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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, April 4, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.  
Oklahoma State University, Forensic Sciences & Biomedical Research Building  
1111 W. 17<sup>th</sup>, Room E202, Tulsa, OK 74107, 918-295-3400

*In conformity with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, advance notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State on December 3, 2018 at 2:38 PM 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK and on the front door of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Eastern Division, 1115 W. 17<sup>th</sup>, Tulsa.*

Members present: Mr. Rocky McElvany, Dr. Robert Allen, Dr. Doug Stewart, Mr. Chris Ferguson, Dr. Roy Zhang and Dr. Eric Pfeifer.

Members absent: Mr. Glen Huff, Dr. Steve Vogel and Mr. Ricky Adams.

Others Present: Amy Elliott (OCME) Kari Learned (OCME), Dr. Josh Lanter (OCME), Mary Wilson (OCME), Samantha Richardson (OCME) and John Crittenden (OAG).

Dr. Allen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

Mr. McElvany motioned to adopt the minutes as written from the February 7, 2019, meeting. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called, and all were in favor.

Update from the Chief Medical Examiner – Dr. Eric Pfeifer

● Financial snapshot -

~ Our receipts last month were very robust, \$414K was brought in from permits alone with a carryover of \$185K. We currently have \$8.4M, however, a great deal of that is already encumbered. Financially, things are looking stable for the Agency.

● Priority projects –

~ The new Tulsa practice continues to be the main priority project. Since our last Board meeting, we've met in person with Rep. Ross Ford, Vice Chairman of Appropriations, Senators Roger Thompson and Greg Treat as well as Dr. Kayse Shrum and Eric Pollock of Oklahoma State University (OSU). At this point, the question is how the funding will come about.

~ Staff recruitment is another priority project. We have a applicant from Nashville who would like to join our fellowship program in 2021-2022. The quality of fellow applicants has become increasingly stronger. At this time, we have 3 high caliber applicants for the 2020-2021, with only one position to fill. We've applied to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for an additional position for our fellowship program. At this time, we are currently waiting to receive notice from the ACGME to find out if they have approved our program for the additional position. If the increase is approved we will be able to select 2 of the 3 applicants we've interviewed for 2020-2021. We feel fairly confident we will receive the compliment increase.

The job advertisement for 3 staff forensic pathologists went live yesterday on the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) website. These are for openings left by Dr. Choi, Dr. Nichols and an incremental increase of one position.

Update from Chief Administrative Officer – Mrs. Amy Elliott

- Legislation –

~ Our agency has been following 3 bills this session. HB 2640 which creates Francine's Law, passed the House and Senate and is currently waiting on the Governor's signature. This bill requires the OCME and Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) to enter data and information into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NAMUS) when a person has been reported missing or when the Medical Examiner or OSBI have located an unidentified person.

SB 108 – This is a death certificate accuracy act. If passed, will require the individual completing the cause of death on a death certificate, who knows that a lethal drug, overdose or other means of assisting suicide caused or contributed to the death, to reflect that on the certificate. The bill also specifies that knowingly omitting such information will be deemed unprofessional conduct.

SB 960 died and was brought back in shell bill HB 1014, this bill authorizes OSBI to access the Department of Public Safety's computerized fingerprint database for the purpose of identifying a person who is deceased, missing or endangered.

- Budget –

~ As Dr. Pfeifer mentioned, we have received full support from the capitol for the new Tulsa building. OSU has been a wonderful partner in explaining to the legislators why there has been an increase in the cost of the new Tulsa practice. Senator Thompson requested a backup plan just in case the partnership with OSU does not work out.

- Oklahoma City office update –

~ We have received 3 applicants for the 2020-2021 academic year and 2 for 2021-2022 and 1 for 2022-2023. These are all very strong candidates and we are pleased to receive this much interest in our fellowship program.

~ The Oklahoma City practice is finally wrapping up the long list of items that needed to be addressed after the move in. We are currently waiting on warmer weather to determine whether or not upgrade to the air conditioner units will solve the condensation issue in the autopsy lab.

~ Wiggin Properties has scheduled quarterly testing on the generator. They completed the first test which was successful.

Update from Deputy Chief Medical Examiner –

- Tulsa office update –  
~ Personnel update for Tulsa - all investigator positions, in-house and district are full. We are currently in a holding pattern with forensic pathologist positions until we get more information on what is going to happen with the new building. We will reassess this topic in the next couple of months when we know more. Overall, things are going very well.
- No new business.

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