

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

BO STALLMAN



November 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Kayla Baylor Authorization for Independent Casework in Blood Alcohol Analysis

The Toxicology section of the Laboratory halted testing and accreditation was voluntarily rescinded in March 2022. The blood alcohol method previously used by the section was subjected to a thorough review by upper management after issues were identified in BCCL Corrective Action Response 2021-11. During this time, the Laboratory also lost its lone Toxicologist due to retirement leaving the section without any personnel.

Kayla Baylor was hired in June 2023 to the position of analyst in the Seized Drug/Toxicology sections. Ms. Baylor has all of the requisite requirements to serve in this role such as a Master's degree in Forensic Science, eight years' experience in forensics in North Carolina and Texas – the last two and half years working as a Toxicologist with the Houston Forensic Science Center, is currently licensed by the Texas Forensic Science Commission as an interpretive Toxicologist, and is a Diplomate with the American Board of Forensic Toxicology. Ms. Baylor, along with the recently hired Lead Toxicologist, has successfully completed all aspects necessary to the rehabilitation of the Toxicology section - blood alcohol division of the Laboratory, including but not limited to, drafting new Toxicology standard operating procedures (SOPs), developing and implementing a blood alcohol method in line with ASB (AAFS Standards Board) recommendations, utilizing analytical instrumentation to ensure proper validation of the new method, and documenting the analytical data generated by the new method.

Several items normally required as part of the BCCL training program were waived in this instance. The reduced training program was possible due to her eight years' experience as a former forensic toxicologist at two laboratories. The proficiency test requirement was waived since it was successfully completed at her previous place of employment, the Houston Forensic Science Center. Additionally, the moot court was waived since testimony records were obtained from the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory. Due to the fact the section rescinded its accreditation, the requirement for case shadowing and completion of a competency test were also waived.

Effective November 20, 2023, Kayla Baylor is approved for independent casework in the analysis of blood alcohol samples. She has approval to receive and analyze evidence, enter results in LIMS, perform Technical and Administrative reviews, utilize all approved equipment and resources for Toxicology analysis, develop new instrumental methods, issue reports, offer opinions and interpretations on Toxicology analyses, and participate in the training of newly hired toxicologists. As other aspects of the Toxicology section are evaluated for scope expansion such as blood/urine drug analysis, Ms. Baylor has the authority to conduct research into methodology, sample analysis, and instrument evaluation to determine the best course of action for the Laboratory. Formal authorization for these areas will be granted at a time suitable for the reacquisition of these disciplines to the Laboratory's scope of accreditation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Derek Sanders".

Derek Sanders,
Laboratory Director