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**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS**

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 2:00 PM.

921 N.E. 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, and via video conference at
1627 Southwest Blvd., Tulsa OK 73117

Dr. Michael Magguilli, Ms. Angela Marsee, Mr. Tyler Stiles,
Mr. Keith Reed, Mr. John Jones, and Dr. Eric Pfeifer will attend in Oklahoma City.
Dr. Jason Beaman, Dr. Jeffrey Galles, and Dr. Eric Harp will attend the meeting
in Tulsa via videoconference.

The Board may discuss, vote to approve, vote to disapprove, vote to table, or decide not to discuss any item on the agenda.

- I. Roll call
- II. Adoption of minutes from February 13, 2025.
- III. Update from the Chief Medical Examiner
 - ◆ Agency update.
- IV. Update from Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
 - ◆ Tulsa office updates.
- V. New Business
- VI. Adjourn

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**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS**

**BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS
REGULAR MEETING**

Board Meeting Minutes from
Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 02:00 pm
921 NE 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
and Via Videoconference

In conformity with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, advance notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State on December 06, 2024, at 8:37 AM and public notice of this meeting, together with the agenda, was posted in prominent public view on the front door of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, 921 NE 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK, and 1627 Southwest Blvd., Tulsa, OK 74117.

Members present in Oklahoma City: Ms. Angela Marsee, Mr. Keith Reed, Mr. Steven Carter, Mr. Tyler Stiles, and Dr. Eric Pfeifer.

Members present in Tulsa: Dr. Eric Harp

Members absent: Dr. Jason Beaman and Dr. Michael Magguilli, Representative of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA).

Others Present: Dr. Josh Lanter (OCME), Madalynn Martin (OAG), Kari Learned (OCME), and Jodi Dillion (OCME).

Mr. Stiles called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was established.

Ms. Marsee motioned to adopt the minutes as written from the December 5, 2024, meeting. Dr. Harp seconded the motion. Roll was called, Mr. Reed and Mr. Carter abstained, and all others were in favor.

- Update from the Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Eric Pfeifer.

~Dr. Pfeifer presented the agency update to the Board.

Dr. Pfeifer announced that the overarching priority has been and continues to be the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) reaccreditation. After one final verification of the NAME checklist, Dr. Pfeifer would like to formally apply for inspections by NAME. The Oklahoma City and Tulsa offices will be inspected for accreditation independently. Dr. Pfeifer is confident that both offices will have no issues passing inspections.

Physicians-

We have established performance standards for case turnaround times, and as of today, 90% of cases are closed within 90 days. After NAME accreditation, Dr. Pfeifer aims to set a goal of closing 90% of cases within 60 days. The Oklahoma OCME is one of the busiest practices in the United States, with yearly examinations exceeding 8,000 per year.

Fellowship-

In July, two new fellows began their training, one at each office. Interviews for 2026-2027 are currently underway. The Match program will start soon, and the results should be available by May. Our fellowship training program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The program offers formal training in postmortem radiography and CT to all fellows; a distinction held by only four other programs in the country. Additionally, our presence on social media has been highly effective in recruiting both fellows and staff.

Administration-

The agency has been actively engaged in budget management, the procurement of a new case management system (CMS), legislative development, as well as facilities and equipment maintenance. Strategic budget planning for the 2026-2027 fiscal year will begin soon.

Anthropology-

We now have four full-time forensic anthropologists, two at each office. As a result, OCME has one of the largest forensic anthropology departments in the country, second only to Houston. Prior to 2012, the agency did not have anthropology services.

Autopsy Services-

Our autopsy services are supported by a formalized and regularly updated Quality Assurance (QA) program that adheres to rigorous standards. This program aligns with NAME requirements, particularly in areas such as body processing protocols, ensuring precision and consistency across all operations.

Information Technology-

OCME is highly dependent on technology and having Franklin as our embedded Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) IT representative continues to be incredibly valuable to us.

The agency continues to work on acquiring a new case management system (CMS). A new CMS has been selected to replace the existing Access-based data system. While this is expected to be a multi-year project, the bid process is currently under legal review.

Investigations-

The average scene response time is 1 hour and 18 minutes, which is an average across all 77 counties.

