratory personnel and investigators.

CBI Updates

Cold Case Database –

Stats

Homicide 1351
Missing Persons 405
Unidentified Remains 87
Other 3
Total 1846

We continue efforts to update the Cold Case Database. Specifically, we are in the process of adding the missing person cases which have now aged to 3 years since the date the subject went missing.

We continue to review old cases that we have identified during our archive project to identify cases which may be candidates to be reviewed in the future with the changes in technology.

NAMUS – National Missing Unidentified Person System

NAMUS has recently begun a program which would allow agencies to request the use of forensic genetic genealogy in unidentified remains cases where the cause and manner of death is believed to be a homicide. NAMUS will then review those cases to determine if they will be

approved for Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG). If they are approved, then NAMUS would cover the cost of the analysis.

Investigations and Forensic Services are working collaboratively to identify cases that might be appropriate for FGG. They meet once a month to review the progress of the cases identified the previous month.

Cold Case Training -

It seems COVID is mostly in the rear-view mirror, and we are looking to schedule training for sometime this fall September/October.

Cold Case Playing Cards -

After more closely reviewing our budget, the CBI was unable to locate enough funds to reprint Deck 1 and 2. We will continue to monitor the budget for future opportunities. We are hopeful the DI may provide funds to create a new deck of playing cards in the future.

Cold Case Review Team -

The Cold Case Review Team did not meet this quarter.

Missing in Colorado Event –

The event has been scheduled for Saturday, August 13, 2022, and will be held at the Lowry Conference Center from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The committee continues to meet regarding the event. We have invited members of the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) to be part of this year's event. The agenda for the event will be as follows;

9:00 AM – Welcome and prayer

9:05 AM – Director Camper will welcome those in attendance and provide some opening remarks

9:10 AM – Dustin Driscoll will provide a brief overview of the National Missing and Unidentified Person System (NAMUS) and will discuss upcoming system enhancements

9:30 AM – 12 Noon - Attendees will be invited to visit the Vendor Suite to learn more about various resources available for use with missing person cases

CBI/NCMEC/Unidentified Remains Presentation/Boulder County Coroner/Facial Reconstruction/Claymation/Age progressed sketches

Attendees will be invited to meet with investigators to discuss their missing loved ones case. There will also be a room set up where family members can provide medical, dental, and photographs to be scanned and added to the case file. Biologically related family members will also be encouraged to provide a family reference buccal swab.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Family Support Luncheon – Family only

Forensic services

Pueblo Regional Lab Director Shawn West provided the updates.

CODIS Numbers-

8,008 Total Samples Received (approx. 2,669 per month)
4,989 Number of Samples profiled (approx. 1,663 per month)

Of those samples profiled
4,270 - Arrestee samples
719 - Convicted Offender samples

Total number Offenders - 552,573
Arrestee - 340,537
Convicted Offenders including Juvenile Offenders - 212,036

Colorado has the 10th largest database in the US including the Federal Database.

The offender database has seen a significant decrease in the number of offenders submitted during the pandemic.

Total CODIS Hits for the Quarter - 669 (approx. 223 per month) this is a large increase.

351 of hits are related to property crimes cases
115 of hits are related to burglary cases
67 of hits are related to sex crimes cases
18 of hits are related to homicide cases
53 of hits are related to robbery cases

We have seen an increase in the number of hits this quarter. It is normal to see about 100 hits a month and we are well over that for this quarter.

Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG)

In 2020, the laboratory purchased a piece of equipment called a Next Generation Sequencer (NGS). This technology would allow the CBI to process the SNP testing used in forensic genetic genealogy in house at no additional cost. Unfortunately, there have been several delays in the implementation of this equipment based on the availability and compatibility of the kits. We are still awaiting a resolution. Once the correct kits are available, we can begin the implementation and validation.

As you know, we have a Temp Aide working on these cases. Currently, she is working on 6 cases. We are in the process of creating a Full Time Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogist (FIGG) position.

Recent Successes/Open Forum-

The identification of 1994 Windy Point Jane Doe as Susan Hoppes.

Lakewood Police Department's conviction in the 1984 homicide of Patricia Smith.

Next Meeting-

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 12, 2022. This meeting will be held at 690 Kipling Street in the first floor conference room.