



Medical Examiners Commission Meeting

July 27, 2022

AMENDED 7/25/2022

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D. • Kenneth T. Jones • Nick Cox, J.D.
Charlie Cofer, J.D. • Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D.
Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P. • Carol R. Whitmore, R.N.

MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION

Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P.
Chairman

District 10 Medical Examiner
1021 Jim Keene Boulevard
Winter Haven, Florida 33880
(863) 298-4600
email: StephenNelson@polk-county.net
First Term: 2/13/2014-7/1/2016
Second Term: 08/29/2018-07/01/2020

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.

District 5 Medical Examiner
809 Pine Street
Leesburg, Florida 34748
(352) 326-5961
email: barbara.wolf@marioncountyfl.org
First Term: 8/7/2015-7/1/2019

Vacant

Sheriff

Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D.

Funeral Director/Vice President
Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes
4801 San Jose Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
(904) 737-7171
email: Robin.Sheppard@dignitymemorial.com
First Term: 8/15/2013-7/1/2016
Second Term: 08/29/2018-07/01/2020

Mr. Kenneth T. Jones

State Registrar
Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Vital Statistics
Post Office Box 210
Jacksonville, Florida 32231
(904) 359-6900 ext. 1001
email: Ken.Jones@flhealth.gov
Term: Not Applicable

Honorable Charlie Cofer, J.D.

Public Defender, 4th Judicial Circuit
407 N. Laura Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
(904) 255-4673
email: ccofer@pd4.coj.net
First Term: 08/29/2018-07/01/2021

Nick Cox, J.D.

Statewide Prosecutor
Office of the Attorney General
3507 E. Frontage Road, Suite 325
Tampa, Florida 33607
813-287-7960
email: nick.cox@myfloridalegal.com
Term: Not Applicable

Vacant

State Attorney

Honorable Carol Whitmore

Manatee County Commission
Board of County Commissioners
Post Office Box 1000
Bradenton, Florida 34206-1000
(941) 745-3704
email: carol.whitmore@mymanatee.org
First Term: 8/15/2013-7/1/2017
Second Term: 08/29/2018-07/01/2021

STAFF

Medical Examiners Commission
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Post Office Box 1489
Tallahassee, Florida 32302
(850) 410-8600

Bureau Chief Brett Kirkland
(850) 410-8600
brettkirkland@fdle.state.fl.us

Government Analyst II Megan Neel
(850) 410-8664
meganneel@fdle.state.fl.us

Government Analyst II Ashley Williams
(850) 410-8609
ashleywilliams@fdle.state.fl.us

General Counsel James Martin, J.D.
(850) 410-7676
jamesmartin@fdle.state.fl.us

FLORIDA DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINERS

District 1

Deanna Oleske, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner
2114 Airport Blvd. Suite 1450
Pensacola, Florida 32504
Director of Operations Dan Schebler
(850) 332-7300
FAX: (850) 285-0774
e-mail: dans@fldme.com

District 2

David T. Stewart, M.D.

560 Leonard Gray Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32304
Operations Manager Tiffany Poston
(850) 606-6600
FAX: (850) 606-6601
e-mail: Info@Dist2ME.org

District 3

Dixie Co.

ME Services Provided by District 8
Lafayette, Madison & Suwannee Co.

ME Services Provided by District 2
Columbia & Hamilton Co.

ME Services Provided by District 4

District 4

B. Robert Pietak, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner
2100 Jefferson Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32206
Director of Operations Tim Crutchfield
(904) 255-4000
FAX: (904) 630-0964
e-mail: tcrutchfield@coj.net

District 5

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.

809 Pine Street
Leesburg, Florida 34748
Director of Operations Lindsey Bayer
(352) 326-5961
FAX: (352) 365-6438
e-mail: Lindsey.Bayer@marioncounty.fl.org

District 6

Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.

10900 Ulmerton Road
Largo, Florida 33778
Chief Investigator Damon Breton
(727) 582-6800
FAX: (727) 582-6820
e-mail: dbreton@co.pinellas.fl.us

District 7 (Home Rule)

James W. Fulcher, M.D.

