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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, August 2, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.  
921 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
405-239-7141  
And via videoconference at  
1115 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St., 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 8, 2017 at 11:51 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 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. Chris Ferguson, Mr. Rick Adams, Dr. Roy Zhang, Dr. Robert Allen and Dr. Eric Pfeifer

Members present via videoconference: Dr. Doug Stewart.

Members absent: Dr. Steve Vogel, Mr. Glen Huff and Mr. Rocky McElvany

Others Present: Amy Elliott (OCME) Kari Learned (OCME), Dr. Lisa Barton (OCME), Dr. Marc Harrison (OCME) and Jeremy Benavides (OCME) and John Crittenden (OAG). Via video conference, Mary Wilson (OCME), Dr. Josh Lanter (OCME).

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

Mr. Ferguson motioned to adopt the minutes as written from the May 3, 2018, meeting. Dr. Roy Zhang seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Update from Chief Medical Examiner – Dr. Eric Pfeifer

● Financial update–

~ Currently we have \$6.7M available funds. Dr. Pfeifer presented an appropriations overview of the past 7 years, in where the appropriations have shown to be unpredictable. The fees for out of state and cremation permits have been increasing at a predictable rate per year. With the fee increase last November, there has been a noticeable growth in the fees we are collecting.

- Update on priority project–

~ Getting the new Tulsa practice site built will continue to be our priority. We have very strong backing from the Oklahoma State University (OSU) leadership and the Oklahoma Long Range Planning Commission. Dr. Lanter and Mrs. Elliott attend regular planning meetings which seem to have fairly good momentum. OSU has already started construction on the north side of their campus with plans to demolish our present practice site within approximately 3 years. This means we must have a new practice location in Tulsa. It is desired by both OSU and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to be in OSU's new building. We've met with the architects and engineers and have begun space planning. The current estimated cost is \$12M. We are flexible on the funding, whether it's a bond or a one-time supplemental appropriation.

Dr. Allen advised he received an email August 1, 2018, from OSU leadership which suggested that scheduling calls for conceptual documents are to be completed by November. This will allow paper to be put before the legislators.

- Staff update –

~ Dr. Nichols suffered a stroke a couple of months ago and has officially retired effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. With this, we have lost one of our most prolific and fastest surgeons. After 35 years with our Agency, Dr. Choi is retiring at the end of September. Dr. Van Pelt joined us from Tennessee last month as a staff forensic pathologist. Dr. Barton began her fellowship last month as well. Lastly, Dr. Stroberg is expecting and is due to have her baby next week.

Update from the Chief Administrative Officer –

- 2019 Budget –

~ The work plan for the 2019 budget has been submitted, with the actual budget being submitted in October. At that point we will be requesting \$12M for the new Tulsa practice.

- 901 N Stonewall Ave update –

~ The sale of the 901 N. Stonewall has been finalized and the funds were deposited July 30<sup>th</sup>. The University of Oklahoma purchased the building for \$841,450.00.

- Legislative proposals –

~ Mrs. Elliott presented a handout to the Board which outlines areas to be address with the legislators. The literature explains the agency's deficiencies that will hinder us from regaining accreditation with the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). Reaccreditation will not occur until the Tulsa practice is brought up to the same standards as the Oklahoma City practice and 2 additional forensic pathologists are hired. Mrs. Elliott advised this information will be presented by Dr. Pfeifer and Dr. Lanter and herself to legislators during informal meetings beginning in October.

Mr. Ferguson suggested extending a formal invitation to the Tulsa area legislators for a tour of the Tulsa practice. He was advised this was done in the past and the turnout was very poor. Mrs. Elliott will invite the Tulsa area legislators to both the new Oklahoma City practice and the Tulsa practice in order to show the stark contrast.

- Oklahoma City building updates –

~ Mrs. Elliott advised that we have occupied the new Oklahoma City practice building for 9 months and still have 49 outstanding items on the punch list. She has called a mandatory weekly meetings with the building group, developers, representatives from the Commissioner of the Land Office and OCME key personnel to discuss and receive updates on the outstanding items. The most significant issues are the roof leaks and uninsulated air handling ducts that are forming water puddles on top of our coolers due to condensation. This water is dripping down through to the coolers and freezers and has caused 2 employees to slip and fall.

Update from Deputy Chief Medical Examiner –

- Tulsa office update –

~ Dr. Lanter advised Phillip Miller has been hired as a new in-house investigator. Phillip came to us from Tennessee and is ABMDI certified. Sami Richardson who was formerly an in-house investigator has been promoted to investigative supervisor. Dr. Shelton, was our fellow and is now with us as a full-time staff forensic pathologist.

Mr. Ferguson asked who Ms. Richardson replaced. Dr. Lanter advised that Dale Gross was the previous investigative supervisor and is no longer with the agency.

- No new business.

Mr. Adams motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. Roll was called and the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.