

**Office of the Cook County Medical Examiner
Advisory Committee Meeting | January 20, 2017
Office of the Medical Examiner | 2121 W. Harrison Street
Lower Level Conference Room | 11:00am**

Attendance

Present: **Detective Sergeant Jason Moran**, *Cook County Sheriff's Office - Vice Chairman*; **Susan Dyer**, *Funeral Director - Secretary*; **Deputy State's Attorney Don Pechous**, *Cook County State's Attorney's Office*; **Mark Rizzo**, *Funeral Director*.

Absent: **Dr. Enrique Beckmann**, *Medical Profession – Chairman*; **Commissioner Jeffrey Tobolski**, *Cook County Commissioner 16th District*; **Isaac McCoy**, *Citizen/Business*; **Deputy Chief Al Nagode**, *Chicago Police Department*; **Rabbi Moshe Wolf**, *Clergy*.

Guests Present: Robert Meza, CCBOA; Nadine Jakubowski, Deputy Executive Officer-CCMEO; Dr. Ponni Arunkumar, *Chief Medical Examiner - CCMEO*; Steven Smith, *Safety Officer - CCMEO*; Rebeca Perrone, *Indigent Coordinator - CCMEO*; Kevyn Wilson, *Social Worker - CCMEO*; Carlos Aparicio, *Assistant to Commissioner Tobolski*.

Call to Order/Roll Call

MEAC meeting called to order at **11:18 a.m.** by Vice-Chairman Moran
Secretary Dyer does roll call. There is no quorum. Meeting proceeded as informational only.

Approval of Minutes

October 2016 Minutes presented and reviewed, but no motions offered due to lack of quorum.

Public Comment

None

Reports

Dr. Arunkumar, CCMEO:

- Introduction of CCMEO Social Worker Intern Kevyn Wilson. Kevyn will assist family members and individuals with identification process of deceased in role of social worker. He will also work to identify grief support groups to make appropriate referrals as needed.
- Today's cooler count is 174 of which 43 are storage cases.
- Homicides in 2015 – 619 and 2016 – 915
- An additional 2 more Assistant Medical Examiner positions have been approved
- Dr. Cavanaugh will begin on February 1st
- Compliance Officer will begin on February 5th
- Medical Records Department continues to be short staffed
- Next Burial of the Indigent, Unclaimed, and Unidentified will take place in spring at Mount Olivet Cemetery
- Contracted Toxicology Lab – Beginning February 28th or March 1st the CCMEO Toxicology Department will refer cases to new lab, cases typically should take from 10-15 days to complete.

Mark Rizzo: Death Certificates must be signed by Physician within 48 hours after death occurs. The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) continue to receive complaints from Funeral Directors against Physicians. Can CCMEO assist with this issue?

Dr. Arunkumar: CCMEO will assist in getting Death Certificates signs in a timely manner on a limited basis and will examine decedent in office as necessary. Funeral Directors must be reminded to open IVRS file and start process as soon as notification of death occurs.

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

- Rebeca Perrone, Indigent Burial Coordinator: The review of proposed policy and documents by county legal has been ongoing for 7 months. The use of technology to search records is now part of final review process contained within final legal documentation.

Old/New Business

Mark Rizzo:

- Families are aware of Cremation Policy and are contacting the CCMEO directly to arrange for cremation. In 2015 and 2016 there were 484 and 540 cremations processed respectively. He proposes that Indigent Coordinator refer families to any of three Funeral Director Associations for assistance in finding a Funeral Director.
- Requested that CCMEO/Intake Department inform the Funeral Home at time of pick up whether the decedent has been processed by Gift of Hope for organ and/or tissue procurement.

Vice-Chairman Moran: Election of Committee Officers for 2017 will take place at next meeting due to lack of a quorum. Until then, Vice Chairman Moran and Secretary Dyer will remain in position.

Adjournment

Informational Meeting concluded at 11:50 am.