Permit turnaround time has increased slightly to 11 hours 40 minutes. The goal is to have permits issued in 48 hours (2 business days) which we are well under.

Toxicology-

The current average turnaround time for toxicology results is under 90 days. In January the tox lab completed over 900 cases, which greatly exceeds the autopsy lab examination case numbers. However, our goal is to reduce the turnaround time further, aiming to complete 90% of cases within 60 days. Part of

the five-year plan is to add a 4th toxicologist. The lab needs more equipment, space, and additional personnel to get us to that goal.

The OCME toxicology lab maintains dual accreditation with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT). In terms of caseload, we rank among the top ten busiest forensic toxicology labs in the nation. Our toxicologists and chemists conduct significantly more testing than the national average.

Legislation-

FY25 we were awarded \$300K in additional appropriations. During recent budget hearings at the Capitol, we emphasized the need for \$3.5M in recurring appropriations for FY26 to fund new staff salaries and benefits. We hope to receive an increase in administrative rules which will add approximately \$1M annually.

Last year's additional appropriation failed to cover even basic inflationary costs for supplies and services, as previously reported to the Board and Legislature. As a result, we have relied on cash reserves to maintain operations.

Priority projects-

The number one priority for OCME continues to be the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) re-accreditation. We anticipate obtaining NAME re-accreditation in the next few months.

Financial-

Dr. Pfeifer addressed the financial profit and loss data. We're currently in the red but drawing from the agency's available cash. As of January's statement, the carryover balance is \$6.2M.

- Update from the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Josh Lanter.

NAME accreditation remains our top priority. We have faced challenges with the independent inspections of the Oklahoma City and Tulsa offices, particularly in splitting data for review. The loss of accreditation in 2009 was primarily due to staffing shortages at both facilities, which prevented compliance with NAME's prescribed autopsy performance standards. However, with adequate staff and improved facilities now in place, Dr. Lanter does not anticipate any issues with the Tulsa office regaining NAME accreditation.

New business-

No new business.

Mr. Stiles motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Marsee seconded the motion. Roll was called and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 pm.

OCME Report to the Board of Medicolegal Investigations, May 2025

Eric Pfeifer, MD

Top Priorities and Concerns for OCME Operation

NAME RE-ACCREDITATION

We anticipate inspection by NAME for re-accreditation in the first quarter of 2025. An outside accreditation consultant has been retained, and he has gone through the NAME checklist and has identified gaps we need to address. Most of these gaps involve updating policies and procedures, and we are already close to satisfying all requirements for accreditation. The major hurdle has been adequate staffing, particularly forensic pathologists to attain a caseload ratio of less than 250 autopsy equivalents per physician per year. This does not take into account the other responsibilities of OCME physicians, including certifying permits and teaching. **As of August 1 of 2024 we are now adequately staffed, having added 6 additional pathologists.** It has taken 14 years to assemble the 18 forensic pathologists and 2 fellow team. There has already been a measurable effect on turnaround times, which continue to decrease as we accede to national standards.

OCME Agency Departments

PHYSICIANS

Our case turnaround time performance is very good (see attached graph below).

