

**Office of the Cook County Medical Examiner
Advisory Committee Meeting | October 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*; Susan Dyer-Hultgren, *Funeral Director-Secretary*; Rabbi Moshe Wolf, *Clergy*.

Absent: Detective Sergeant Jason Moran, *Cook County Sheriff's Office - Vice Chairman*; Isaac McCoy, *Citizen/Business*; Vacancy, *Cook County Commissioner*; Mark A. Rizzo, *Funeral Director*; Vacancy, *Cook County State's Attorney's Office*; Vacancy, *Chicago Police Department*; Vacancy, *Clergy*; Vacancy, *Funeral Director*.

Guests Present: Dr. Ponni Arunkumar, *Chief Medical Examiner-CCMEO*; Carlos Claudio-CCBOA

Call to Order/Roll Call

MEAC meeting called to order at **11:15 a.m.** by Chairman Beckmann
Secretary Dyer does roll call. There is no quorum. Informational Meeting only.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from July 2018 were reviewed. Minutes will be reviewed and approved at January 2019 Meeting.

Public Comment

NONE

Reports

Dr. Beckmann, Chairman:

It is a concern that we do not have a quorum to conduct the Meeting today. The Medical Examiner Advisory Committee was established a number of years ago to make recommendations to the Cook County Board of Commissioners for improving operations at the Office of the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office and to be a service to the residents of Cook County. A cross section of Members are not represented and have remained vacant for many months.

Rabbi Wolfe believed that the committee should request a meeting with President Preckwinkle to obtain information about the status of the committee.

Carlos Claudio commented that John Wilberson of the CCBOA is reviewing multiple county committees and their function within county government at the present time. The CCBOA needs to fill MEAC vacancies in order to constitute a body or change Ordinance to reflect makeup of this Committee.

Dr. Arunkumar commented that she appreciates input from this Committee and related that it is meaningful to the CCMEO. She suggested changing the frequency of Meetings if that would help with attendance and/or appointment vacancies.

Chairman Beckmann reiterated that he would reach out to CCBOA again.

Claudio Carlos recommended that the Open Meetings Act restrictions be addressed to help solve vacancy and attendance issues.

Dr. Arunkumar, CCMEO:

- 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 Certificate of Death can only be made by certain individuals.
- Intake Department is checking Funeral Directors Licenses
- Four (4) Funeral Directors/Homes have been vetted and approved for UNCLAIMED VETERANS BURIALS, new process to begins next week.
- Today’s cooler count is 165, Storage Cases 35. Goal to maintain average Cooler Count at 183 as in 2017.
- Next N.A.M.E. inspection and accreditation is scheduled for January 2019.
- Positions OPEN
 - ISO International Standards Organization 1st Medical Examiner. Making sure there are no vulnerabilities, checking on ‘Standard Operation Procedure’
 - Information Technology (IT)
 - Histology Tech
 - (3) Forensic Pathologist positions will become vacant. Waiting for approval of International Visas.
- Two (2) \$75,000 Grants from Department of Justice (DOJ) for MBMI Exam Training
- \$380,000 Grant in collaboration with DEA and HD Epidemiologist from DOJ.
- Next Indigent Burial will be in December, subject to agreed upon date by Catholic Cemetery, County and Funeral Directors Association.

Old Business

Mark Rizzo – Asked whether INTAKE was responsible for checking Funeral Director Licenses when dropping cases off at CCMEO. Often cases are brought in to CCMEO by contracted Removal Service, First Responders and Private Ambulance Service.

New Business

NONE

Adjournment

Meeting concluded at 12:00 pm

Next Meeting is January 18, 2019