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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, May 7, 2015, 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 12, 2014, at 12:42 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. Chris Ferguson, Dr. Steve Vogel & Dr. Barbara Bane, Mr. Thomas Mortensen via videoconference, Dr. Karlis Sloka via videoconference and Dr. Eric Pfeifer

Members Absent: Mr. Charlie Curtis, Mr. Rocky McElvany, Dr. Doug Stewart

Others Present: Kari Learned (OCME), Callie Farrar (OCME) via videoconference, Dr. Marc Harrison (OCME), Timothy Dwyer (OCME), Kari Greene (OCME), Tiffany Wythe (OAG)

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

Dr. Bane motioned to adopt the minutes from the April 2, 2015 meeting. Dr. Vogel seconded the motion. Roll was called, Dr. Sloka and Mr. Mortensen abstained, all others were in favor.

Update from Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Eric Pfeifer

- Financial snapshot – The cremation and out of state transit permit deposits remain steady. The Agency receipts have added approximately \$238K to our accounts. This money is to be used on a new building for the Oklahoma City office. Mr. Ferguson asked Dr. Pfeifer if anyone had notified the Agency about taking money from the revolving account. Dr. Pfeifer advised that he has not been contacted about this matter.

- Priority projects – We no longer have a backlog, however, case turnaround time is always being looked at. The web based permit process is working well and is being well received by the funeral homes. We plan to start a formal Q A (quality assurance) process once the two new physicians are on board in the Tulsa office.

The Agency has 3 accrediting bodies which are ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education), NAME (National Association of Medical Examiners) and ABFT (American Board of Forensic Toxicology). We are still a long way from regaining our NAME accreditation, possibly another 3-4 years. This is contingent upon the new building for Oklahoma City being completed.

Our fellowship program received continued accreditation with the ACGME as a result of our site visit in February of this year. We have invested in library materials for Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Technology update includes a publication in Academic Forensic Pathology about the time savings of the Lodox. Dr. Andrea Wiens co-authored the paper; she advised the Board the findings were an 87% time saving to fully image a body from head to toe over traditional x-ray techniques. Dr. Pfeifer added the Agency has moved to using digital dental x-rays as well. We are also experimenting with ceiling mount photography. Customized tool carts have been ordered for the doctors to use in the autopsy suite along with nano-cassettes for our histology department.

Dr. Pfeifer provided performance data for completing cases; he no longer refers to it as “backlog”. We need to achieve turnaround times of approximately 60 days and have begun to track this data.

Update from Tulsa Office Manager, Callie Farrar

- Legislative update – SB150 passed and was approved by the Governor on April 17th.

Ms. Tiffany Wythe provided an update to the Board on the lawsuit Trant v. State of Oklahoma (CJ-2010-1244). Dr. Trant’s executor asked to be substituted in the case so it could be continued under his name. They also wanted to add Board members to the lawsuit who were not previously named and only in their official capacity. They also named the Attorney General and some additional claims. Ms. Wythe did not have the details of the additional claims. She advised that our attorneys filed a motion to dismiss, asking for the entire case be dismissed because the case cannot continue without Dr. Trant. The judge granted our motion on May 6th; the case is now over. Ms. Wythe said the plaintiff can always appeal the decision.

Dr. Bane motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Vogel seconded the motion. Roll was called and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 pm.