

York County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Implements Onsite DNA Lab

York County's rapid growth created a growing need for DNA evidence processing to enable the expedient administration of justice. Presently, DNA was being sent to a centralized lab at the state's law enforcement headquarters. Unfortunately a growing state-wide demand for DNA processing, was creating back logs of up to a year undermining the county's ability to efficiently process cases.

York County's Sheriff, Bruce Bryant decided to improve the situation by performing DNA testing in house. He recruited Christy Kissell, a specialized DNA forensic scientist to join his team...and embarked on the mission to construct a certified DNA lab on site.

Kissel and the facilities team decided to locate the new lab in a vacated prisoner intake and holding space just below the sheriff's main offices. They developed a floor plan layout and issued an RFP for interested lab suppliers to consider. On evaluation of all proposals, they selected IOPC Modular Millwork to furnish their new lab.

"We formed a short list of the competitive vendors and had them come in and explain the pertinent features and advantages of their respective products" explained Kissel and Stephen Patenaude (controller).

"We selected Modular Millwork because it offered the best value and flexibility", further explained Patenaude. A big budget concern was minimizing site demolition and construction to accommodate utilities requirements. The existing space had virtually no utilities and installing them could easily become cost prohibitive considering the 12" thick reinforced concrete walls and floors that would have to be penetrated.

Fortunately, Modular Millwork's structural frame with its integrated utilities chase eliminated the need to demo walls and floors. All utilities were installed directly inside the system. That saved lots of money and allowed the department to occupy its lab much faster.

The sheriff's department really loves their stylish new lab and its modular flexibility that allows them to change as their needs evolve.

Cristy and her staff have now completed the extensive validation process to become a "Certified" DNA Lab and are truly excited to realize their goal of expedient, on-site DNA evidence processing to better serve their community.

