



Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

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Legislative Session Begins with Talk of Law Enforcement Consolidation

By Jessica Brown/OSBI Public Information Officer/Legislative Liaison

The OSBI has requested only a few bills this legislative session. With impending legislation on consolidation of state law enforcement agencies, much of the Bureau's legislative efforts will be directed in that area. The first amendment is in Title 47 as it relates to turnpikes and photographs or videos gathered by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. Currently, the Turnpike Authority does not believe it has the legal authority to share photos or videos with law enforcement in criminal cases absent a court order or exigent circumstances. OSBI's proposed language states, "Such records shall be available to a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency upon request for law enforcement purposes related to an investigation or prosecution of a criminal violation of the laws of the State of Oklahoma." This needed change came to light when OSBI agents were investigating a homicide in the Bristow area. Senator Jack Fry (R-Oklahoma City) is sponsoring this legislation.

Another amendment OSBI is requesting expands those who can destroy obscene material or child pornography after conviction. Currently, only a magistrate or the district attorney can destroy such materials. The amended language also specifies that it "...includes, but is not limited to, the destruction of any computer, hard drive, or other electronic storage media on which such obscene material or child pornography was located." The amendment will streamline the process, allowing OSBI agents to close cases at conviction. OSBI retains a digital copy of the original evidence. Evidence storage is also currently an issue. Senator Roger Thompson (R-Okmulgee) is sponsoring this legislation.

OSBI is also seeking amendment to two fees -- the Automated Fingerprint Identification System Fund and the Forensic Science Improvement Act. Both fees are tacked on to moving traffic violations and are currently \$5 each. The amendment would increase them to \$7.50. The AFIS Fund pays for much needed system upgrades which have a price tag in the millions. The Forensic Science Improvement Act helps the OSBI laboratory purchase equipment which becomes obsolete in a few years' time.



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Amendment to Title 74, Section 150.27a, would allow the Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to collect a DNA sample from a deceased person. The DNA sample would then be loaded into OSBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The amended language also states people required to register pursuant to the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offender Registration Act also have their DNA collected and loaded into CODIS. This bill, HB 1069, was introduced in the first session of the 55th Legislature. The bill was held up on the House floor due to confusion about the fiscal impact. OSBI is hopeful it will be heard on the floor and passed early in the session. Representative Bobby Cleveland (R-Slaughterville) and Senator Marty Quinn (R-Claremore) are sponsoring this legislation.

The last bill is another carryover from the first session, HB 1048 by Representative Scott Biggs (R-Chickasha) and Senator Jason Smalley (D-Seminole). The bill introduces new law authorizing the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit (ICAC) of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to subpoena witnesses and production of records for certain investigations. When OSBI receives a Cybertip through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a suspect and victim IP address is included, but agents are not able to get an exact location. Agents spend precious time transferring the case to various local jurisdictions until the correct one is located. This bill would allow OSBI ICAC agents to use subpoena powers to obtain the subscriber information from the Internet service provider to determine the location of the victim or suspect quickly without procedural delays.

In December, the Senate Public Safety Appropriations Subcommittee held pre-session budget hearings with all those agencies in the Public Safety Cabinet. One of the questions posed by the committee to OSBI Director Stan Florence was how the agency is dealing with deep budget cuts. Florence detailed how the Bureau is freezing some positions as they become open and how the Bureau has greatly reduced training and travel. Florence warned these actions, while necessary to cut costs, will likely increase the turnaround time at the OSBI lab and agents may have to cut back on responding to property crime investigations. The state has already declared a revenue failure, cutting state agency budgets by 3%.



OSBI Dir. Stan Florence addresses Senate Public Safety Appropriations Subcommittee

Agents Train Locals on Active Shooters

By Jessica Brown/OSBI Public Information Officer

In the 1960s, grade schools trained for nuclear bomb attacks. After the Cold War, that training was replaced by tornado drills. The unfortunate reality of today's society has added another drill to schools' agendas – active shooter. In mid-2015, school administrators at the Alva Public School District requested OSBI agents train school resource officers, local law enforcement, and school personnel on how to handle an active shooter situation. OSBI trains for active shooter situations differently than some other organizations. Agents include local fire and emergency medical personnel for rescue purposes during the shooting. December 22, 2015, agents met with local law enforcement in the Alva area for a day-long “Responding to Active Shooters” course. Three weeks later, agents met with teachers, students, school administrators, fire fighters, and emergency medical technicians. After a short briefing on the scenario, everyone jumped into an active shooting situation. After the hours-long exercise, everyone met for a debriefing. All involved agreed more and continued training would benefit the community. OSBI provides this training for free.



Forensic Science Academy for the Criminal Justice Community

By Andrea Swiech/OSBI Criminalistic Services Director

In fall 2015, the OSBI Criminalistic Services Division created a program for the criminal justice community as a way to inform and educate trial judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors about the services the OSBI laboratory can provide in criminal cases. The inaugural session of the Forensic Science Academy for Criminal Justice began in October.

The attendees participate in one session per week for eight weeks. Each session begins with a discussion facilitated by one of OSBI's forensic science experts. Every session encourages participants to engage in lively exchanges with the facilitator and with one another. At the conclusion of the discussion, participants move into the laboratory for dynamic, hands-on laboratory exercises that allow them to gain insight and experience into how evidence is handled, prepared, and analyzed.

