

CENTRAL OFFICE
921 NE 23rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Tel: (405) 239-7141
Fax: (405) 239-2430



EASTERN OFFICE
1115 West 17th St.
Tulsa, OK 74107
Tel: (918) 295-3400
Fax: (918) 585-1549

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

**BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS
REGULAR MEETING**

Board Meeting Minutes from
Thursday April 7, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.
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 3, 2021, at 12:45 P.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.

Members present: Mr. Robert Hoisington, Mr. Tyler Stiles, Mr. Keith Reed, Dr. Michael Magguilli and Dr. Eric Pfeifer.

Members present via videoconference: Dr. Eric Harp, and Dr. Doug Stewart.

Members absent: Mr. Ricky Adams, Dr. Robert Allen,

Others Present: Dr. Josh Lanter (OCME), Margie Weaver (OAG), Kari Learned (OCME), Lori Shively (OCME), Michele Krizan (OCME).

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

Dr. Stewart motioned to adopt the minutes as written from March 3, 2022, meeting. Mr. Stiles seconded the motion. Roll was called, Mr. Reed abstained, and all were in favor.

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

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

The agency is noticing a downward trend in the caseload. This appears to be following the curve of the COVID-19 infectivity rate in the state.

Physicians –

Open autopsy cases over 90 days old are at 369, up from 364. We are recruiting an additional forensic pathologist (FP) for the Oklahoma City practice to fill the spot offered to our current OKC fellow. This process can take 6-12 months to get a new FP directly out of training. An established pathologist can take 12-18 months.

Fellowship –

Two new fellows will join us July of this year. The current Oklahoma City fellow has accepted a position as an academic neuropathologist at Northwestern in Chicago.

Administration –

The agency purchasing officer, Renee Steward, retired effective March 31st. Michele Krizan joined us to fill this vacancy. Dr. Pfeifer has received many compliments on Michele, and she is doing a great job.

Investigations –

Scene response times are up by 2 minutes on average. The current response time is 1 hour 26 minutes. Dr. Pfeifer would like to see this as close to 1 hour as possible. This time will most likely not change by much until we are able to hire additional investigators. We've requested from the legislature this year, appropriations for 4 new investigators. Ultimately, we would like to have an additional 10. This would bring the agency to a total of 40 investigators statewide.

Permit turnaround time –

Permit turnaround time is at 15 hours 56 minutes. The goal is to have permits issued in 48 hours or less. Within the last year, we had permit turnaround times of 10-11 hours. However, the number of permits has increased drastically coinciding with the curve of COVID-19. With the trend going down, hopefully we can get the turnaround time back down as well.

Legislation –

SB1123 would allow decedents to be transported from a motor vehicle accident without the permission of the Medical Examiner's Office. This has passed out of second committee and is headed to the third committee. Dr. Pfeifer has done everything he could to kill it and hopes it will die there. The bill is too broad and leaves too many unanswered questions.

HB3469 allows parents to handle deceased children prior to the Medical Examiner performing their investigation. Our understanding of the bill is the Medical Examiner would still be involved and would approve as well as have someone present during the handling of the child by their parents.

HB4121 allowing sheriffs to certify death certificates has died.

SB354 allowing decedents to be transported out of state without a permit when the death occurs in a county that bordered another state. This bill has died.

Financial snapshot –

The Tulsa project is on budget and on time. We had a fairly robust carryover in March. There will be some major expenses as we pay for equipment and move forward with the Tulsa project. The CT scanner will be installed this month. The ABC report indicates we still have \$10M in available cash.

Two weeks ago, Dr. Pfeifer, Dr. Lanter and Kari Learned met with Senator Thompson to discuss the appropriations request for the upcoming year. Dr. Pfeifer left this meeting feeling very good about the agency's appropriations request. He thinks this will be a good year for the agency, not only for salary increases but hiring the additional staff that was requested and much needed.

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

The current timeline for the new Tulsa building is as follows. Completion is scheduled for late May which is on schedule. They will perform a walk-through noting items that need to be addressed. A temporary occupancy permit can be issued at that time. The few things that are being taken to the new building from the old building can be moved at that time. Furniture is scheduled to be delivered and installed mid-May. The CT scanner is to be installed April 18th. Official move in and conducting business as usual is planned for early July, possibly sooner.

Oklahoma State University (OSU) plans to demolish the existing building fairly quickly after the move to the new facility.

A combined ribbon cutting ceremony with OCME and OSU is scheduled for July 28, 2022, at 4:30 P.M. This is still in the early planning stages and additional information is forthcoming. OCME would like to plan our own to include employee's families.

- No new business.

Dr. Stewart motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Roll was called and were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm.