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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, February 7, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
921 NE 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-239-7141
And via videoconference at
1115 W. 17th 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 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 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK and on the front door of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Eastern Division, 1115 W. 17th, Tulsa.

Members present: Mr. Glen Huff, Mr. Ricky Adams, Dr. Steve Vogel, Mr. Rocky McElvany, Mr. Chris Ferguson and Dr. Eric Pfeifer.

Members present via videoconference: Dr. Doug Stewart and Dr. Robert Allen.

Members absent: Dr. Roy Zhang.

Others Present: Amy Elliott (OCME) Kari Learned (OCME), Dr. Byron Curtis (OCME) Lori Shively (OCME), Jeremy Benavides (OCME), Dr. Marc Harrison (OCME) and John Crittenden (OAG). Via video conference; Mary Wilson (OCME), Dr. Josh Lanter (OCME) and Samantha Richardson (OCME).

Mr. Huff 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 November 1, 2018, meeting. Dr. Allen seconded the motion. Roll was called, Mr. Adams and Mr. Ferguson abstained, and all others were in favor.

Update from the Chief Medical Examiner – Dr. Eric Pfeifer

● Financial snapshot -

~ We cleared more than \$400K in permit receipts in January. The monthly carryover is starting to tighten up, as we anticipated. Available cash is currently \$8.1M, of which, approximately \$2.5 is already encumbered for payroll. An additional \$1M has been encumbered for the Tulsa CT scanner.

- Priority projects –

- ~ The overarching priority project has been and will continue to be regaining National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation.

- ~ The new OCME Tulsa practice has been added to the new Governor's budget book. The appropriation leadership on the House and Senate sides as well as the Governor are in support of the new building for the Tulsa practice. The conceptual drawings have already been prepared and paid for by Oklahoma State University (OSU). They anticipate constructing the building on the north side of the campus with a portion on that building being occupied by our Tulsa practice.

- ~ Staff recruitment and retention has become a priority project. In the last 2 years 6 pathologists have either sought employment elsewhere or retired. We recently put into effect salary adjustments for our forensic pathologists. At the moment we are regionally and nationally competitive based on salary. Dr. Pfeifer anticipates that we will continue to stay competitive for the next 2-3 years. Forensic pathologist salaries are increasing exponentially due to the national shortage. Currently there is a severe national shortage with a recognized need of an additional 1000 of forensic pathologists. This specialty has become a competitive market. The Governor has helped cover the cost of the salary adjustments by putting that yearly amount into the budget.

- Academic productivity –

- ~ Our academic productivity is getting stronger. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME – the accrediting body for our fellowship) has granted continued accreditation for the next couple of years. We have been visible with academic papers and platform presentations at every national meeting over the last 6 years.

Update from Chief Administrative Officer – Mrs. Amy Elliott

- Budget –

Mrs. Elliott advised that our new Governor seems to be very supportive of our agency and reiterated that we are in his budget book. The House and Senate have also verbally shown their support.

There was a slight increase in the cost of the new Tulsa practice. Mrs. Elliott revised the agency budget to include the new figure and provided justification for the change. If for some reason OSU is not able to participate in the project, the legislators are asking us to provide a backup plan. Mrs. Elliott said that we will look into another P3 project, which is how the Oklahoma City practice was completed. The priority for us is to work with OSU.

- Oklahoma City office update –

- ~ The agency has one applicant who has agreed to join our fellowship program for the 2020-2021 academic year. Within the last few days we have received an additional 3 applicants interested in our program. With the anticipated approval of a second compliment from ACGME, we will have an opening for another fellow in our Tulsa office for 2020-2021. We will receive notification from ACGME in April regarding the approval status of the compliment increase.

- ~ Mrs. Learned announced that the annual reports through 2017 are current and have been posted to the OCME website. As of this morning, there are still 320 open 2018 cases that need to be completed in order to finalize and publish the 2018 annual report.

Mr. Ferguson asked if the roof on the new Oklahoma City building is still leaking. Mrs. Elliott advised the roof has been repaired and that we continue to meet with Wiggin Properties (property management) on a regular basis. We are down to 1 page of times being worked on and will soon have everything checked addressed.

Update from Deputy Chief Medical Examiner –

- Tulsa office update –

~ Dr. Lanter announced that Dr. Arboe resigned effective February 1st. At this point, Tulsa will hold off interviewing for a replacement until there is a more definitive answer on the new building for Tulsa.

All Tulsa rural district investigation positions are filled with one open in-house position. Once that is filled Tulsa will be fully staffed.

- No new business.

Mr. Adams motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Vogel seconded the motion. Roll was called, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.