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

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 2:00 PM.
921 N.E. 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK, 73105
and via video conference at
1627 Southwest Blvd., Tulsa OK 74107

Dr. Michael Magguilli, Ms. Angela Marsee, Mr. Tyler Stiles,
Mr. Steven Carter, Mr. Keith Reed, and a representative from
Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA)
will attend in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Jason Beaman 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 December 5, 2024.
- 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
SPECIAL MEETING

Board Meeting Minutes from
Thursday December 5, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
921 N.E. 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 and
Via videoconference at 1627 Southwest Blvd., Tulsa, OK 74117

In conformity with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, advance notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State on November 6, 2024, at 11:13 A.M. 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: Mr. Tyler Stiles, Mr. Roger McIver, Ms. Angela Marsee, Dr. Michael Magguilli.

Members present in Tulsa: Dr. Jason Beaman and Dr. Eric Harp

Members absent: Mr. Keith Reed and Dr. Eric Pfeifer, Representative of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA)

Others Present: Dr. Josh Lanter (OCME), Madalynn Martin (OAG), Kari Learned (OCME), Lori Shively (OCME).

Dr. Harp called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

Dr. Beaman motioned to adopt the minutes as written from the August 8, 2024, meeting. Mr. Stiles seconded the motion. Roll was called, and all others were in favor.

- Nomination, discussion, and possible election of the Board of Medicolegal Investigations, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Board Chairman. Mrs. Marsee motioned to nominate Mr. Stiles as Board Chairman. Dr. Beaman seconded the motion. Roll was called, Mr. Stiles abstained, all others were in favor.

- Nomination, discussion, and possible election of the Office of the Board of Medicolegal Investigations, Chief Medical Examiner Board Vice Chairman. Dr. Beaman motioned to nominate Dr. Harp as Vice-Chairman. Mrs. Marsee seconded the motion. Roll was called; all were in favor.

- Agency update from Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Joshua Lanter
~ Dr. Lanter presented the agency update to the Board.

- As of August 1, 2024, we have the personnel to meet the standards for accreditation. One obstacle facing us was ensuring we meet the case turnaround time performance standards. (90% of cases being closed within 90 days). As of today, we are at 91% of cases completed within 90 days. The eventual goal is to have 90% of cases completed within 60 days. This data is being tracked weekly.

Turnaround time for toxicology reports is currently 96% being completed within 90 days.

- Fellowship -

The fellowship program is currently training 2 forensic fellows who are doing exceptionally well. The program has 2 fellows placed for the next academic year. The candidates who are interested in our program are top quality. We believe the interest in our program is due to our personnel and the training environment. Another thing that puts us in the spotlight is our social media presence. This enables us to communicate with the younger generation who we want to attract to forensics.

We participate in the National Residency Matching Program (Match). We list our top candidates, and they list their top program. The automated results from this process will determine who becomes part of our program.

- Administration -

Administration is continuing with various projects. Budget request hearings with the House and Senate will be scheduled soon.

We are close to finalizing the selection for the new case management system (CMS). This will replace the Access system the agency has used since 2020.

- Anthropology -

The new anthropologist, Tim Goche will start with the agency in January. He will office in Tulsa and work closely with Angela Berg.

- Autopsy Services -

The Lodox equipment which performs full body x-rays are coming to their end of life. The decision will need to be made whether they are replaced at an approximate cost of \$500K each or refurbished the existing equipment.

- Investigations -

Dr Pfeifer mentioned during the August meeting that the agency is applying for a grant to enhance the 2-way radios the investigators use. The total cost could be \$140K for new radios and if awarded, the grant should cover half of the expense. We hope to know this month or next if the grant is approved. Scene response time is averaging 1 hour, 23 minutes for the entire state. This is the time it takes an investigator to arrive on scene from the time they are notified of a death.

Cremation and transport out of state permit turn-around time is averaging 9 hours, 45 minutes. Our minimum goal is 2 business days which we are well under.

- Toxicology laboratory -

A 4th toxicologist is needed to meet the case completion goal. This would greatly assist in achieving the 60 day turn-around for case completion. The lab needs more equipment, space, and additional personnel to get us to that goal.

- Legislation -

FY25 we were awarded \$300K in additional appropriations. With the addition of the new pathologists the request for FY26 will be \$2.5M. We hope to receive the increase in administrative rules which will add approximately \$1MM.

- Priority projects -

The number one priority for OCME continues to be the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) re-accreditation. We anticipate applying for a site visit during the first quarter of 2025.

- Financial -

Dr. Lanter reviewed the financial profit and loss data. We're currently in the red but drawing from the agency's available cash. As of November's statement, the carryover balance is \$6.5M. October expenses were higher; the reason for this is payment was made for the maintenance contracts for the CT scanners.

- Discussion and possible action regarding 2025 meeting dates for the Board of Medicolegal Investigations, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Mrs. Marsee motioned to adopt the following 2025 meeting dates. February 13th, May 8th, August 14th, and November 13th. Mr. Stiles seconded the motion. Roll was called and all were in favor.

- Discussion and possible action to adopt the permanent rule changes to OAC 445:10-1-11 Fees for Forensic Science and Laboratory services [AMENDED].

Notice of rule making intent was published on September 16, 2024. The public comment period ran for 30 days. There was a public hearing on October 22, 2024. No public comments were received, and no one showed up to the public hearing.

Mrs. Marsee motioned to adopt the proposed rule changes. Dr. Beaman seconded the motion. Roll was called and all were in favor.

Dr. Beaman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Magguilli seconded the motion. Roll was called and were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

OCME Report to the Board of Medicolegal Investigations, February 2025

Eric Pfeifer, MD

Top Priorities and Concerns for OCME Operation

NAME RE-ACCREDITATION—WE ARE VERY CLOSE!

