

# **FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER (Medical Examiner/Forensic Laboratory)**

**FY08 Budget  
Information Session  
BIS Session 4/26/07**

## Department Direction/Highlights

- Approaching completion of the seventh year of service
- Medical Examiner 1,708 deaths (up from 1,606)
- Forensic Laboratory >14,000 analyses
- \$41,500 of grant funding
- 43 employees
- Requesting DNA laboratory for FY 07/08

# Objectives/Goals

- Drug identification in forensic chemistry up 13.2% over FY06
- Medical examiner cases up approximately 6.35% over FY06
- Budget increase for current services: only 2.75% over FY06
- Continue in-house body transport
- DNA laboratory
  - Technical leader identified
  - Laboratory plan and timetable in place
  - State Attorney, Public Defender, local law enforcement support our efforts
  - Cost: \$974,000 for FY 07/08
  - Cost: ~\$ 700,000-\$800,000 for FY 08/09
  - Case analyses begin ~October 2009
  - Turnaround time: goal of 30 to 60 days
- Budget increase with DNA: 28.88%

# Accomplishments

- Federal grants for both Medical Examiner and Forensic Laboratory
- Office and laboratory staff stable
- Body transport: costs stable despite increased fuel cost
- Autopsy report completion time mere days
- Forensic lab report completion time seven days
- Cost controls:
  - Increase automation of autopsy report production with decreased turn around time
  - Increased in house toxicology capabilities to decrease use of reference labs

# Budget Overview

- Medical Examiner funding
  - Pasco County: fee for service
  - Pinellas County via contract and general fund line items
- Forensic Laboratory funding
  - DUI: fee for service with local agencies
  - Pasco County: fee for service for Medical Examiner cases
  - Pinellas County via contract and general fund line items

# Budget Summary

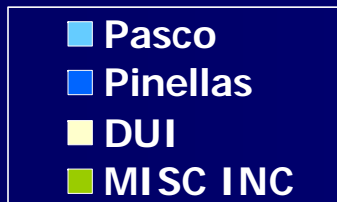
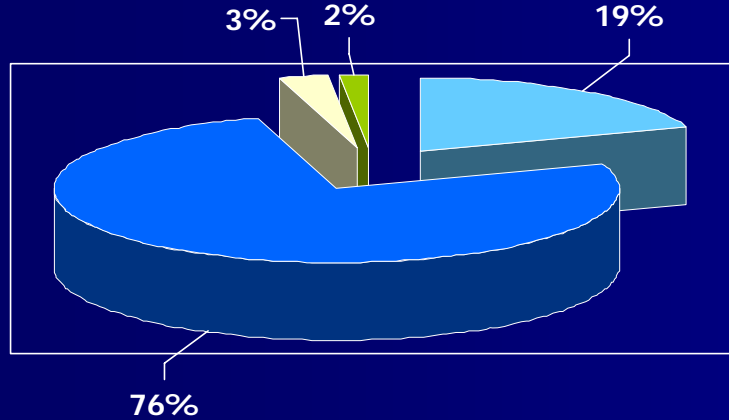
	FY07 Budget	FY08 Request	Variance	%
Operating expenses	3,577,040	4,080,120	503,080	14.06%
Capital Outlay	<u>150,420</u>	<u>564,000</u>	<u>413,580</u>	<u>275%</u>
Building modifications	<u>zero</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>	
<i>DNA lab total</i>			<u>(974,000)</u>	
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<i>3,727,460</i>	<i>4,804,120</i>	<i>\$1,076,660</i>	<i>28.88%</i>

# Budget Summary without DNA

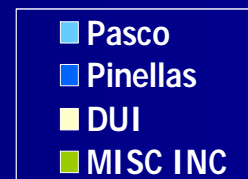
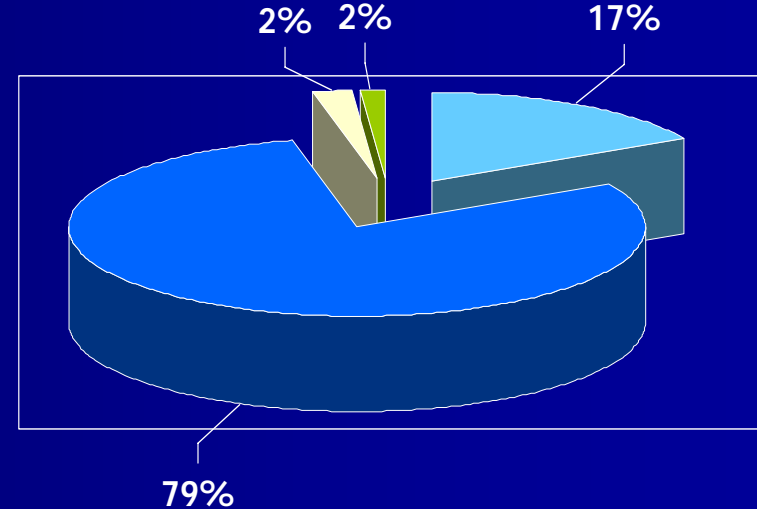
	FY07 Budget	FY08 Request	Variance	%
Operating expenses	3,577,040	3,779,950	203,360	5.7%
Capital Outlay	<u>150,420</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-100,420</u>	<u>-66.8%</u>
Building modifications	<u>zero</u>	<u>zero</u>	<u>zero</u>	<u>zero</u>
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<i>3,727,460</i>	<i>3,829,950</i>	<i>\$102,490</i>	<i>2.75%</i>

