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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, March 3, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Location Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
901 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117, 405-239-7141 and
Via Videoconference at 1115 W. 17th St., Tulsa, OK 74117, 918-582-0985

In conformity with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, advance notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State on November 18, 2015, at 2:57 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.

Members Present: Mr. Charlie Curtis, Mr. Rocky McElvany, Dr. Roy Zhang, Mr. Chris Ferguson, Dr. Steve Vogel, Dr. Eric Pfeifer, and via videoconference, Dr. Doug Stewart and Dr. Karlis Sloka.

Members absent: Mr. Glen Huff

Others Present: Amy Elliott (OCME), Kari Learned (OCME), Lori Shively (OCME), Timothy Dwyer (OCME), and Tiffany Wythe (OAG), Kevin McClure (OAG), Patrick Blair (United Tissue network) and via videoconference, Dr. Josh Lanter (OCME) and Mary Wilson (OCME).

Mr. Curtis 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 from the February 4, 2016 meeting as revised. Dr. Zhang seconded the motion. Roll was called, Dr. Sloka and Dr. Vogel abstained, and all others were in favor.

Update from Chief Medical Examiner – Eric Pfeifer, M.D.

- Financial snapshot –
~ Dr. Pfeifer advised the Agency has been informed of receiving an additional 4% reduction in appropriation. This brings the budget cut to a total of 7% for FY 2016. The cremation receipts were robust, the expenditures were in line and we had a carryover of \$155K. The amount of available cash is currently \$5.8M.

- Building project update –

~ This project is moving very quickly. The blocking and stacking exercise for the new building is complete. We are now in the schematic design phase which will be followed by the detail design phase. Once we are in the detail design phase we will have a better idea of the cost. This were we start specifying pieces of equipment, the type of floors, lighting, etc. Construction documents will follow the detail design phase. We continue to have weekly meetings every Friday. If everything stays on track, Commissioner of Land (CLO) still anticipates move in to be August-September 2017.

Update from Chief Administrative Officer – Amy Elliott

- Office updates –

~ The Agency has been working with our general counsel, Tiffany Wythe and LifeShare on updating our protocol. This is standard and is done every two years.

Mrs. Elliott met with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) purchasing and leasing departments. The purpose of the meeting was to determine what items for the new Oklahoma City practice will be specialized and need to be ordered in advance. This will allow time to purchase and receive these specialized items in order to have them on hand at move in. There is an area at the new building which is climate controlled where all pre-purchased items will be stored. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) met with the CLO and OMES to discuss the lease. We are in the very early stages of writing the lease; however, CLO plans to write into the lease that OCME will be able to move into the 3rd floor once the Agency outgrows the first 2 floors.

- Staff updates –

~ The Oklahoma City practice hired a new investigator, Amy Waters. There are currently 2 chemist positions open, for which we've received applications from all over the world. Dr. Nazir was interviewed February 29th, for the fellowship program and Dr. Barr will be interviewed on the 11th of this month. These interviews are for the 2016-2017 academic year.

- Legislative update –

~ SB1505 is being carried by Senator Standridge and Representative Billy. This Bill is simply a language clean-up for Title 63. The Bill has passed the Health and Human Services Committee as well as the Appropriations Committee. Mrs. Elliott is also watching Senator Jolley's Bill SB866 which removes the requirement of the OCME to be located adjacent or in close proximity to the University of Central Oklahoma. The Bill passed the Health and Human Services Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

Update from Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Joshua Lanter

- Tulsa office updates – Josh Lanter, M.D.

~ Dr. Lanter announced the hiring of Tiffany Taylor to fill the investigative assistant position in permits. This was the last open position in the Tulsa practice.

~ Last week, at the Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting, one of our autopsy technicians, Kyla Jorgenson presented the abstract and subsequent paper regarding law enforcement shootings in Oklahoma. This was very well received by the attendees at the conference.

Mrs. Elliott advised the public comment period for OAC445 was posted December 21, 2015 and ends today. No comments were received. This was presented at the December Funeral Board meeting and no feedback was received.

Mr. Ferguson stated the individuals he has spoken with are in favor of the fee increase. He added the OCME permit staff has done a great job over the last few years. They are decreasing the turn-around time and increasing the services to the funeral industry. He commended the OCME for stepping it up and making the changes.

An announcement was made asking if anyone at the meeting had any further comments regarding the Rule change. There was no response.

Mr. Ferguson motioned to adopt the proposed Rule change. Dr. Vogel seconded the motion, roll was called and all were in favor.

Mr. Ferguson asked about the next step in the process for Rule change. Mrs. Wythe advised within 10 days from today the Rule change must be published online which will go to the Governor, the Senate and the House. As it stands right now, the Rule change can be approved by joint resolution, which is very uncommon. The other option is the Governor approves them herself. This typically happens after session ends and would make the Rule effective mid-September.

Mr. McElvany motioned to have the April 7th Board meeting in Tulsa. Dr. Vogel seconded the motion, roll was called and all were in favor.

Mr. McElvany motioned to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Trant v. OCME, case # CIV-2010-555. Dr. Vogel seconded the motion, roll was called and all were in favor.

Videoconference was disconnected at this time.

Videoconference was re-established.

Mr. McElvany motioned to exit Executive Session. Dr. Vogel seconded the motion, roll was called, Dr. Sloka and Dr. Stewart were no longer present, and all others were in favor.

Mr. McElvany motioned to give the attorney who represents the Board of Medicolegal Investigations the authority to take possible action in the case of Trant v. OCME, Case # CIV-2010-555 as discussed in Executive Session. Dr. Vogel seconded the motion, roll was called and all were in favor.

Mr. McElvany motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion threatened litigation regarding the employment of Dr. Mary Goolsby. Dr. Vogel seconded the motion, roll was called and all were in favor.

Videoconference was disconnected at this time.

Videoconference was re-established.

Mr. McElvany motioned to exit Executive Session. Dr. Vogel seconded the motion, roll was called and all were in favor.

No action was taken.

Dr. Zhang motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Vogel seconded the motion, all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm.