

Sexual Assault Kit Project Update

Mayor's Report
Houston City Council
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Historical Review

- Previous accounting of Sexual Assault Kits (SAKs) not available
- EMS and LIMS systems now exist for proper tracking and accounting of all evidence
- Extensive audit of all SAKs to determine if testing was conducted

SAK Audit

6,663 untested SAKs

Reasons for not testing:

- Suspect was arrested and charged (other evidence)
- Suspect identity was known to complainant
- Investigation revealed consent was at issue
- Complainant was not willing to prosecute and/or
- Unable to locate the complainant for follow up

Texas Senate Bill 1636 – The Impact

- SB 1636 passed and applicable Sept. 1, 2011
- Defined “active sexual assault investigation” as one in which a report was written and evidence collected
- Required testing of any case evidence meeting that definition
- 6,663 stored SAKs will be tested

Current DNA Costs

- Average costs of current DNA outsourcing with private vendors:
 - Screening + DNA = \$1,134.00 per SAK
- Average costs of DNA outsourced to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Science (HCIFS) in 2012:
 - Screening + DNA = \$1,344.73 per SAK

Scope of the Problem

- Current vendor contracts not adequate for the volume
- County has stopped taking DNA work from HPD
- Approximately 1,020 criminal investigations other than Sexual Assault where a DNA request has been made
- An average of 900-1000 new SAKs will be submitted each year

Opportunity

- Leverage volume pricing and solve all requests for DNA testing, not only SAKs
- City Council authorized \$5 million in FY 13 budget for stored SAK testing

Adjusted Volume of Work

■ Stored SAKs to be tested	6,663
■ Active SAKs to be tested	1,450
■ Requests for Non-SAK Testing (other crimes)	1,020
■ Anticipated SAKs CY 2013/14*	<u>1,000</u>
Total :	10,133

*March 2013-April 2014 anticipated incoming SAKs

The Vendors

Bode Technology Group, Inc. and Sorenson Forensics, LLC.

- Both are recognized leaders in the field
- Both have worked on large backlog projects with other major cities including New York, LA, and LA County

The Cost and Timeline

\$4.4 million

- \$2.2 million – Grant funds already awarded
- \$2.2 million – General Fund (of already budgeted \$5 million)

Average cost per SAK = \$401.60

Project completed in approximately 1 year

- The selected labs have the capacity to accept the volume of casework and complete all testing within 12 to 14 months
- All existing evidence will be submitted to the vendors at the beginning of the project and reports returned on a regular production schedule

Benefits

- No DNA Backlog of SAKs or non SAK cases
- Maximize use of new low, fixed-price contract
- Crime Lab will be able to focus on current casework
- LGC will be able to focus on other issues