1360 Indian Lake Road
Daytona Beach, FL 32124-1001
Director of Operations Karla Orozco
(386) 258-4060
FAX: (386) 258-4061
e-mail: korozco@volusia.org

District 8

William F. Hamilton, M.D.

3217 SW 47th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32608
Operations Manager Ricardo Camacho
(352) 273-9292
FAX: (352) 273-9288
e-mail: ricardocamacho@ufl.edu

District 9 (Home Rule)

Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.

2350 East Michigan Street
Orlando, Florida 32806
Program Manager Sheri Blanton
(407) 836-9400
FAX: (407) 836-9450
e-mail: Sheri.Blanton@ocfl.net

District 10

Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P.

1021 Jim Keene Boulevard
Winter Haven, Florida 33880
Office Manager Sheli Wilson
(863) 298-4600
FAX: (863) 298-5264
e-mail: StephenNelson@polk-county.net

District 11 (Home Rule)

Kenneth Hutchins, M.D.

Medical Examiner
Number One on Bob Hope Road
Miami, Florida 33136-1133
Director of Operations Sandra Boyd
(305) 545-2400
FAX: (305) 545-2412
e-mail: sandra.boyd@miamidade.gov

District 12

Russell S. Vega, M.D.

2001 Siesta Drive, Suite 302
Sarasota, Florida 34239
Director of Operations David Winterhalter
(941) 361-6909
FAX: (941) 361-6914
email: rvega@fldist12me.com

District 13 (Home Rule)

Kelly G. Devers, M.D.

11025 North 46th Street
Tampa, Florida 33617
Manager of Operations Harrison Cowan
(813) 914-4500
FAX: (813) 914-4594
email: DeversK@hillsboroughcounty.org

District 14

Jay Radtke, M.D.

3737 Frankford Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405
Director of Operations Whit Majors
(850) 747-5740
FAX: (850) 747-5745
e-mail: wmajors@baycountyfl.gov

District 15 (Home Rule)

Wendolyn Sneed, M.D.

3126 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
Forensic Supervisor Heron Ruiz
(561) 688-4575
FAX: (561) 688-4588
e-mail: wsneed@pbcgov.org

District 16

Michael Steckbauer, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner
56639 Overseas Hwy
Marathon, Florida 33050
(305) 743-9011
FAX: (305) 743-9013
e-mail: meo@monroecounty-fl.gov

District 17 (Home Rule)

Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.

Medical Examiner
5301 S.W. 31st Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33312
Division Admin Assistant Heather Galvez
(954) 357-5200
FAX: (954) 327-6580
e-mail: rmacdougall@broward.org

District 18

Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D.

1750 Cedar Street
Rockledge, Florida 32955
Program Manager Chris Imel
(321) 633-1981
FAX: (321) 633-1986
e-mail: sajid.qaiser@brevardcounty.us

District 19

Patricia A. Aronica, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner
2500 South 35th Street
Ft. Pierce, Florida 34981
Operations Manager Kimberly Carroll
(772) 464-7378
FAX: (772) 464-2409
e-mail: carrollk@stlucieco.org

District 20

Marta U. Coburn, M.D.

3838 Domestic Avenue
Naples, Florida 34104
Administrative Coordinator Michelle Correia
(239) 434-5020
FAX: (239) 434-5027
e-mail: naplesme@d20me.net

District 21

Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D.

70 South Danley Drive
Ft. Myers, Florida 33907
Director of Operations Patti Wheaton
(239) 533-6339
FAX: (239) 277-5017
e-mail: pwheaton@leegov.com

District 22

Riazul H. Imami, M.D., Ph.D.

18130 Paulson Drive
Pt. Charlotte, Florida 33954
Director of Operations Penny Fulton
(941) 625-1111
FAX: (941) 627-0995
e-mail: medex22@embarqmail.com

District 23

Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner
4501 Avenue A
St. Augustine, Florida 32095
Forensic Operations Coordinator Kelly Boulos
(904) 209-0820
FAX: (800) 255-8617
e-mail: kboulos@sjcfl.us

District 24

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.

