



Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

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New Law Provides Safety Measure at OSBI Forensic Labs

By Jessica Brown/Public Information Officer/Legislative Liaison

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin has signed into law a bill that allows OSBI forensic lab personnel to administer a shot that reverses the effects of an opiate overdose. First responders and medical personnel at secondary schools and institutions of higher education in the state already had the legal authority.

OSBI requested the bill due to forensic analysts often handling highly toxic opiates. It is possible an analyst could become exposed and die without immediate medical attention in the form of an injection of an opiate antagonist such as Naloxone or Naltrexone. This new law allows for that. OSBI forensic analysts have been trained on how to properly use the drug. OSBI has numerous laboratories across the state. Each one will be equipped with an opioid overdose kit. The law goes into effect November 1, 2017.



Opiate Antagonist Kit

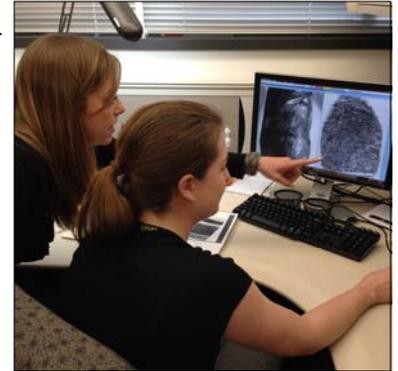
New Technology Solving Old Cases

By Stacy Hirschman/Fingerprint Analyst

In June 1997, the OSBI received a request from the Wisconsin Department of Justice to search a latent print that was developed off the black plastic bag that was used to suffocate a 14-year-old female homicide victim. In 1997, the latent print was initially searched through the Oklahoma State Database but no identification was effected. The latent print has been retained in the OSBI Automated Fingerprint Identification System since that time.

In May 2013, the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) Increment 3, a state-of-the-art biometric identification system, was deployed, providing significant improvement in latent fingerprint search accuracy and a new nationwide palm print identification system to help solve cold cases and improve crime-solving capabilities. Due to this advancement in the FBI's technology, in October 2013 the OSBI Latent Evidence Unit put together a cold case team made up of Meghan Jones, Stacy Hirschman, and Amy Stilwell in October 2013. They began reviewing unsolved homicide and sexual assault cases and searching unidentified latent prints through NGI. On February 27, 2014, Stacy Hirschman contacted Eric Szatkowski with the Wisconsin DOJ to inquire on the status of this case and

Continued from p. 1 see if we could search the prints through the FBI's database. He informed her that it was still unsolved. Stacy searched the print the next day and identified the latent print to James P. Eaton. After the latent print identification was verified, Stacy immediately informed Eric of the results. Afterwards, Wisconsin DOJ also verified the identification to James P. Eaton. The Racine County Sheriff's Office then began surveillance of Eaton. They were able to collect a cigarette butt that Eaton dropped at a train station. Wisconsin DOJ conducted DNA analysis on the cigarette butt and were able to match it to DNA recovered from the victim's body. With the latent print identification and the confirmed DNA match, the Racine County Sheriff's Office arrested Eaton on April 5, 2014. On January 20, 2017, James P. Eaton was convicted and sentenced to 40 years for 1st degree Reckless Homicide.



Amy Stilwell (l) and Stacy Hirschman (r) study unique characteristics of a fingerprint

Stacy Hirschman and Meghan Jones have been selected to receive the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigator's Public Service Award for their work on the 1997 Wisconsin cold case homicide. The Public Service Award is awarded to an associate member or non-member in appreciation and recognition for assisting law enforcement in such a manner that was highly instrumental in conclusion of a death investigation. The award will be presented on April 20th at the American Club in Kohler Wisconsin.

OSBI Statistical Unit Studies Proactive Policing in OKC

By Nikki Lofftus/Statistical Research Specialist

The Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General awarded grant funds to Oklahoma City in 2013 as part of the Safe Oklahoma Grant Program. State lawmakers created the program to promote the use of evidence-based policing strategies to combat violent crime across Oklahoma. The Oklahoma City Police Department (OCPD) used grant funds to implement proactive policing strategies, nuisance abatement activities, and develop community partnerships. OCPD developed a comprehensive strategy to address violent crime within a 4.4 square mile target area in northwest Oklahoma City. OCPD also implemented community outreach strategies to enhance community relationships with community leaders, business owners, and the public in the target area.

