



The ~~Effectiveness~~ Efficacy of Crime Lab Oversight

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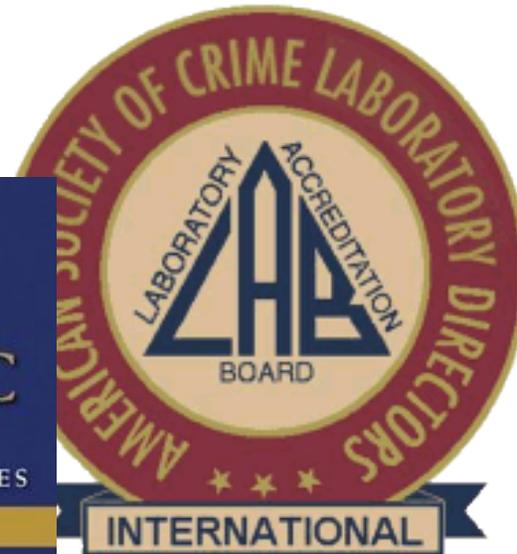
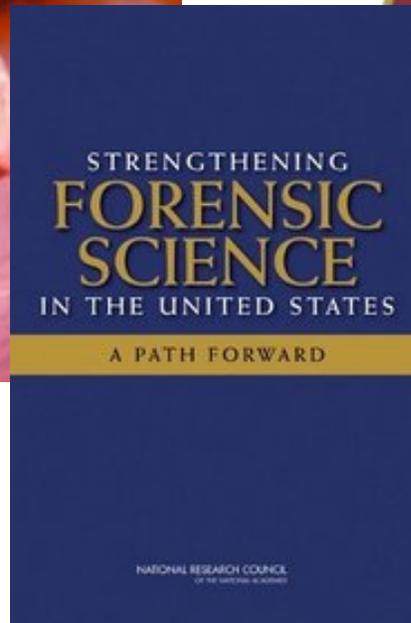


The Tenents of Forensic Science

- Stakeholders are adversarial
 - Truth v. Justice
- Knowledge work
 - Insulted, degraded and contaminated raw materials that has to be turned into “perfect” information
- High Reliability Organizations
 - Crime Labs must succeed in avoiding catastrophes in an environment where normal mistakes and errors can occur with grave consequences

Oversight... Really?

- Why do we need it?





Oversight Mechanisms In Place Now

- Accreditation
 - Rigorous Documented Training Programs
 - Proficiency Testing
- Certification
- Codes of Ethics
- Discovery / Transparency
- Scientific Working Groups
- Statutory Requirements
- Yet, Legislatively Created Bodies exist in:
 - AZ, IN, MD, MN, MO, TX, RI, NM, NY, VA, WA



Oversight... Is it a Bad Word?