ME Services Provided by District 5

District 25 (Home Rule)

Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.

ME Services Provided by District 9

FLORIDA ASSOCIATE MEDICAL EXAMINERS

District 1

Tim J. Gallagher, M.D., M.H.S.A.
Lorraine Lopez-Morell, M.D.
Ami Murphy, D.O.
(Danielle R. Armstrong, D.O.)
(Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.)
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Jennifer Dierksen, M.D.)
(Lisa Flannagan, M.D.)
(Maneesha Pandey, M.D.)
(Jay M. Radtke, M.D.)

District 2

Anthony J. Clark, M.D.
Lisa M. Flannagan, M.D.
Stephen L. Sgan, M.D.
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)
(Kailee Imperatore, M.D.)
(Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)

District 3

Dixie Co.
ME Services Provided by District 8
Lafayette, Madison, & Suwannee Co.
ME Services Provided by District 2
Columbia & Hamilton Co.
ME Services Provided by District 4

District 4

Robert Buchsbaum, M.D., J.D.
Peter Gillespie, M.D.
Brittany L. Glad, D.O.
Aurelian Nicolaescu, M.D.
Robert R. Pfalzgraf, M.D.
Christopher Ramos-Robles, M.D.
Sandra A. Siller, M.D.
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)
(William F. Hamilton, M.D.)
(Deanna A. Oleske, M.D.)
(Valerie J. Rao, M.D.)
(Wendy A. Stroh, D.O.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

District 5

Tracey S. Corey, M.D.
Heather M. Gage, M.D.
Tera A. Jones, M.D.
Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.
Shanedelle S. Norford, M.D.
(Michael Bell, M.D.)
(James W. Fulcher, M.D.)
(William F. Hamilton, M.D.)
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)
(Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)
(Aurelian Nicolaescu, M.D.)
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)
(Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.)
(Wendy A. Stroh, D.O.)
(Jon Thogmartin, M.D.)
(Gary L. Utz, M.D.)
(Christopher I. Wilson, M.D.)

District 6

Noel R. Agudo, M.D.
Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.
Kailee Imperatore, M.D.
Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.
Noel A. Palma, M.D.
Christopher I. Wilson, M.D.
(Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.)
(Marcela Chiste, M.D.)
(Tracey S. Corey, M.D.)
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D.)
(Tera A. Jones, M.D.)
(Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.)
(Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)
(Phoutthasone Thirakul, M.D.)
(Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.)
(Russell S. Vega, M.D.)
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

District 7

Cassie Boggs, M.D.
Mary G. Ripple, M.D.
(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)
(Marcela Chiste, M.D.)
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)
(Kailee Imperatore, M.D.)
(Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)
(Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.)
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)
(Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)
(Lee Tormos, M.D.)
(Christopher I. Wilson, M.D.)

District 8

Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D.
Wendy A. Stroh, D.O.
(Robert Buchsbaum, M.D., J.D.)
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)
(Tracey S. Corey, M.D.)
(Peter Gillespie, M.D.)
(Tera A. Jones, M.D.)
(Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Aurelian Nicolaescu, M.D.)
(Deanna A. Oleske, M.D.)
(Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

District 9

Jesse C. Giles, M.D.
Marie H. Hansen, M.D.
Rachel A. Lange, M.D.
Chantel Nijwaji, M.D.
Sara H. Zydowicz, D.O.
(Cassie Boggs, M.D.)
(Tracy S. Corey, M.D.)
(James Fulcher, M.D.)
(Heather M. Gage, M.D.)
(D. Fintan Garavan, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Julia V. Hegert, M.D.)
(Tera A. Jones, M.D.)
(Wendy Lavezzi, M.D.)
(Shanedelle S. Norford, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Mary G. Ripple, M.D.)
(Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D.)
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

