



- Finding a Better Way – Lab Partnerships

Joseph O. Jones
Crime Lab Director – OSHP Crime Lab



Toxicology - over the last 10 years

- **2004 – NHTSA and the National Safety Council’s Committee on Alcohol & Other Drugs* held a meeting of toxicologists, DRE’s, and prosecutors**
- **“Priorities and strategies for improving the investigation, use of toxicology results, and prosecution of drug-impaired driving cases”**
 - **Following: A Survey of labs supporting DRE programs**

Toxicology - over the last 10 years

- **2007 - publication: “Recommendations for Toxicological Investigation of Drug Impaired Driving.”**
 - **Proposed scope of testing and cut-offs for blood and urine**
- **2012 - Resurvey of Labs**
- **2013 - updated publication: “Recommendations for Toxicological Investigation of Drug Impaired Driving and Motor Vehicle Fatalities”**

Why was 2007 a Failure?

Survey of DUI Tox Labs (2012)

- 96 respondents: state 45%, county 16%, private 13%, regional 11%, hospital 6%, municipal 5%, university 4%
- Survey included staffing levels, caseload, turnaround time, training, and testimony
- Labs were asked to compare their current testing protocols to the 2007 recommendations

What were/are the hurdles?

Reasons for not meeting the recommendations

- (multiple reasons allowed, 57 responded)
- Lack staffing 40%
- Lack appropriate instrument technology 37%
- Lack instrument capacity 33%
- Do not agree with recommendations 30%
- Methods are not validated 28%
- Other 37% - state statutes, do not quantitate, etc

Top Priorities for additional resources?

	1st	2nd	3rd
Staffing	47%	25%	14%
Confirmation Instruments	22%	36%	17%
Screening Instruments	14%	22%	19%
Training	3%	14%	31%
Facility / Upgrade or new	14%	3%	19%

Overcoming these hurdles

- **Forensic Toxicology Community**
 - Education & Training
 - ***Practical, efficient workflows***
 - ***Method Sharing***
 - Continued research and data collection on drug effects and driving
 - Engaging Traffic Safety Partners
 - ***Forging partnerships outside of our community***

Hurdles Specific to OSHP

Reasons for not meeting the recommendations

- Lack appropriate instrument technology
- Lack staffing
- Lack instrument capacity
- State statutes – per se values

Our Goals - OSHP

- **Expansion of our testing menu and capabilities.**
- **Streamline our processes**
- **To not throw more people at the problem**
 - **Do more with Less**

Building for the Future

- **What does it take to expand your testing menu?**
 - Knowledge of the need to expand
 - Development (1 week – several months)
 - Validation (6-8 weeks)
 - Training of staff (?)
 - Considerable financial commitment from stakeholders
 - Instrumentation concerns

Our Goals

- **PinPoint Testing, LLC brought on as a consultant in January 2015.**
- **Established method and testing expansion**
- **Validation Phase began April 2015**
- **Continued partnership continues to expand the lab capabilities and service to state of Ohio.**

Benefits

- **People problem = eliminated**
- **Testing brought online faster than ever before**
- **The value of different perspectives/strategies**
- **Support from outside your walls**
- **Established partnership has brought several labs together for a common goal.**

Lessons Learned

- **Important to pitch this correctly to your stakeholders**
 - **Cost/Savings analysis**
- **Select the right partner**
- **Understand your strengths and weaknesses**
- **Be prepared for bumps along the way**
- **Communicate frequently**
- **Embrace technology in your lab**



Joseph O. Jones
Crime Lab Director – Drug Toxicology
Ohio State Highway Patrol Crime Lab
(614)466-4790
jojones@dps.state.oh.us