Next week we are having a final agency meeting to examine the NAME accreditation checklist for any gaps in our efforts to regain accreditation that was lost in 2009. We and our external consultant believe we are ready to be inspected and anticipate full accreditation by NAME. After the meeting we will formally apply for inspection and anticipate that inspection happening in the first half of 2025. 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 this year 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 that now exists. 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 pretty good. We are presently finalizing 90% of cases in 90 days or less, and this (barely) meets the minimum national benchmark. The goal is to finalize greater than 90% in 60 days and we are presently close to this at 84%. The Oklahoma OCME is one of the busiest practices in the United States, with yearly examinations exceeding 8,000 per year.

We continue to be highly visible at national meetings with scientific presentations.

FELLOWSHIP IN FORENSIC PATHOLOGY

There are two fellows this year, and seven(!) in the pipeline for next year. The quality of the candidates is excellent. FYI, about 40 forensic new forensic pathologists graduate each year in the entire United States.

The training program enjoys continued accreditation by ACGME, and now has formal training in postmortem radiography including postmortem CT.

Our social media account(s) have been successful in fellow/staff recruitment.

We participate in the national residency/fellowship match program.

ADMINISTRATION

Administration continues to be very busy with budget, payroll, procurement of a new CMS, facilities and equipment maintenance, strategic projects, legislative development, quality assurance, and family assistance, etc.

Strategic budget planning for FY27 begins soon.

ANTHROPOLOGY

We now have four full-time (two in Tulsa, two in OKC) forensic anthropologists.

AUTOPSY SERVICES

We have now a formalized QA program that accedes to NAME standards.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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

We have selected a new, commercial case management system to replace the Access-based database system. This is expected to be a multi-year project. The bid process is now in legal analysis.

INVESTIGATIONS

Scene response elapsed times: 1 hour, 18min (was 1hr, 15 min)

Permit turnaround times: 11hrs, 40 min (was 10hrs., 26 m)

TOXICOLOGY

The OCME turnaround time for toxicology cases meets national benchmarks (>90% in 90 days). In January the tox lab completed and reported over 900 cases, which greatly exceeds the autopsy lab patient examination case numbers.

The Toxicology Laboratory is among the top ten busiest in the country for caseload and have reorganized their analytical processes and workflow to expedite case completion. This is placing a human stress on the lab and will not be sustainable for the long run without an additional toxicologist (part of five-year plan).

The OCME tox lab maintains its dual accreditation (ISO 17025, ABFT).

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

We recently participated in three budget hearings at the Capitol, where we indicated clearly that continued operations necessitate \$3.5M in additional recurring appropriations for FY26. These are needed to fund the new staff salaries and benefits. We also anticipate increasing our cremation and out-of-state transport fees by \$35 each, bringing in another \$1MM per year approximately (Total \$4.5M). This fee increase is far lower than the aggregated total inflation since their last increase.

Last year's additional appropriation did not cover even inflationary costs for supplies and services, and as addressed previously to the Board and to the Legislature, this has necessitated digging into our cash reserves. We might have enough reserve to fund operations for one more year in the absence of improved appropriation.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

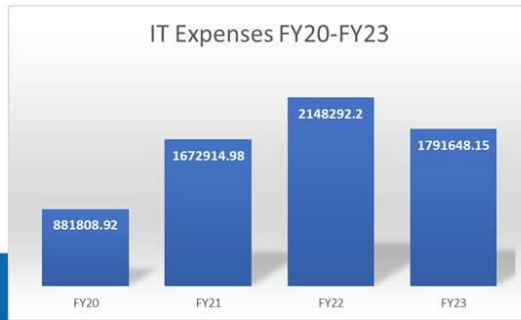
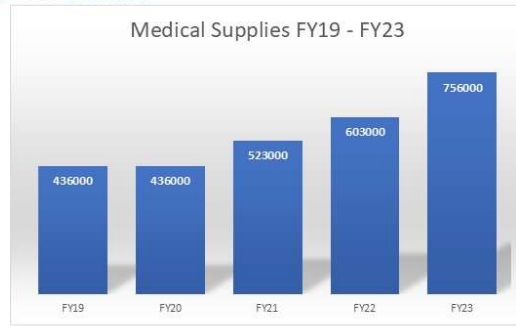
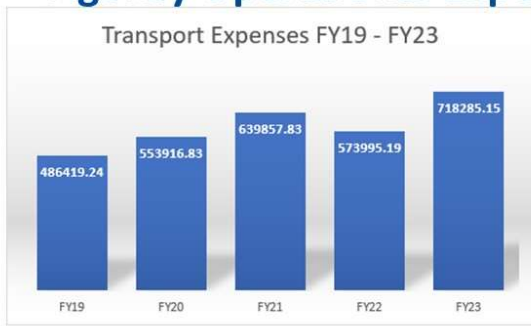
Re-accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners; anticipated by early to mid 2025.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

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		\$1,359,928.00		\$1,359,928.00
March	\$1,359,928.00		\$1,359,928.00		\$1,359,928.00
April	\$1,359,928.00		\$1,359,928.00		\$1,359,928.00
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	\$2,734,157.08	\$19,053,293.08	\$15,338,935.26	\$3,714,357.82

Available cash: \$6.26 M

Agency Operational Expense Trends



END



State of Oklahoma
 Allotment Budget and Available Cash
 As Of January 31,2025

2/3/2025
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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>
Grand Totals				<u>74,106,296.00</u>	<u>100,773.38</u>	<u>3,473,373.15</u>	<u>15,111,998.59</u>	<u>39,994,051.63</u>	<u>15,426,099.25</u>	<u>6,262,598.43</u>