

CENTRAL OFFICE
901 N. Stonewall
Oklahoma City, OK 73117
Tel: (405) 239-7141
Fax: (405) 239-2430



EASTERN DIVISION
1115 West 17th St.
Tulsa, OK 74107
Tel: (918) 582-0985
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, January 10, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.
Location Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
901 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117, 405-239-7141

In conformity with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, advance notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State on Friday, December 2, 2011 at 1:43 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, 901 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK and on the front door of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Eastern Division, 1115 W. 17th, Tulsa .at 11:49am. January 9, 2013.

Members Present: Mr. Chris Ferguson, Dr. Doug Stewart, Dr. Barbara Bane, Mr. Charlie Curtis, Mr. Rocky McElvany and Dr. Eric Pfeifer.

Members Absent: Mr. Thomas Mortensen, Dr. Karlis Sloka and Dr. Michael Ogle

Others Present: Amy Elliott (OCME), Annette Riley (OCME), Geoff Long (OAG), Ron Baze (OAG), Bruce Walker (DPS), Christine Southern

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

Mr. Curtis motioned to adopt the minutes from the December 13, 2012 meeting. Dr. Bane seconded the motion. Roll was called, Mr. McElvany abstained, and all were in favor.

Mr. McElvany motioned to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion and possible action regarding pending litigation in the case of Dr. Collie Trant vs. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Case No. CV-2010-555. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called and all were in favor.

Dr. Stewart motioned to return to open session. Dr. Bane seconded the motion. Roll was called and all were in favor. No action was taken.

Dr. Pfeifer provided an Agency update.

- A financial snapshot: the Agency continues to have carryover each month, however, this will not be the case once the additional pathologists join the Agency.

- Dr. Elizabeth Ventura, who is currently completing her fellowship in Dallas, was interviewed yesterday. Dr. Nathaniel Patterson, who completed his fellowship last year, was interviewed today. Both interviews went well. Dr. Pfeifer expects to hear back from the applicants within the next couple of weeks.
- We just received our alternate light source. It produces high intensity light of different wave lengths for looking at bruising and it will illuminate gunshot residue on dark pieces of clothing. It can also assist in identify tattoos.

Ms. Elliott provided the following updates:

- We are currently working with OMES for IT consolidation. We have been told the new computers should be installed by the end of January. Computers were delivered to the Tulsa office today. This was a priority due to some employees sharing computers. Oklahoma City office will be next. The PC's will need to be imaged with the software required for each user. The laptops have been received and are ready for OMES to image for the district investigators. OMES advised OSBI has a premier database program that should also work to maintain the database for our Agency. OMES will check the software license to see if this is something OCME would be able to use. We have been advised OMES should be complete with the consolidation by the end of March.
- Dr. Pfeifer, Mr. Ferguson and Mrs. Elliott have visited with Senator Standridge. He has agreed to author SB1118 which adds the Chief Medical Examiner review to the Chanda Turner Bill. The bill has been initiated, however, now we will wait until the session begins for an update. Senator Anderson has introduced a bill which removes the State Health Department from the permit approval process for transportations out of state. Senator Anderson has also introduced a bill (SB55) that will require the Office of the State Medical Examiner to be NAME accredited by November 1, 2014. The bill number is unknown at this time. Items were emailed to the Board members prior to today's meeting. Senator Anderson has proposed two bills for the Agency. One for the NAME accreditation mentioned earlier and SB158 which proposes a cap of 10M to the Master Lease program.

Mr. McElvany questioned where he would find the language for removing the State Health Department from the permit approval process.

- Agency progress is going very well. The new cubicles in the Tulsa office are being installed and should be completed by the end of January. This will locate all the investigators in one area. The new computers for Tulsa are to be installed today and completed very soon. The new phones are to be installed by the end of January. The investigative assistances have been moved to the area that was vacated by the investigators. This makes room for offices for the new doctors.
- The fee increases were accepted by the Secretary of States office. We are waiting for them to be published in the Oklahoma Register. Once they are published, they are to be filed with the Governor's Office House and Senate. We are ahead of schedule on this plan.

- Our new investigative assistant in Tulsa has been trained. Lori Shively has gone to Tulsa and has done extensive training. Mrs. Elliott has researched the permit requests and is unable to determine why the numbers of permit requests are up. She has also sent an email out to the funeral homes to call her if they need assistance. Mrs. Elliott has received some calls and those issues have been resolved.

Mrs. Elliott has already discussed Permanent Rules and Statute changes in her update. No action is needed at this time.

Mr. Long addressed the AG Opinion 2012-23. The conclusion is; using the Master Lease Program to fund a new OCME facility is not unconstitutional and is up to the decision of the Regents. However, there are cautionary notes about pursuing this process.

Mr. McElvany asked Dr. Pfeifer if there is a set of plans drawn up for a new building or if he knows what the cost will be. Dr. Pfeifer advised McLeran Firm estimated the shell of the building at approximately 25M. There is a need of at least another 10M to complete the interior and 5M to retrofit the Tulsa morgue. We were given a number of approximately 42M. Mr. Curtis thinks this will be a low estimate and that it could be closer to 45M.

Dr. Stewart motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McElvany seconded the motion. Roll was called and all were in favor.