# Budget Summary Chart with DNA

FY07 Request



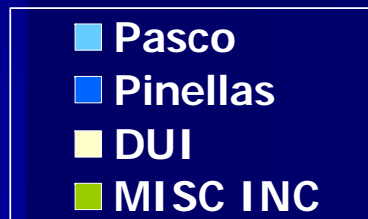
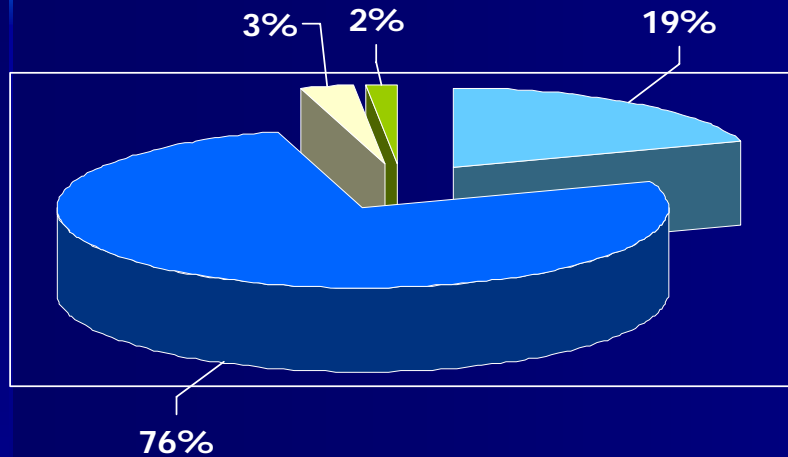
FY08 Request



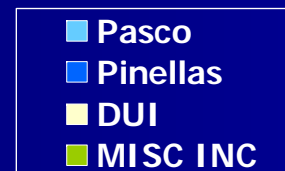
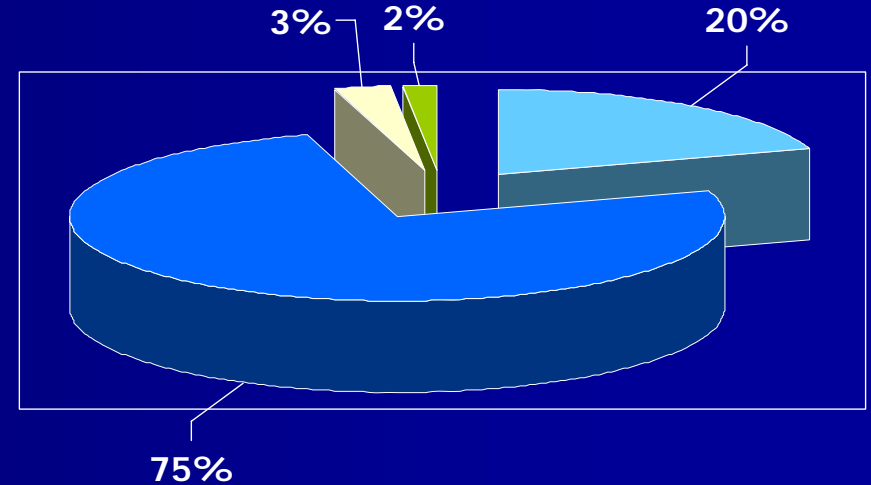


# Budget Summary Chart without DNA

FY07 Request



FY08 Request



# Revenues/Fees Summary

- Pasco County contributions to the operation of the Medical Examiner will exceed \$1 million
- DUI income has stabilized at approximately \$135,000
- Federal grant funding continues to provide viable equipment \$41,500 IN FY07
- Miscellaneous income of \$91,000 includes Pasco County body transport, photograph duplication, and document duplication
- State trust fund ~\$160,000

# Future Service Delivery Opportunities/Challenges

- DNA Laboratory
- The single most valuable crime laboratory tool for solving crime
- Pinellas County is the only one of the 5 accredited County labs in the State that does not perform DNA analyses
- Our agencies send our DNA analyses to FDLE
- Due to the prolonged average turn around time at the State laboratory (~170 days), DNA is infrequently used for its most valuable purpose: Solving crimes