District 10

D. Fintan Garavan, M.D., Ph.D.
Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.
(Kelly G. Devers, M.D.)
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)
(Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)
(Wendy Lavezzi, M.D.)
(Ryan D. McCormick, M.D.)
(Daissy C. McEnnan, M.D.)
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)
(Ashley R. Perkins, D.O.)
(Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)
(Christopher I. Wilson, M.D.)
(Milad Webb, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

District 11

Alexander Blank, M.D.
Brittney Imblum, M.D.
Katherine Kenerson, M.D.
Benjamin Mathis, M.D.
Shanedelle S. Norford, M.D.
Mark J. Shuman, M.D.
Tuvet Tran, M.D.
Jason Van Roo, M.D.
Sara H. Zydowicz, D.O.
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)
(Iouri G. Boiko, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Manfred Borges, M.D.)
(Marcela Chiste, M.D.)
(Marta Coburn, M.D.)
(Gertrude M. Juste, M.D.)
(Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.)
(Craig Mallak, M.D.)
(Linda R. O'Neil, M.D.)
(Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.)
(Stephen Robinson, M.D.)
(Stacey A. Simons, M.D.)
(Terrill Tops, M.D.)
(Lee Marie Tormos, M.D.)

District 12

Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.
Phoutthasone Thirakul, M.D.
Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)
(Laura S. Hair, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Robert R. Pfalzgraf, M.D.)
(Valerie J. Rao, M.D.)
(Daniel L. Schultz, M.D.)
(Wendolyn Sneed, M.D.)

District 13

Ryan D. McCormick, M.D.
Daissy C. McEnnan, M.D.
Paul F. McGowan, D.O.
Ashley R. Perkins, D.O.
Noah D. Reilly, D.O.
Milad Webb, M.D.
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D.)
(D. Fintan Garavan, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Mary K. Mainland, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Phoutthasone Thirakul, M.D.)
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)
(Sara H. Zydowicz, D.O.)

District 14

Thomas M. Coyne, M.D.
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)
(Phoutthasone Thirakul, M.D.)
(Tim J. Gallagher, M.D., M.H.S.A.)
(Katherine L. Kenerson, M.D.)
(Andrea N. Minyard, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)

District 15

Natalia Belova, M.D.
Catherine Miller, M.D.
Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.
Heidi Reinhard, M.D.
Terrill Tops, M.D.
Lee Marie Tormos, M.D.
Anthony Vinson, DO
(Michael Bell, M.D.)
(Kenneth D. Hutchins, M.D.)
(Stacey A. Simons, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)
(Michael Steckbauer, M.D.)

District 16

(Iouri G. Boiko, M.D. Ph.D.)
(Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)

District 17

Iouri G. Boiko, M.D., Ph.D.
Marcela Chiste, M.D.
Joseph M. Curran, M.D.
Erin Ely, M.D.
Alexis Jelinek, M.D.
Gertrude M. Juste, M.D.
Reinhard W. Motte, M.D.
Stephen Robinson, M.D.
Darin Trelka, M.D., Ph.D.
(Kenneth Hutchins, M.D.)
(Katherine L. Kenerson, M.D.)
(Emma O. Lew, M.D.)
(Benjamin Mathis, M.D.)
(Wendolyn Sneed, M.D.)

District 18

Stacey Simons, M.D.

District 19

Raman Baldzizhar, M.D.
Barbara Bollinger, M.D.
Linda Rush O'Neil, M.D.
Adrienne Sauder, M.D.
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)
(Stuart M. Graham, M.D.)
(Marie H. Hansen, M.D.)
(Gertrude M. Juste, M.D.)
(Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.)
(Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)
(Sara H. Zydowicz, D.O.)

District 20

Manfred Borges, Jr., M.D.
Andrea N. Minyard, M.D.
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)
(Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D.)
(Emma O. Lew, M.D.)