The goal of this academy is to assist attorneys and judges in presenting and evaluating forensic evidence in court and to better prepare attorneys to ask questions of our forensic experts. In the end, we hope this training will help our experts and the attorneys provide juries with better information to determine the guilt or innocence of men and women on trial.

Our initial academy consisted of eleven defense attorneys and two prosecutors. The initial academy concluded December 17. Our spring 2016 Academy has already been filled and will begin mid-February. More sessions of the academy are planned for later next year.



Erin Henry, OSBI Criminalistics Administrator, teaches about the lab's Quality Management System and accreditation

Cold Case Meeting Educates Investigators on Evidence Techniques

By Jessica Brown/OSBI Public Information Officer

Each quarter the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System and the Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner gets investigators from across Oklahoma together to discuss new technology and techniques available in the law enforcement arena. These meetings are held at the OSBI Forensic Science Center. This quarter, investigators heard from criminalists in the OSBI's Latent Evidence Unit about new techniques used in the lab to identify badly decomposed or burned bodies. This information is aimed at encouraging investigators to explore latent print identification opportunities even if the hands are badly deformed.



Megan Jones, with the OSBI Latent Evidence Unit, explains in graphic detail new techniques

Participants then heard from an OSBI agent about a cold case involving a murdered couple in the northeast part of the state. The agent is hopeful others trained in investigations might bring insight into areas of the case not yet explored.

OSBI Recognized as Certified Healthy Business

By Mitzi Bennett/Human Resources Programs Manager

In July 2015, the OSBI launched a new internal employee wellness program. The program focuses around five elements of an individual's overall wellbeing. The components were identified as *Purpose* – how you occupy your time or simply liking what you do every day; *Physical* – having good health and energy on a daily basis; *Financial* – how you effectively manage your economic life; *Social* – having strong relationships and love in your life; and *Community* – the sense of engagement you have with the area you live. These five elements must all be satisfied at some level for a person to experience an overall sense of positive wellbeing. While an employer-sponsored wellness program cannot address and satisfy each of these components to its fullest extent, we hoped to implement programs that could at least touch upon these elements and provide resources for further personal use.

An internal focus group composed of individuals representing each division was comprised. Through internal surveys, we sought to gain an understanding of employees' needs and desires. From the compiled results, we were able to focus the program toward the areas of greatest needs. Those items that were not within the scope or ability of an agency wellness program were forwarded to Director Florence. The program began to take shape with the formation of an intranet site for information sharing and communication.

Christine Chalmers, HR Management Specialist and the agency's designated Wellness Coordinator, has been critical to the program's success. She has taken employee input and designed events, information and programs specifically focused on identified needs. Her enthusiasm, energy, and compassion for employees has ensured record attendance to events and the free flow of communication. This effort has now garnered recognition for the Bureau. The Oklahoma Department of Health has recognized OSBI as a Certified Healthy Business. Christine Chalmers' efforts toward the health and wellbeing of our employees have garnered the level of Merit Certification. The OSBI will receive the award during the annual Certified Healthy Oklahoma event March 2nd in Norman.



Special Agent in Charge
Bob Horn learning how to
exercise

OSBI SAC Director Elected to the Justice Research and Statistics Association's Executive Committee

OSBI's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Director Angie Baker was elected Secretary/Treasurer to the Justice Research and Statistics Association's Executive Committee during the annual business meeting of state representatives. Committee members serve one year terms.

The Justice Research and Statistics Association is a national nonprofit organization of state SAC directors, academia, and the justice community. The Association conducts and publishes multistate policy-relevant research on justice issues; provides training and technical assistance to build research and evaluation capacity of evidence-based practices at the state and local levels; and maintains information on state criminal and juvenile justice research and programs.



OSBI SAC Dir. Angie Baker

Baker is the Research Director at the Bureau and has served as Director of the Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center since 2010. She has collaborated on several state and federally-funded research projects and program evaluations. In 2010, Baker worked on the first research project in the state that analyzed data using Oklahoma’s State Incident-Based Reporting System. That same year the Oklahoma SAC won the *Justice Research and Statistics Association’s Phillip Hoke Award for Excellence in Analysis* for its work on the report “Evaluation of the Oklahoma City Gang and Violent Program.”

OSBI Exceeds SCC Fundraising Goal

By Sunne Day/Legal Counsel & SCC Chairperson

The Oklahoma State Charitable Campaign (SCC) is an annual fundraising effort that allows state employees to make donations to their favorite charitable organizations through payroll deductions or one-time gifts. Employees can also participate in special events planned by the state agency.



The OSBI has participated in the SCC for several years. This year, the OSBI’s SCC ran from October 5 – October 30. During this time, employees participated in several events including a bake sale, chili cook-off, dessert bake-off, trash to treasure, auctioning off a Harvey Pratt giclee, jail and bail, donut Fridays, parking spot auction, and bedlam shirt contest.

Deputy Director Charlie Curtis booked into OSBI Charity Jail

This year, the OSBI exceeded its fundraising goal, raising a total of \$12,310. “The 2015 campaign was a huge success. The SCC Committee really

did an outstanding job planning and executing all of the special events and OSBI employees are always so enthusiastic about the campaign and ready to participate,” Sunne Riedel Day, SCC Chairperson, said.



Jail and Bail raised several hundred dollars for the charity campaign