# Future Service Delivery Opportunities/Challenges

- Following our lead, other Counties looking at developing DNA labs
  - LEE
  - HILLSBOROUGH
  - CHARLOTTE
  - POLK
- Unfortunately, unlike Pinellas, they are years and years away from being able to begin DNA testing

## LOCAL LABORATORIES

THE COUNTIES  
OUTSIDE OF THESE  
AREAS RELY ON  
FDLE FOR THEIR  
CRIME LABORATORY  
TESTING



# DNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**JonBenet Ramsey case  
remains unsolved**

**John Karr was identified  
as a suspect, confessed,  
and the Boulder DA  
spent time and money  
pursuing and  
questioning him**



# DNA SAVES TIME AND EFFORT

It was DNA evidence that eliminated him as the killer saving time, money and effort



# DNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The DNA results in the recent "Duke Lacrosse" case were so exculpatory that it appears that the prosecutor withheld the results from the defense





# DNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Timely DNA analyses of the paternity of Anna Nicole Smith's baby would have saved Broward County large amounts of money and time in simplifying the court proceedings



# DNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE



**March 15, 2000, Sumter County, Florida:**

- **Gruesome double murder of a woman and her elderly mother**
- **The murder occurred in front of the woman's two small children**
- **The case went cold for 6 years until the DNA of two women was found on a bloody knife linked to an unrelated murder in Wisconsin**
- **The DNA matched the two women in Sumter County**





# DNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**January 4, 2003, Pinellas Park:**

- a woman is found strangled in a motel room**
- her husband, claiming to be in the bathroom during the murder is arrested and indicted for the crime**
- one year later, in preparation for trial, DNA analysis of blood at the scene is performed**
- the blood matches a convicted rapist's DNA from the CODIS database**

# DNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE



- the CODIS matched offender was recently released from prison for a 1994 rape
- the husband was released
- the offender was arrested, indicted, and, finally, convicted of the crime in November 2006
- The convict has now been linked to a rape/murder in 1994

# DNA MAKES A COST DIFFERENCE

- The wrong man: arrested and jailed for one year
- Jail cost ~\$80 per day (if healthy) at 365 days  
\$29,200
- Grand jury costs
- Trial prep costs
- Investigation costs

THIS IS JUST ONE CASE



# DNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE



**ALSO:**

- After committing the murder, the real and repeat offender was allowed to continue life as a free man in Pinellas County**
- What was he up to during that year?**
- What are the unrecognized costs of a rapist/strangler continuing to live among us?**

# EXONERATIONS OF CONVICTS BY DNA

(source: Innocence Project)

FLORIDA: 6

GEORGIA: 6

TEXAS: 27

NEW YORK: 23

ILLINOIS: 26

CALIFORNIA: 9

# DNA REVENUE

## GRANTS

STATE TRUST FUND: increase of  
~\$30,000

POTENTIAL FOR OUTSIDE WORK  
WITH FEE FOR SERVICE



# LOCAL and NATIONAL SUPPORT

- ✓ State Attorney
- ✓ Public Defender
- ✓ Local Law Enforcement
- ✓ FBI approved CODIS access

**Pinellas Police  
Standards Council**

Phone: 727-864-3822  
Fax: 727-864-3342

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David Romine  
Chairman



**BERNIE MCCABE**  
State Attorney

Pinellas County Board of  
County Commissioners  
315 Court St.  
Clearwater, FL 33756

**Commissioners:**

It goes without saying provided an extraordinary to investigating and solving crimes exonerating suspects. Unfor analysis has not been fully resources. Large workloads resources have resulted in the country and within the expectation for DNA analysis significant factor in case the already huge workload at resulting in increased costs

The addition of DNA ser Laboratory will work to sig local law enforcement person assist prosecutors in obtain cases and ultimately, limit with investigating and prose

The ultimate needs of met without additional labor Pinellas County Forensic Lab quality and efficiency. Thu resources be provided to est laboratory to help alleviate

BJMc/ef

Post Office Box 5028, Clearwa



**BOB DILLINGER**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER**  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

March 29, 2007

Dr. Jon Thogmartin, M.D.  
Medical Examiner  
Sixth Judicial Circuit  
10900 Ulmerton Road  
Largo, Florida 33778

Dear Dr. Thogmartin:

The Public Defender's Office, Sixth Judicial Circuit strongly supports your efforts to obtain funding to create an in-house DNA laboratory to perform DNA testing within the Medical Examiner's Office.

As we are all aware, the criminal justice system in Pinellas is faced with ever increasing caseloads creating severe jail overcrowding. Recently enacted legislation to make criminal penalties more severe will exacerbate this problem. An on-site DNA laboratory will have a very positive impact on reducing jail overcrowding by allowing more rapid response by the Medical Examiner's office when DNA tests are warranted, and shorten the incarceration of those wrongly accused of a crime.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bob Dillinger

**PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES**

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# QUESTIONS / COMMENTS