District 21

Colin D. Appleford, D.O.
Noelia Alemar Hernandez, M.D.
Tracy L. Shipe, D.O.
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)
(Manfred C. Borges, M.D.)
(Wilson A. Broussard, Jr., M.D.)
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)
(Marta U. Coburn, M.D.)
(Riazul H. Imami, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Katherine L. Kenerson, M.D.)
(Rachel A. Lange, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Valerie J. Rao, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)
(Phoutthasone Thirakul, M.D.)
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)

District 22

Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.
Valerie J. Rao, M.D.
(Wilson A. Broussard, Jr., M.D.)
(Phoutthasone Thirakul, M.D.)
(Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.)
(Russell S. Vega, M.D.)

District 23

Iana Lesnikova, M.D.

District 24

ME Services Provided by District 5

District 25

ME Services Provided by District 9
ME Services Provided by District 9

Coverage Map

Florida Medical Examiner Districts

District 1

Escambia
Okaloosa
Santa Rosa
Walton

District 2

Franklin
Gadsden
Jefferson
Leon
Liberty
Taylor
Wakulla

District 3 *Covered by

Columbia *4
Dixie *8
Hamilton *4
Lafayette *2
Madison *2
Suwannee *2

District 4

Clay
Duval
Nassau

District 5

Citrus
Hernando
Lake
Marion
Sumter

District 6

Pasco
Pinellas

District 7

Volusia

District 8

Alachua
Baker
Bradford
Gilchrist
Levy
Union

District 9

Orange

District 10

Hardee
Highlands
Polk

District 11

Miami-Dade

District 12

DeSoto
Manatee
Sarasota

District 13

Hillsborough

District 14

Bay
Calhoun
Gulf
Holmes
Jackson
Washington

District 15

Palm Beach

District 16

Monroe

District 17

Broward

District 18

Brevard

District 19

Indian River
Martin
Okeechobee
St. Lucie

District 20

Collier

District 21

Glades
Hendry
Lee

District 22

Charlotte

District 23

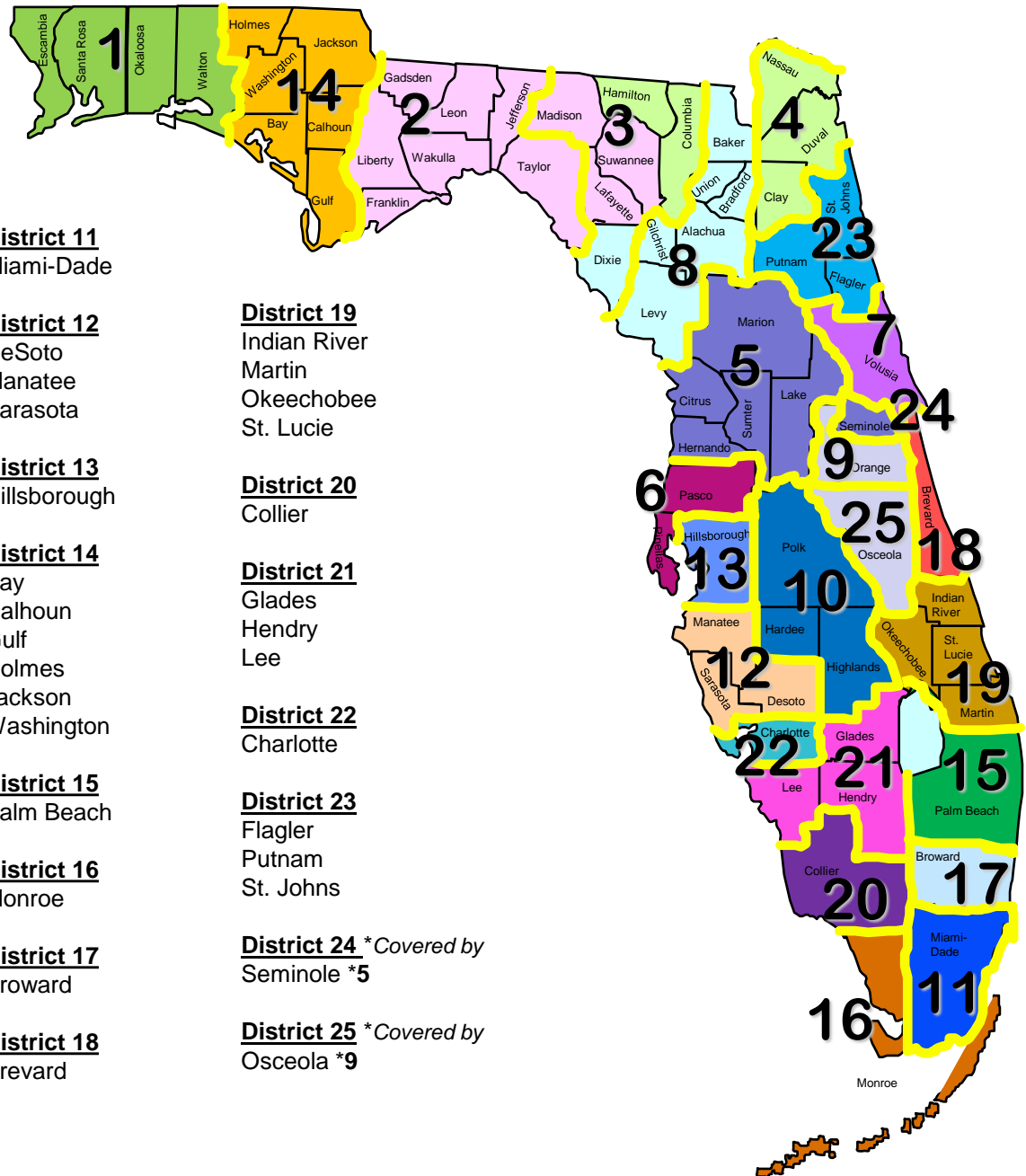
Flagler
Putnam
St. Johns

District 24 *Covered by

Seminole *5

District 25 *Covered by

Osceola *9



MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING

Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate
1500 Masters Boulevard
ChampionsGate, FL 33896
July 27, 2022, 10:00 AM EDT
AMENDED 7/25/2022

Opening Remarks

Introduction of Commission Members and Staff

Approval of Meeting Agenda and Minutes from previous Commission Meeting of May 13, 2022

<u>ISSUE NUMBER</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
