

# ***DRAFT COPY***

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

9/26/25

The meeting of the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations was held at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in Farmington, CT on Friday, September 26, 2025.

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

**Not Present:** Michael Krinsky, M.D.  
Elizabeth Frugale, DPH

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

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

The minutes from the June 6, 2025 meeting were adopted without corrections.

### **Medical Examiner Summary**

Dr. Gill provided the Chief Medical Examiner Report.

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

The number of autopsies for 2025 is projected to be about 2,600, noting this is similar with the number of autopsies completed in 2024.

Case completion data for 2025 was reviewed. As of June, greater than 96% of cases were completed within 90 days and 97% were completed within 60 days.

Investigator scene attendance was 99%, 99% and 98% for June, July, and August respectively.

### **OCME Updates:**

The Office is exploring different options to perform microbiology testing.

The OSHA findings report was received, and the Office received 20 citations; however, 16 of the 20 citations have been resolved, and the remaining 4 citations are being addressed and will be resolved by the date OSHA has assigned.

Discussions have taken place with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) regarding a Social Work Intern to support the families we serve who have lost someone due to an overdose.

**Fellowship:**

The Fellowship grant approval for the 2027 Fellowship funding is expected to be determined in early January 2026.

**Fiscal Summary**

Lincoln Dwayne Gordon provided 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:**

- The Affirmative Action Plan was submitted. Processes have been put in place to enhance the plan for the next submission in June.
- Legislative agenda items are due in October. No agenda items were identified.
- The Connecticut Network (CT-N) inquired about televising a COMLI meeting.
- The Crime Lab DNA database proposal was discussed.

**Executive Session:**

An Executive Session was not needed.

**Adjournment**

Followed by a motion to adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

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

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Sidney M. Hopfer, Ph.D.  
Secretary