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COMMISSION ON MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2024

The meeting of the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations was held at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in Farmington, CT on Friday, March 8, 2024

Present: Todd D. Fernow, J.D., Chairman (Present)
Sidney M. Hopfer, Ph.D., Secretary (Present)
Jennifer Bourn, Esq. (Present)
Elizabeth Frugale, DPH (Present)
John H. Sinard, M.D., Ph.D., Vice Chairman (Remotely)
Celia F. Pinzi (Remotely)
Susan Keane Baker, MHA (Remotely)
Michael Krinsky, M.D. (Remotely)

Also Present: James R. Gill, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner
Maura E. DeJoseph, D.O., Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
Lincoln Dwayne Gordon, OCME Administrator
Holly Cuomo, Executive Secretary

Opening Remarks and Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Fernow called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

Noted that although all our meetings are open to the public, today's meeting is our annual designated public meeting where constituent groups are sent invitation letters to attend.

The January 12, 2004, minutes were adopted with corrections.

Medical Examiner Summary

Dr. Gill provided the Chief Medical Examiner Report.

Autopsy Workload and Turnaround Times:

Dr. Gill provided information regarding the projected 2024 autopsy numbers. In 2023, there were 2,790 autopsies completed.

Case completion data was reviewed. All Medical Examiners are projected to be below the maximum of 325 autopsies per year.

OCME Updates:

Two of the vacant AME positions have been filled. One vacant AME position remains, and 2 candidates have been interviewed. Both will be visiting the office in the coming weeks.

The 2023 Accidental Drug Intoxication Death data has been released. There has been an 8% decrease since 2022.

Fiscal Summary

Lincoln Dwayne Gordon provide the fiscal update for OCME.

Agency Staffing

A copy of the OCME organizational chart was provided to all members.

Old Business:

There were no requests to elect new Officers, so an election did not take place.

New Business:

Liability coverage for volunteer consultants was discussed, as pertinent to a Forensic Odontologist.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was not needed.

Adjournment

There were no additional matters to address. Followed by a motion to adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm.

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Signed minutes will be published once approved at the March meeting.

Sidney M. Hopfer, Ph.D.
Secretary