

**Office of the Cook County Medical Examiner
Advisory Committee Meeting | October 20, 2017
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*; Rabbi Moshe Wolf, *Clergy*; Mark Rizzo, *Funeral Director*; Isaac McCoy, *Citizen/Business*.

Absent: Edward Callahan, *Funeral Director*.

Cook County Commissioner, Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Chicago Police Department, and Clergy positions are all vacant.

Guests Present: Dr. Ponni Arunkumar, *Chief Medical Examiner-CCMEO*; Rebeca Perrone, *Indigent Coordinator - CCMEO*; Michael Rodriguez, *Executive Officer - CCMEO*; Carlos Claudio, *CCBOA*, Nadine Jakubowski, *Deputy Executive Officer – CCMEO*.

Call to Order/Roll Call

MEAC meeting called to order at **11:10 a.m.** by Chairman Beckmann. Secretary Dyer does roll call and announces a quorum.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes from 21July 2017 made by Rabbi Wolf

Motion seconded by Mark Rizzo

No discussion

Motion passed unanimously by Committee

Public Comment

None present

Reports

Dr. Arunkumar, CCMEO:

- Today's cooler count is 172
- Dr. Zackariyah has been appointed Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
- Coroner/Medical Examiner Conference will be held at the CCMEO this Fall
- CCBOA introduced and passed changes to CCMEO Ordinance to increase Storage Fee for Non-ME Cases, Expert Witness and Autopsy Suite usage. This change in Ordinance will take effect December 1, 2017 as follows:
 - \$500 Storage Case
 - \$250 Cremated Remains of Indigent/Unclaimed Persons
 - \$100/Hour Legal/Forensic Deposition
 - \$100 Autopsy Room Use Fee (Gift of Hope)
- Dr. Ponni Arunkumar was recognized by Gift of Hope as a "2017 Lifesaving Partner" for her continued support in addressing the need for organ and tissue donation

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

- Indigent Coordinator continues to work with National VA Office to vet ALL Indigent/Unclaimed Cases for burial benefit eligibility. Local VA Office only has the capability of learning veteran status if decedent received medical care in an Illinois veteran facility.
- CCMEO is now working to establish a list of approved local Funeral Homes to prepare and transport approved cases for burial at the National Cemetery. Funeral Homes will be contacted by rotating through list and applying for reimbursement.
- Nadine Jakubowski spoke about formalizing policy by issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Vendor Procurement to establish a pool of funeral homes.
- Subcommittee Members volunteered to work with Procurement Office to assist with establishing Formal Recommendation criteria for government entity to address specifications, risk management, licensing, insurance, etc. This would help form a group of proper Funeral Directors and Funeral Homes for VA Burials.

Chairman Beckmann:

- Meeting Frequency/Committee Vacancies – ongoing issue – was contacted by CCBOA attorney Robert Meza who was attempting to learn if committee would like to propose language to amend MEAC ordinance that would address meeting frequency/committee vacancies – chairman interested in Committee’s opinion
- Mark Rizzo – committee is very important and members can arrange for time off in advance of Quarterly Meeting schedule. Vacancies need to filled.
- Rabbi Wolfe–Asked if the committee was still a benefit to the CCMEO
- Dr. Arunkumar – the Committee is a benefit to the CCMEO, unfortunately attendance has become an issue, the ordinance clearly defines membership.
- Vice-Chairman Moran - it is not the responsibility of the Committee to determine frequency of meetings, that is the county board’s role
- Chairman Beckmann - there is not a groundswell of support to propose language to amend the MEAC Ordinance pertaining to Meeting Frequency/Committee Vacancies. The Ordinance speaks for itself and addresses the function of the MEAC.
- Vice-Chairman Moran – there is currently four (4) Member vacancies/opening

Motion to authorize Chairman to notify appointing authority in writing of vacancies and to request replacements made by Vice-Chairman Moran

Motion seconded by Mark Rizzo

Discussion – Secretary Dyer suggests Susan Walker of Rest in His Arms to fill Clergy vacancy

Motion passed unanimously by Committee

Old Business

Mark Rizzo

- Received positive feedback from Funeral Directors about new 24-hr. removal policy
- IVRS Death Certificate input of “Cause of Death” not being entered into system by hospital physicians in a timely manner
- Examination of decedents by Investigations in Funeral Home cases is taking too long
- IDFPR is scrutinizing Funeral Directors for the Date of Death on Cremation Permits exceeding 7 day filing requirement

New Business

2017 Annual Report

Motion by Mark Rizzo to reappoint Executive Board to draft 2017 Annual Report

Motion seconded by Isaac McCoy

No discussion

Motion passed unanimously

Adjournment

Motion by Mark Rizzo to Adjourn

Motion seconded by Isaac McCoy

No discussion

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting concluded at 12:09 pm

Next Meeting is January 19, 2018