- It Depends
 - Definition

ASCLD Position

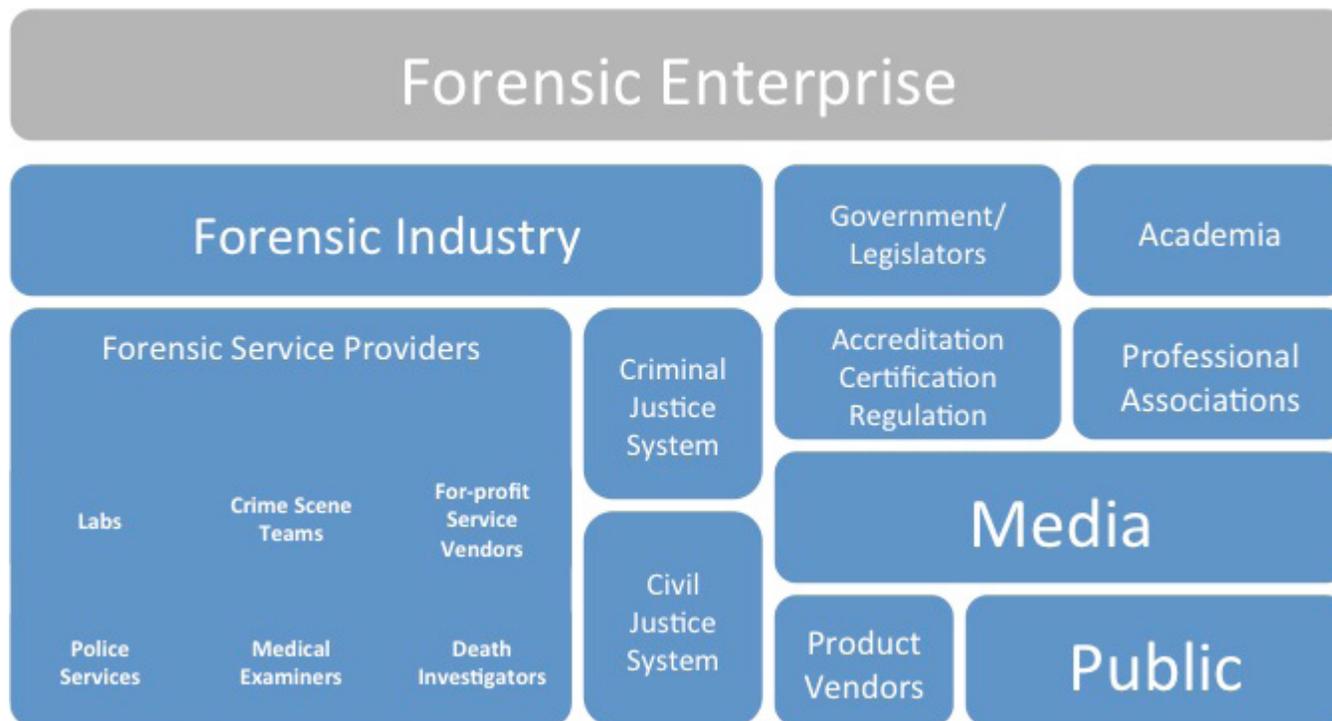
- **December 2008**
 - **ASCLD Position #6 – Oversight.** ASCLD believes the creation and support of an advisory infrastructure which includes the appropriate stakeholders is a means to promote and encourage scientific and managerial excellence in the forensic community. Such an infrastructure, however named and formed, must be advisory (non-controlling) in function and comprised of individuals with the knowledge and understanding of forensic science which could identify and help resolve legitimate concerns while discrediting criticisms that are unfounded or unsupported.



Oversight... Is it a Bad Word?

- It Depends
 - Definition
 - Vision or Mission (... or agenda)
 - Scope of Responsibility
 - Membership & Communication
 - Implementation
 - Enforcement (if any)

Are We Really Different than Any Other Business Enterprise?





Are We Really Different than Any Other Business Enterprise?

- Regardless of size, sector, or specialization, executive boards and CEO's tend to be interested in the same general aspects of performance:
 - financial considerations
 - internal business operations
 - satisfaction levels of customers, employees, and stakeholders
- These become more important and of deeper focus with increased public attention (particularly with “scandals”), political interests and stakeholder agendas



Are We Really Different than Any Other Business Enterprise?

- In fact, publically held companies have boards of directors that are elected or appointed to legally represent the interests of the company – its shareholders.
 - Boards establish policies and make decisions on issues affecting the company



Voss - Leadership in Time of Chaos

- Leadership Keys:
 - Ethos – credibility
 - Logos – competency
 - Pathos - empathy
- Business world is not a separate ecosystem
 - Darwin: Organisms must evolve or they don't survive
 - Michelangelo - Re-Invented himself three times in the 1500's
- As ASCLD members, how do we evolve?



Meeting Forensic Science Needs

- Non-Regulatory Advisory or Guidance Entity
 - Members with proper blend of experts
 - Member majority from forensic science
 - Duties that review, monitor, and supervise activities and policy implementation
- Self-Regulation by existing forensic science professional bodies and entities (non-legislative)
 - ASCLD/LAB, ABC, IAI, SWG's, IWG's and others
 - ALL members are from forensic science



Meeting Stakeholder Needs

- Advisory Body and Committees with blend of experts and stakeholders
- Investigations and Reports
 - Thorough investigations of complaints or errors
 - Recommendations introduced publicly
 - Hopefully legally non-binding (cannot be used in court)
- Independent from laboratory and parent agency
 - Government-based or Private

Forensic Enterprise Needs



Final Thoughts on “Oversight”

- Quality must be kept first, above all
- Stakeholders need a voice and deserve input but should not regulate the work of forensic professionals
- Collaborative approaches are needed to gain an accurate understanding of industry capabilities, resource gaps and standardization requirements to address forensic science needs
- Confucius said that the wise man does not seek the right answer but rather the right question.
 - Forget “Why” and ask “What”
 - If you know the “What” the “How” will follow!



Thank You!



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