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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, May 8, 2025, at 02:00 pm  
921 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> 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: Mr. John Jones, Mr. Keith Reed, Mr. Tyler Stiles, and Dr. Eric Pfeifer.

Members present in Tulsa: Dr. Eric Harp

Members absent: Ms. Angela Marsee, Dr. Jeffrey Galles, Dr. Jason Beaman, and Dr. Michael Magguilli.

Others Present: Dr. Josh Lanter (OCME), Madalynn Martin (OAG), Kari Learned (OCME), Elysa Imhoff (OCME), Michele Krizan (OCME), Lori Shively (OCME), Dr. Marc Harrison (OCME), and Ashley Kelley (OCME).

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

Mr. Reed motioned to adopt the minutes as written from February 13, 2025, meeting. Mr. Stiles seconded the motion. Roll was called; all were in favor.

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

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

Dr. Pfeifer reaffirmed that the primary institutional focus remains the reaccreditation process with the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). Inspections by NAME are expected to take place soon, with separate evaluations planned for the Oklahoma City and Tulsa

offices. Dr. Pfeifer conveyed full confidence in the readiness of both facilities and their ability to meet all standards necessary for successful reaccreditation.

#### Physicians-

The primary obstacle to regaining NAME reaccreditation has been achieving adequate staffing-particularly forensic pathologists. As of August 1, 2024, the agency has reached full staffing capacity with the addition of six new forensic pathologists. It has taken 14 years to assemble the current team of 18 board-certified forensic pathologists and two fellows. Currently, 90% of cases are closed within 90 days. Looking ahead, Dr. Pfeifer has set a new institutional goal of closing 90% of cases within 60 days.

#### Fellowship-

In July, two new fellows will begin their training, one at each office. Both fellowship positions have been filled for the 2026-2027 academic year.

#### Administration-

We are pleased to share that Timothy Dwyer has rejoined OCME. Mr. Dwyer previously served the agency with distinction for 17 years, and we are excited to welcome him back. In June, he will step into the role of Director of Operations.

It is with deep appreciation that we share the upcoming retirement of Kari Learned, our Director of Operations. Over her 17 years of service, Kari has played a vital role in the agency's growth and success. We are grateful for her leadership and wish her the very best in her retirement.

#### Anthropology-

We now have four full-time forensic anthropologists, two at each office. With the large number of clandestine shallow graves in the state of Oklahoma, their expertise remains in constant demand.

#### 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.

We are currently in the process of identifying a new commercial case management system (CMS) to replace our 25-year-old, Access-based database. Although this is a long-term project expected to take several years, it is not currently critical for day-to-day operations. While funding for the new CMS was recently dissolved, we remain optimistic about securing alternative funding sources to support this critical upgrade in the future.

#### Investigations-

The average scene response time is 1 hour and 12 minutes, which is an average across all 77 counties.

Permit turnaround time has decreased slightly to 10 hours 47 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. The recent improvements in toxicology performance have played a critical role in enabling our physicians to meet current performance standards.

#### Legislation-

During the budget hearings at the Capitol, we emphasized the need for \$3.5M in recurring appropriations for FY26. While we received \$1.75M, this is not expected to hinder operations in the upcoming year, assuming our proposed administrative rule changes are approved.

#### 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 provided an overview of the agency's profit and loss statement, noting that current expenditures exceed revenues. As of April's statement, the carryover balance remains at \$5.4M

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

Dr. Lanter noted that our agency successfully Matched two forensic pathology fellows, keeping pace with larger cities and more tropical locations. He believes this achievement is a testament to the quality of our facilities and the dedication of our staff. He also shared that next month, members of the Tulsa office will participate in a mass disaster exercise at the Tulsa International Airport. This drill, involving multiple agencies from the Tulsa area, offers a valuable, eye-opening experience and helps foster stronger relationships and collaboration with partnering organizations.

#### New business-

No new business.

Mr. Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Roll was called, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.