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COMMISSION ON MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS MEETING MINUTES

1/24/25

The meeting of the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations was held at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in Farmington, CT on Friday, January 24, 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 (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

Opening Remarks and Approval of the Minutes

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

The minutes from the November 8, 2024 meeting were adopted without corrections.

Dr. Gill provided an update on the discussions taking place for the new building project.

Medical Examiner Summary

Dr. Gill provided the Chief Medical Examiner Report.

Autopsy Workload and Turnaround Times:

Dr. Gill provided information regarding the 2024 autopsy numbers, noting that there are a few pending cases from December that have not been finalized.

Case completion data was reviewed. >90% of cases are complete within 90 days. Nearly 90% are complete within 60 days.

Investigator scene attendance was 97% and 99% for November and December respectively.

OCME Updates:

Medical records worked in collaboration with the State Library to develop a digitalization retention system. The digitalization process includes a multi-layered auditing process of our electronic records prior to disposal.

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:

Member inquired if new designer opioids, such as nitazene and “pink cocaine”, are being detected in our toxicology testing.

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 2:59 pm.

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

Sidney M. Hopfer, Ph.D.
Secretary