Pathologist	Cases	COMPLETED				PENDING							Total		
		Number Closed	Average IAT	> 90 Days	90%+90 Days	Total	> 90 Days	Pending Tot	Pending Signout	> 90 Days/ Total	60-90 Days	Pending Tot	Pending Signout	Completed > 90 days	Pending > 90 Days
	81	35.1	3	96%	43	2	1	1	98%	14	11	3	3	2	96%
	75	32.3	3	96%	42	2	1	1	98%	10	7	3	3	2	96%
	121	35.5	4	97%	57	0	0	0	100%	20	12	8	4	0	98%
	83	54.6	3	96%	59	3	0	3	98%	17	12	5	3	3	96%
	51	44.2	3	94%	39	2	1	1	98%	10	6	4	3	2	94%
	7	45.5	0	100%	10	0	0	0	100%	1	1	0	0	0	100%
	93	511.6	2	98%	13	0	0	0	100%	0	0	0	2	0	98%
	57	45.2	0	100%	57	0	0	0	100%	10	3	7	0	0	100%
	38	57.8	2	95%	32	1	0	1	99%	5	4	1	2	1	96%
	71	45.3	3	96%	37	3	2	1	97%	4	3	1	3	3	94%
				97%											97%
	57	40.9	1	98%	29	0	0	0	100%	3	3	0	1	0	99%
	40	48.0	0	100%	41	1	0	1	99%	12	7	5	0	1	99%
	77	33.7	2	97%	40	4	2	2	97%	2	1	1	2	4	95%
	60	37.0	2	97%	31	0	0	0	100%	8	7	1	2	0	98%
	35	31.3	0	100%	32	0	0	0	100%	6	6	0	0	0	100%
	75	42.6	3	96%	63	3	2	1	98%	16	11	5	3	3	96%
	76	45.4	1	99%	27	1	1	0	99%	1	1	0	1	1	98%
	28	39.0	1	96%	32	0	0	0	100%	8	2	6	1	0	98%
				98%											98%
	1125	65.0	33	97%	684	22	10	12		147	97	60	33	22	97%

FELLOWSHIP IN FORENSIC PATHOLOGY

We have successfully matched two fellow candidates for FY27.

ADMINISTRATION

Timothy Dwyer has been hired to be our new Director of Operations.

ANTHROPOLOGY

We now have four FTE forensic anthropologists. They continue to make great contributions, including some innovative cost saving measures.

AUTOPSY SERVICES

Nothing new to report.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Having an embedded OMES IT person continues to be of great value to us.

We are presently conducting a search for a new, commercial case management system to replace the ancient, Access-based database system. This is expected to be a multi-year project. Funding for the new CMS was recently dissolved.

INVESTIGATIONS

Scene response elapsed times: 1 hr., 12m.

Permit turnaround times: 10hr., 47 m

TOXICOLOGY

We anticipate a site inspection for lab accreditation in August.

See also, Physicians, above.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

It seems we are on track to get only half of our requested and needed appropriations for FY2026 for continued operation. This should not hinder us this coming year, assuming we are successful in administrative rules changes.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Re-accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners; anticipated by early 2025.

FINANCIAL

See "Financial Snapshot" to be presented at Board meeting as part of a separate presentation item.

FY25	APPROPRIATIONS	MONTHLY DEPOSITS	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	Profit/Loss
July	\$1,359,928.00	\$395,477.75	\$1,755,405.75	\$2,026,546.12	(\$271,140.37)
August	\$1,359,928.00	\$354,812.32	\$1,714,740.32	\$2,293,041.96	(\$578,301.64)
September	\$1,359,928.00	\$467,820.32	\$1,827,748.32	\$1,909,621.88	(\$81,873.56)
October	\$1,359,928.00	\$365,042.95	\$1,724,970.95	\$2,776,745.52	(\$1,051,774.57)
November	\$1,359,928.00	\$361,217.74	\$1,721,145.74	\$1,988,714.66	(\$267,568.92)
December	\$1,359,928.00	\$329,040.00	\$1,688,968.00	\$2,179,944.62	(\$490,976.62)
January	\$1,359,928.00	\$460,746.00	\$1,820,674.00	\$2,164,320.50	(\$343,646.50)
February	\$1,359,928.00	\$415,764.00	\$1,775,692.00	\$2,197,519.00	(\$421,827.00)
March	\$1,359,928.00	\$359,459.00	\$1,719,387.00	\$1,968,820.00	(\$249,433.00)
April	\$1,359,928.00	\$428,395.00	\$1,788,323.00	\$2,209,373.00	(\$421,050.00)
May	\$1,359,928.00		\$1,359,928.00		\$1,359,928.00
June	\$1,359,928.00		\$1,359,928.00		\$1,359,928.00
FY Year End Totals	\$16,319,136.00	\$3,937,775.08	\$20,256,911.08	\$21,714,647.26	(\$1,457,736.18)

END

YCUI

From Agency: 34200 To Agency: 34200

Allotment Budget and Available Cash

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State of Oklahoma
 Allotment Budget and Available Cash
 As Of April 30,2025

