

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

CATEGORY V:ENHANCING FORENSIC & CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

A. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Use of the new employees to assist and conduct forensic analysis and to maintain evidentiary control over this evidence will take place at the Forensic Science Laboratory. This plan will be implemented within the time period of the grant according to the time table below. The Division of Scientific Services and the Connecticut Department of Public Safety possess sufficient personnel and resources to implement this plan and achieve a successful conclusion.

IMPLEMENTATION STEP	COMPLETED WITHIN TIME
Post Position with DAS	1 month
Silicate Applications	1 month
Interviews/Hiring	2-3 months
Train	3-6 months
Proficiency tested	6-9 months

B. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Since the purpose of this project is to aid in the turnaround time of forensic evidence submitted to the laboratory and better serve crime scene and other law enforcement investigators, the success of this program will be measured by: (1) comparing the number of cases submitted to the laboratory for forensic analysis prior to the implementation with the number submitted after the implementation:(2) the number of cases assigned to or assisted by the new employees: (3) the comparison of case turnaround time before and after implementation:(4) the number of new hits

resulted from the increase of cases entered into CODIS/AFIS/NIBIN:(5) the number of total cases cleared within the time frame of the implementation of this project.

C. TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES

CAPABILITIES/COMPETENCIES

The Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of Scientific Services Forensic Science Laboratory provides full forensic service to investigators from all municipalities, fire marshals, the State Police, other State Agencies, States Attorneys, Public Defenders and various federal agencies within the state. The Division of Scientific Services is vital in maintaining the chain of evidence once items are submitted to the Forensic Science Laboratory for forensic analysis. This includes utilizing Evidence Control Officers to account for and log in every single piece of evidentiary material that comes into the Division of Scientific Services. The Evidence Control Officers utilize an internal computer evidence tracking system called LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System). The Division of Scientific Services provides forensic analysis in multiple forensic disciplines including but not limited to DNA analysis, Trace evidence analysis, Computer analysis, Firearms & Tool mark analysis, Fingerprint processing and comparison and Questioned Document analysis. The personnel in these sections with other laboratory examiners possess the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully implement this program.

The Identification Section of the Forensic Laboratory consists of the Firearms & Tool marks Section, Fingerprint Section and Questioned Document Section as well as several other sections. The Identification Section is under the direction of a unit supervisor (FSE 3) and an Assistant Director. All of these examiners as well as supervisors have extensive experience in their field of

expertise in forensic analysis and crime scene investigations and would be able to successfully train a Connecticut Career Trainee in each of their areas. The experience and expertise of these members of the Forensic Laboratory is reflected in the quality and extent of their testimony and work as expert witnesses and their participation in regional, national and international professional groups, particularly the International Association for Identification. Examiners in the Identification Section of the Forensic Laboratory also participate on national advisory boards and are well aware of current applications in crime scene investigation and other law enforcement initiatives.

The Connecticut State Police (CSP) and the Division of Scientific Services Forensic Science Laboratory have successfully administered numerous grants offered by the office of Justice Programs. They have appropriate authority and the experience with State and Department of Public Safety protocols, procedures to successfully implement this program as outlined. The CSP is the designated lead coordinator of grants for the Department of Public Safety. The administrative function of this grant will be coordinated by the grants manager at the Forensic Science Laboratory. The Director, Assistant Director and the Unit Supervisor will oversee the technical, educational and day to day operations for the Forensic Laboratory.

D. OUTCOMES, EVALUATIONS & SUSTAINMENT

The goals of the Byrne Grant are outlined in Table II and are associated with the appropriate performance measures as listed. The effectiveness of the program will be demonstrated by the expected outcomes as percent increases and decreases as noted. The Unit Supervisor, Assistant Director along with the grants manager will collect the data and conduct comparisons with the data prior to and after the implementation of the program.

The Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory is the only forensic laboratory in the state of Connecticut that provides Identification, Criminalistics and DNA services. Currently the Forensic Laboratory serves 174 local police departments, 20 State Police Troops and Specialized investigative units, 189 fire departments and fire marshal's offices, state's attorneys, public defenders and other State agencies. In addition, the laboratory provides services to other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in Connecticut, the New England area and around the United States. The Connecticut Forensic Laboratory received its initial accreditation by ASCLD-LAB in February 2001 and was reaccredited in February 2006 (Certificate #228)

The Division of Scientific Services is within the Connecticut Department of Public Safety and receives its authority through the Connecticut General Statutes.

Connecticut General Statute 29-7b Division of Scientific Services (a) There shall be within the Department of Public Safety a Division of Scientific Services. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall serve as administrative head of such division, and may delegate jurisdiction over the affairs of such division to a deputy commissioner.

(b) The Division of Scientific Services shall provide technical assistance to law enforcement agencies in the various areas of scientific investigations. The division shall maintain facilities and services for the examination and analysis of evidentiary materials in areas including, but not limited to, chemistry, arson, firearms, questioned documents, microscopy, serology, toxicology, trace evidence, latent fingerprints, impressions and other similar technology.

(c) The Division of Scientific Services: (1) May investigate any physical evidence or evidentiary material related to a crime upon the request of any federal, state or local agency, (2)

may conduct or assist in the scientific field investigation at the scene of a crime and provide other technical assistance and training in the various fields of scientific criminal investigation upon request, (3) shall assure the safe custody of evidence during examination, (4) shall forward a written report of the results of an examination of evidence to the agency submitting such evidence, (5) shall render expert court testimony when requested and (6) shall conduct ongoing research in the areas of the forensic sciences.

A review of the Forensic Science Laboratory case examination process was conducted to identify those areas that could be enhanced to improve better services to our clientele and to the citizens of Connecticut. The following areas are sections that could be enhanced by an increase in personnel to improve turn-around time and decrease backlogs by conducting more forensic analysis.