

**Office of the Cook County Medical Examiner
Advisory Committee Meeting | July 20, 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*; Mark A. Rizzo, *Funeral Director*; Rabbi Moshe Wolf, *Clergy*.

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

Guests Present: Dr. Eimad Zakariya, *Deputy Chief Medical Examiner-CCMEO*; Nadine Jakubowski, *Deputy Executive Officer - CCMEO*; Steven Smith, *Safety Coordinator – CCMEO*; Karen Scott, *President - Illinois Select Morticians Association*; Dr. S. Tees, *Forensic Pathologist*; Nhemya C. Wood, *Ivy Tech Mortuary School*.

Call to Order/Roll Call

MEAC meeting called to order at **11:12 a.m.** by Chairman Beckmann
Secretary Dyer does roll call – there is a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from April 20th, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve minutes made by Rabbi Wolfe

Motion seconded by Mark Rizzo

No Discussion

Motion passed unanimously by Committee

Public Comment

NONE

Reports

Dr. Zakariya, CCMEO:

- Today's cooler count is 179, Storage Cases 29. Goal to maintain average Cooler Count at 183 as in 2017.
- Investigations Tech I and Business Manager Positions are open
- Next Indigent Burial will be held on July 11, 2018 (approximately 102, subject to additions or deletions)
- Changes to Cook County Ordinance (Effective December 2018)
 - \$1000 Fine for Failure to Report Death
 - Cremation Permit will increase to \$100
 - Conference Room Usage Fee \$100/Hour

Comment

Vice-Chairman Moran: indicates that he can distribute ordinance changes to suburban law enforcement agencies. He also asked how CCMEO intends to enforce proposed fines. Dr. Zakariya referred him to Dr. Arunkumar.

Dr. Beckmann, Chairman:

- MEAC Committee Member, Edward Calahan, a funeral director, was removed from the committee by the CCBOA/President's Office.

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

- CCMEO indicates that four (4) Funeral Homes are in final vetting process for Unclaimed Veterans Program

By-Laws Subcommittee (Vice-Chairman Moran)

- Proposed change to Article II Section 4
From "The members of the Committee shall have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the dignity of the deceased that are brought into the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office."
To "The members of the Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the Cook County Board of Commissioners regarding the handling, storage, and final disposition of decedents under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Medical Examiner and may formulate recommendations to bring about improvement in this regard. The Committee shall keep the dignity of the deceased at the forefront of their recommendations."

Motion to approve bylaw amendment made by Rabbi Wolfe

Motion seconded by Mark Rizzo

No Discussion

Motion passed unanimously by Committee

Old Business

NONE

New Business

- Mark Rizzo – Discussion concerning TOD pronouncement by Hospice Agents, referring to TOD as "Verification of Final Vitals." Various Hospice Agents, such as Chaplains and Social Workers are notifying family members of time of death, only to be told later that pronouncement and time on Death Certificate can only be made by certain individuals.
- Mark Rizzo – Discussion concerning transfers of decedents from CCMEO are being handled by UN-Licensed, NON-Licensed and NEVER-Licensed individuals. The ONLY exception is CPD Contract with CCMEO, and municipal FD or EMS. Intake employees should verify Funeral Director License.
- Karen Scott (Public) – Inquired about Unclaimed Veterans Burial Program. History and current status were briefly explained by Committee.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn made by Rabbi Wolfe - Motion Seconded by Secretary Dyer - No Discussion - Motion passed unanimously by Committee

Meeting concluded at 12:10 pm - Next Meeting is October 20, 2018