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<u>Business Unit</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Bud Ref</u>	<u>Allocations</u>	<u>Pre Encumbered</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>	<u>Current Yr Exp</u>	<u>Prior Yr Exp</u>	<u>Allotment Budget</u>	<u>Available Cash</u>
34200										
	193									0.00
	19301	01	23	1,291,634.14	.00	.00	.00	1,291,634.14	.00	
	19301	10	23	11,458,514.48	.00	.00	.00	11,458,514.48	.00	
	19311	01	24	34,015.86	.00	.00	.00	34,015.86	.00	
	19311	10	24	2,421,979.52	.00	.00	.00	2,421,979.52	.00	
				<u>15,206,144.00</u>				<u>15,206,144.00</u>		
	194									0.00
	19401	01	24	1,076,277.00	.00	.00	.00	1,076,277.00	.00	
	19401	10	24	13,394,836.52	.00	.00	121,020.95	13,273,815.57	.00	
	19411	10	25	1,548,030.48	.00	.00	1,548,030.48	.00	.00	
				<u>16,019,144.00</u>			<u>1,669,051.43</u>	<u>14,350,092.57</u>		
	195									669,961.08
	19501	01	25	1,293,813.00	.00	.00	585,837.93	.00	707,975.07	
	19501	10	25	15,025,331.00	.00	275,907.02	12,343,490.99	.00	2,405,932.99	
				<u>16,319,144.00</u>		<u>275,907.02</u>	<u>12,929,328.92</u>		<u>3,113,908.06</u>	
	200									4,497,582.84
	20000	01	23	33,449.00	.00	.00	.00	4,427.19	29,021.81	
	20000	01	24	33,450.00	.00	.00	260.13	133.62	33,056.25	
	20000	01	25	21,350.00	.00	.00	780.02	.00	20,569.98	
	20000	10	23	4,252,447.00	.00	282,679.25	2,724.66	3,520,414.88	446,628.21	
	20000	10	24	5,345,027.00	.00	283,784.80	333,472.76	3,508,081.78	1,219,687.66	
	20000	10	25	8,686,747.00	.00	823,848.38	4,922,337.71	.00	2,940,560.91	
	20000	88	23	1,859,908.00	.00	86,188.47	34,860.24	1,728,493.41	10,365.88	



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<u>Business Unit</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Bud Ref</u>	<u>Allocations</u>	<u>Pre Encumbered</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>	<u>Current Yr Exp</u>	<u>Prior Yr Exp</u>	<u>Allotment Budget</u>	<u>Available Cash</u>
34200										
	200									4,497,582.84
	20000	88	24	3,849,018.00	.00	164,186.99	192,175.77	1,401,634.51	2,091,020.73	
	20000	88	25	1,716,330.00	.00	320,154.81	1,334,744.03	(44.00)	61,475.16	
				25,797,726.00		1,960,842.70	6,821,355.32	10,163,141.39	6,852,386.59	
	400									259,868.94
	40000	01	23	24,220.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	24,220.00	
	40000	01	24	20,835.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	20,835.00	
	40000	01	25	44,896.00	.00	.00	28,842.50	.00	16,053.50	
	40000	10	23	142,161.00	.00	.31	.00	104,593.35	37,567.34	
	40000	10	24	110,005.00	.00	1,675.60	1,403.82	106,925.58	.00	
	40000	10	25	122,021.00	.00	6,348.88	33,340.37	.00	82,331.75	
	40000	88	23	500,000.00	.00	.00	.00	63,154.74	436,845.26	
				964,138.00		8,024.79	63,586.69	274,673.67	617,852.85	
	994									233.63
Business Unit Totals				74,306,296.00	.00	2,244,774.51	21,483,322.36	39,994,051.63	10,584,147.50	5,427,646.49



State of Oklahoma
 Allotment Budget and Available Cash
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<u>Business Unit</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Bud Ref</u>	<u>Allocations</u>	<u>Pre Encumbered</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>	<u>Current Yr Exp</u>	<u>Prior Yr Exp</u>	<u>Allotment Budget</u>	<u>Available Cash</u>
Grand Totals				74,306,296.00	-	2,244,774.51	21,483,322.36	39,994,051.63	10,584,147.50	5,427,646.49