

Possible Functions of a State Crime Lab Commission

Recommendations Directly from the Report-

1. Improve the allocation of resources and Reduce Inefficiency

- Conduct studies or contract for studies to be performed to determine what is the appropriate funding for a lab in a particular region with a specified rate of crime
- Conduct studies or contract for studies to be performed to make recommendations regarding whether consolidation of certain lab functions is appropriate fiscally and whether it would be a more efficient use of resources.
- Conduct studies or contract for studies to be performed to make recommendations regarding the construction of new crime lab facilities

2. Protect the independence of labs

- Provide a forum for lab employees to address issues concerning policies and/or procedures of the lab or parent agency that affect their ability to perform their jobs in an ethical and scientific manner that are not being addressed by the lab.
- Provide a forum for issues that may arise between labs and law enforcement or District Attorneys.

3. Establish and promote best practices

4. Establish priorities for education, training, and research

5. Move toward standardization of terminology and reporting of results

6. Investigate serious negligence and misconduct

7. Advocate for increased funding at the state and local levels

8. Assess and make recommendations regarding training of stakeholders

9. Study ways to improve communication between labs and stakeholders (inefficient and effectual ways to make use of crime lab resources)

10. Establish or make recommendations regarding discovery of forensic evidence and in particular define what constitutes *Brady* evidence in the context of forensic disciplines.

11. Make recommendations regarding the certification of lab employees

12. Establish and provide enforcement of a California Code of Ethics for criminalists.

14. Establish a model training program for criminalists in the area of *Brady*/ Discovery compliance.

15. Implement and/or study recommendation made by the federal agency tasked with implementing the NAS recommendations

16. Establish research priorities.

17. Administer grant money

18. Accredite labs within the state