

**Office of the Cook County Medical Examiner
Advisory Committee Meeting | January 19, 2018
Office of the Medical Examiner | 2121 W. Harrison Street
Lower Level Conference Room | 11:00am**

Attendance

Present: *Dr. Enrique Beckmann, Medical Profession-Chairman; Detective Sergeant Jason Moran, Cook County Sheriff's Office - Vice Chairman; Susan Dyer, Funeral Director - Secretary, Funeral Director, Edward Calahan*

Absent: *Mark A. Rizzo, Funeral Director; Rabbi Moshe Wolf, Clergy; Isaac McCoy, Citizen/Business; Vacancy; Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Vacancy; Chicago Police Department, Vacancy; Clergy, Vacancy, Cook County Commissioner*

Guests Present: *Dr. Ponni Arunkumar, Chief Medical Examiner - CCMEO; Dr. Eimad Zakariya, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner - CCMEO, Rebeca Perrone, Indigent Coordinator - CCMEO; Michael Rodriguez, Executive Officer - CCMEO; Carlos Claudio, Deputy Director - CCBOA, Nadine Jakubowski – Deputy Executive Officer – CCMEO, Tim Novak, Reporter - Chicago SunTimes*

Call to Order/Roll Call

MEAC meeting called to order at **11:12 a.m.** by Chairman Beckmann
Secretary Susan Dyer does roll call. We have a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January 2017 and October 2017 Meeting were reviewed

Motion to approve minutes made by Edward Calahan

Motion seconded by Vice-Chairman Moran

Motion passed unanimously by Committee

MEAC Committee Members reviewed DRAFT of 2017 Annual Report

Motion to approve DRAFT 2017 Annual Report with appropriate modifications like formatting, clarity, and grammar made by Vice-Chairman Moran

Motion seconded by Edward Calahan

Discussion: Photos and charts will be added to complete Annual Report prior to binding

Motion passed unanimously by Committee

Public Comment

None

Reports

Dr. Arunkumar, CCMEO:

- Today's cooler count is 175, Storage Cases 32. Goal to maintain average Cooler Count of 183 as in 2017
- Morgue Attendant position is OPEN
- Pam Smith has officially retired, Antonia Mayorga will fill in until position is filled

- Michael Rodriguez – the CCMEO is in the process of completing an RFQ for Funeral Directors willing to provide final disposition for Unclaimed Veterans. The goal of the RFQ is to create a list of eligible Funeral Directors to care for the Unclaimed Veterans. Once completed, the assigned Funeral Directors will file for reimbursement directly to the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - Chairman Beckmann - Unclaimed Veterans Subcommittee should officially review language of RFQ for commentary prior to RFQ posting.

Chairman Beckmann:

- Letter to President Preckwinkle addressing attendance and vacancy issues was sent. There has been no response from the President's Office to date. Chief Martha Martinez is aware of the attendance and vacancy issues.

Unclaimed Veterans Subcommittee (Chairman Susan Dyer and Member Jason Moran):

- Subcommittee requests to view proposed RFQ prior to publishing to consider best practices and industry standards. Michael Rodriguez related that he would consider request.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Edward Calahan – cited ongoing issues for funeral directors assisting nursing homes with the removal of residents that have no funds for burial, nor next-of-kin. The decedents should become CCMEO storage cases until funds become available or next-of-kin is located. Nursing homes should have financial and family information in their records.
 - Dr. Beckmann - due to the direct impact on the CCMEO Cooler Census, the office cannot always accept Storage Cases. The CCMEO's primary role is to determine Manner and Cause of Death.
 - Dr. Arunkumar – cited a caseload of 15-30 decedents per day, a threshold cooler count of 200, and additional room required for potential Mass Fatalities Incident as justification for not always being available to accept Storage Cases. This means that Storage Cases are taken on a limited basis.
- Annual Election of Committee Vice-Chairman and Secretary
 - **Chairman Beckmann nominates Vice-Chairman Moran and Secretary Dyer to their respective positions, no other nominations, Vice-Chairman Moran and Secretary Dyer will retain positions for 2018**

Adjournment

Meeting concluded at 12:02 pm (unrecorded Motion to Adjourn)

Next Meeting is April 20, 2018