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COMMISSION ON MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS MEETING MINUTES

6/6/25

The meeting of the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations was held at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in Farmington, CT on Friday, June 6, 2025.

Present: Todd D. Fernow, J.D., Chairman (Remotely)
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. (Remotely)
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 2:11 pm.

The minutes from the March 14, 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 estimated 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 March, greater than 96% of cases were complete within 90 days, and 93% within 60 days.

Investigator scene attendance was 99%, 98% and 97% for March, April and May respectively.

OCME Updates:

There was a recent bill, #7157, that both houses have passed, and is now pending the Governor's decision. If approved, the bill will allow parents or sibling, 18 years of age or older, of a child under 18 years of age to obtain the autopsy report at no charge.

OSHA visited OCME to review a complaint regarding wet floors, ventilation, and defective stretchers. The report of findings is still pending.

Fellowship:

The current Fellow is on track to finish at the end of June. There is one Fellow starting in July 2025, and there are two Fellows committed to start in July 2026.

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:

The Crime Lab has approached OCME about working collaboratively to help clear cold cases by DNA testing; however, the statute only allows OCME to collect DNA from decedents to determine the cause and manner of death.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was not needed.

Adjournment

Followed by a motion to adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.

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

Sidney M. Hopfer, Ph.D.
Secretary