Evaluators with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation worked with program staff at the Hefner Division to evaluate the effectiveness of grant activities within the target area from November 4, 2013, to September 30, 2016.

Key Findings:

- Violent crime in the target area decreased 21.6% from 2013 to 2016;
- Murders in the target area decreased 50% from 2013 to 2016;
- Rapes in the target area decreased 60% from 2013 to 2016;
- Robberies in the target area decreased 29.6% from 2013 to 2016;
- Aggravated assaults decreased 11.6% from 2013 to 2016;
- Calls for service from apartment complexes increased 3.6% during the program period;
- Forty-four percent of apartment managers think OCPD is effective in policing the area;
- OCPD increased positive interactions with community members and the public in the target area.

The Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General awarded grant funds to Oklahoma City for an additional year. OCPD transferred the program to the Southwest Division on October 1, 2016. Evaluators continue to work with program staff at the Southwest Division to measure effectiveness of grant activities on violent crime in the target area.

Evolution of Crime Reporting

By Anne Simmons/Field Services Unit Program Manager

The world of crime statistics reporting is ever evolving. As the need for more detailed reporting became apparent, the nation began a transition from summary-based reporting to incident-based reporting. Summary-based crime reporting captures statistical data and is limited in the offenses that are captured. Only the most serious crime within an incident is reported. Incident-based reporting is much more comprehensive, capturing a much more accurate picture of what happened.

With the development of the State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS), the OSBI became certified to report into the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2009. That marked the beginning of the effort to transition local Oklahoma law enforcement agencies to incident-based reporting.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has now set a deadline of January 2021, after which they will no longer accept summary-based reporting.

To date, 345 of the 393 reporting Oklahoma law enforcement agencies are now reporting into SIBRS, either directly or uploading data from a records management system (RMS). The largest agency to complete the transition to incident-based reporting is the Norman Police Department. It recently became certified to report by uploading data from its New World RMS. Many of the state's largest agencies are still reporting summary-based data, although several are currently in the processes of transitioning.

The Field Services Unit of the OSBI continues to work with agencies to meet the FBI deadline and is reaping the benefits of planning and implementing SIBRS. SIBRS provides much more information than previous reporting and will benefit social services, law enforcement agencies, and many other programs that rely on this information for grants, resource allocation, and planning to make Oklahoma a safer place to live.

OSBI Wellness Program Praised by State

By Christine Chalmers/Human Resources

The OSBI's FOCUS 5 Wellness Program was awarded an Excellence certification, the highest available, on March 1, 2017, at the Certified Healthy Oklahoma Event.

According to the Certified Healthy Oklahoma Program, "Businesses that are Certified Healthy see a value and return on investment with decreased health costs, decreased absenteeism, increased productivity, and better morale among employees." This year alone, the program had more than 2,100 applicants from across Oklahoma, including corporations, non-profits, schools, and restaurants. The application itself was very lengthy and it emphasized having elements, policies and programs that would help Oklahomans eat better, move more, and be tobacco free.

Governor Mary Fallin was on hand this year to congratulate award winners and encourage entities to continue to strive to improve the health of their employees, patrons, students, and patients. Also, all Certified Healthy recipients were recognized on three award levels -- basic, merit, and excellences for promoting health and wellness where we live, work, learn, and play. Earning the excellence award has set a positive example for all OSBI employees and has hopefully encouraged us all to be more dedicated to a healthy lifestyle.

Currently, Oklahoma ranks 45 on America's Health Rankings (2015). Our poor health outcomes are hurting our families, finances, and future. With that said, FOCUS 5 hopes to continue its efforts in providing the resources and setting examples of improving our personal and agency wellbeing through the FOCUS 5 food pantry program, on-site educational seminars and immunization clinics, wellness challenges, and recycling program. FOCUS 5 also hopes to expand its efforts to other surrounding agencies.



OSBI Human Resources Unit Honored