

Office of the Cook County Medical Examiner
Advisory Committee Meeting | May 16, 2014 | REVISED**
Medical Examiner's Office | Lower Level Conference Room
11:00AM

I. Attendance

Present: Reverend Vuanita Battle-Maze, Vitas Hospice; Dr. Enrique Beckmann, Chairman, ME Advisory Committee; Susan J. Dyer, Funeral Director; Detective Jason Moran, Cook County Sheriff's Office, Vice Chairman, ME Advisory Committee; Commander Eugene Roy, Chicago Police Department; Rabbi Moshe Wolf, Police Chaplain, CPD/CFD;; Nadine Jakubowski, Deputy Executive Officer; Martha Martinez, BOA; Octavius Jones, CCME; Dr. Ponni Arunkumar, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner of Cook County; Cmsr. Liz Gorman; Mary Marik, CCME; Robert Meza, BOA; James Sledge, CCME and Regina Brigham, CCME; Daniel Gallagher, CCSA.

Absent: ***Mark A. Rizzo, IDFPR, Secretary***

II. Call to Order

Roll Call

MEAC Meeting is called to order at 11:15am by Dr. Beckmann. Attendance is taken by Dr. Beckmann, announced there is a quorum.

III. Minutes

Dr. Beckman began by reviewing the minutes from the March meeting which caused a very lengthy discussion by members of the committee. Dr. Beckmann related that there were several corrections that needed to be made and that the minutes did not accurately reflect the statements made by him and/or other members. There was a motion made to allow Dr. Beckmann and Detective Moran some time to make the needed corrections and resubmit the March minutes to the committee at the July meeting. The motion was passed by the committee. The March meeting minutes caused additional conversation about how the committee's minutes should be taken. After the discussion, Dr. Beckmann appointed Secretary Rizzo responsible for all future meeting minutes. This was furthered by Detective Moran who related that he would introduce an amendment to Article 3 of the By-Laws ("Officers; Role of Officers") which would place the Secretary of the committee in charge of all committee documents including minutes. The specific

amendment language will be introduced at a future meeting. Ms. Martinez and Commissioner Gorman will research how minutes are taken at other county advisory committee meetings.

IV. Reports

Bureau of Administration:

M. Martinez: Budget process produced and published by Office of the President to look at 2015 forecast of expenditures. There are 15 Business Cases total, 8 of which are Capital Improvements. Recommendations due April 4, 2014 for consideration in Budget Year.\

Doctor Cina:

Dr. Cina: Cooler level is 165 on this day.

Cremations are averaging about 5 per week (25 total).
Concerted effort on Disclaimed Cases to locate next-of-kin.

Long term goals, new facility in future as infrastructure is beginning to fail.
This is a 3-5 to 10 year plan to include many improvements to our Medical Examiner system in future.

J. Sledge: Implementation of Case Management System, beta testing to begin soon. Paperless system is ultimate goal. Continue to work on accreditation deficiencies and get Staffing up to desired level. Introduction of New Staff, Dr. Wagner, Chief Toxicologist and Mr. Smith, Safety. Dr. Wagner gave a brief history of his background and experience from private to government agency work.

Subcommittees:

Cremation Policy: Detective Moran requested completed policy documents pertaining to the offices implementation of cremation. This is so the subcommittee can bring an informed opinion about the policy to the committee.

V. Old business

Dr. Beckman inquired about the Cremation Permit Fees for cremations and Detective Moran explained that Dr. Cina is bound by the RFP to collect these fees.

Ms. Dyer stated that Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery will continue to take Fetal Remains at no charge and do additional indigent burials when deemed necessary.

Commissioner Gorman suggested that MEAC Meeting begin promptly at 11:00 am with or without quorum.

Dr. Beckman provided the committee with a publication via email on issues surrounding the Dignity of the Deceased. The title was "Human Dignity and Bioethics".

VI. New Business

Dr. Beckmann's report will be discussed at a future meeting due to time constraints

VII. Motion to Adjourn

Next Meeting: July 18, 2014

