

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 May 5, 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. Ricky Adams, Mr. Robert Hoisington, Mr. Tyler Stiles, Dr. Michael Magguilli and Dr. Eric Pfeifer.

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

Members absent: Mr. Keith Reed, Dr. Robert Allen,

Others Present: Dr. Josh Lanter (OCME) Via videoconference, Jennifer Dickson (OAG), Kari Learned (OCME), Lori Shively (OCME), Jodi Dillon (OCME), Dr. Marc Harrison (OCME), Alisha Heinen (OCME) Via videoconference.

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

Mr. Hoisington motioned to adopt the minutes as written from April 7, 2022, meeting. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called and all were in favor.

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

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

Dr. Pfeifer announced the case load trend appears to be decreasing in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. He will continue to watch the numbers.

He is optimistic about FY23 appropriations. He's been answering questions from the legislature

regarding our budget request which was \$15.5M. Approximately \$2.5M of the request is for incremental increases in staff and salaries. The remainder will be for operational expenses for the new Tulsa office.

Fellowship –

Two new fellows will join us July 1st of this year. The agency received a letter this week from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) notifying us of our continued accreditation status for 2 fellows.

Investigations –

Scene response time average for the month of April was 1 hour 29 minutes. The only way to reduce this time is to add more staff.

Mr. Adams asked if the arrival time is determined by where the investigators live or if they are already on another call. Dr. Pfeifer responded that it is both, especially in the east and southeastern districts. Dr. Lanter added that in some instances the drive time could be 3 hours or more each way.

Permit turnaround time –

Permit turnaround time has decreased slightly to 12 hours 21 minutes. The goal is to have permits issued in 48 hours or less.

Toxicology lab –

We installed 2 new GC's last week and a mass spectrometer will be installed in June. Hopefully we are able to reduce the toxicology turn around time with the installation of new equipment.

Legislation –

SB1123 appears to be the only bill that made it to the Governor's desk. This would allow decedents to be transported from a motor vehicle accident without the permission of the Medical Examiner's Office. Dr. Pfeifer has done everything to let people know that at best, this will be a minor nuisance and at worst it could be a horrible problem for the agency. The biggest problem we see is broken chain of custody at scenes. At this point, we will wait to see what happens.

Financial snapshot –

The Tulsa project is on budget and on time. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for July 28th. We anticipate partial occupancy sooner than that date. For the month of April, the agency went into the red by \$114K. This is not a concern for Dr. Pfeifer, available cash as of yesterday was \$10.5M.

Mr. Adams asked Dr. Pfeifer the amount of total budget request and if he know what will be received for personnel pay increases. Dr. Pfeifer responded that the total requested amount was \$15.5M. \$250K is for operational building expenses for the new Tulsa office and \$2.5M is for incremental salary increases. This is to include 4 new investigators, 1 new chemist, 1 new toxicologist, an anthropologist, and 1 additional autopsy technician for Tulsa. The salary increases were based on solid market data for toxicology, autopsy staff, administration, and investigations. The only staff not receiving increases this year will be the physicians.

Mr. Hoisington asked Dr. Pfeifer if he felt the additional 4 investigators will help with response time. Dr. Pfeifer replied, we will not see the results immediately due to the amount of time required to recruit, hire, and train new investigators. The goal is to hire an additional 10 investigators, at that point we will begin to see a difference.

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

The primary focus for Tulsa right now is the new building. Full occupancy is estimated to be in early July. They will start moving some equipment within the next 2-3 weeks. The punch list will be reviewed next week and perform an inspection of the building making notes of anything that needs to be replaced or repaired. Dr. Lanter shared photos of the new building and it's progress.

The CT scanner was to be installed last week, however, Cannon was uncomfortable with the progress of the room. They recommend the room is finished before the CT scanner is installed. Flintco agreed to wait until the end of the month for the installation to ensure everything is completed.

A combined ribbon cutting ceremony with OCME and OSU is scheduled for July 28, 2022, at 4:30 P.M. OCME is planning our own open house for employees along with their families and friends prior to autopsy services being moved to the new building.

Mr. Adams mentioned the Board members would like to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony in support of the agency.

- No new business.

Mr. Hoisington motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called and were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 pm.