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COMMISSION ON MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS MEETING MINUTES

3/14/25

The meeting of the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations was held at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in Farmington, CT on Friday, March 14, 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)
Michael Krinsky, M.D. (Remotely)
Jennifer Bourn, Esq. (Present)
Elizabeth Frugale, DPH (Remotely)
Susan Keane Baker, MHA (Remotely)
Celia F. Pinzi (Remotely)

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

Public: John Cascio, CT Funeral Directors Association (Remotely, brief attendance)
Jesse Gomes, CT Funeral Directors Association (Remotely, brief attendance)
Lissa Lovetere-Stone, CT Funeral Directors Association (Remotely, brief attendance)
Melisa Melin, CT Funeral Directors Association (Remotely, brief attendance)

Not Present: Maura E. DeJoseph, D.O., Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

Opening Remarks and Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Fernow called the meeting to order at 2:03 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. Four members from the CT Funeral Directors Association attended.

Dr. Gill introduced the OCME Supervisors to the members of COMLI.

Celia Pinzi introduced the members of the CT Funeral Directors Association who were attending virtually. Melissa Melin, President, discussed ways that EDRS could support Funeral Directors.

The minutes from the January 24, 2025 meeting were adopted with corrections.

Medical Examiner Summary

Dr. Gill provided the Chief Medical Examiner Report.

Autopsy Workload and Turnaround Times:

Dr. Gill reported the 2025 projected autopsies to be about 2,800, noting this is only based on two months of data.

Case completion data for 2024 was reviewed. Greater than 94% of cases were complete within 90 days, and 87% within 60 days.

Investigator scene attendance was 99% and 98% for January and February respectively.

OCME Updates:

The 2024 drug intoxication death data will be released next week. The data shows a significant decrease from 2023. In 2024, there were fewer than 1,000 accidental drug intoxication deaths, compared to over 1,300 in 2023.

During the last 6 months of 2024, over 100 ME cases became organ/tissue donors. Due to these donations, 38 organs were retrieved, and 78 tissue recoveries took place.

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:

No additional agenda items were discussed.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was not needed.

Adjournment

Followed by a motion to adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm.

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

Sidney M. Hopfer, Ph.D.
Secretary