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## **COMMISSION ON MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS MEETING MINUTES**

November 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, November 8, 2024

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

**OCME Present:** James R. Gill, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner  
Maura E. DeJoseph, D.O., Deputy Chief Medical Examiner  
Lincoln Dwayne Gordon, OCME Administrator

**Not Present:** Holly Cuomo, OCME Executive Secretary

### **Opening Remarks and Approval of the Minutes**

Chairman Fernow called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

The minutes from the September 13, 2024 meeting were adopted without correction.

OPM Analyst Matt Lafayette had indicated interest in attending the meeting. He did not attend.

### **Medical Examiner Summary:**

Dr. Gill provided the Chief Medical Examiner Report to the COMLI.

### **Autopsy Workload and Turnaround Times:**

Dr. Gill provided information regarding the projected 2024 autopsy numbers. It is expected that with full medical examiner staffing we will consistently meet the goal of 90% of reports completed within 60 days and 90 days.

**Medical Examiner Staffing:** All of the newly hired Medical Examiners are fully integrated and doing well.

### **Fiscal Summary:**

Lincoln Dwayne Gordon delivered the fiscal update for OCME.

**Agency Staffing:**

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

**Old Business:**

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

The topic of Medical Examiner objectivity and autonomy was discussed, based on a request during the prior meeting. Dr. Gill provided the previously established Office of State Ethics policy to COMLI.

**New Business:**

The statutes and regulations that authorize OCME to investigate the body of a deceased person and take jurisdiction issue in the context of the right of sepulcher was discussed. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting

The proposed dates for the COMLI 2025 meetings were reviewed, accepted and adopted by COMLI.

**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 3:18 pm.

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*Signed minutes will be published once approved at the January 2025 meeting.*