1. Moment of Silence in Remembrance of Predrag Bulic, M.D.	Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.
2. State Attorney Appointment of Interim District 23 Medical Examiner	Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.
3. "Dr. Imami Day" (March 22, 2022) Charlotte County, Florida	Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.
4. Informational Items:	
• Status Report: MEC Appointments and Reappointments	Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.
• Status Update: DME Appointments and Reappointments	Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.
• District 2 Medical Examiner Vacancy	Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.
• District 8 Medical Examiner Vacancy	Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.
• District 22 Medical Examiner Vacancy	Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.
• 2021 Annual Drugs in Deceased Persons Report	Megan Neel
• 2021 Annual Workload Report	Megan Neel
• 2021 Coverdell Status Update	Ashley Williams
• 2022 Coverdell Status Update	Ashley Williams
5. Unidentified Deceased Initiative	Ashley Williams
6. Emerging Drugs	Bruce A. Goldberger, Ph.D.
7. Other Business	Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.
• Resolution for MEC Staff Member Chad Lucas	

The next MEC Meeting will be November 4th at the Sheraton Panama City Beach Golf & Spa Resort in Panama City.

MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING

Wyndham Grand Jupiter at Harbourside Place
122 Soundings Avenue
Jupiter, Florida 33477
May 13, 2022 10:00 AM EDT

Commission Chairman Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P, called the meeting of the Medical Examiners Commission to order at **10:00 AM**. He advised those in the audience that the meetings of the Medical Examiners Commission are open to the public and that members of the public will be allowed five minutes to speak. He then welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Commission members, staff, and audience members to introduce themselves.

Commission members present:

Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P., District 10 Medical Examiner
Barbara C. Wolf, M.D., District 5 & 24 Medical Examiner
Nick Cox, J.D., Statewide Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General
Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D., Funeral Director
Kenneth T. Jones, State Registrar, Department of Health
Hon. Charlie Cofer, J.D., Public Defender, 4th Judicial Circuit

Commission members not present:

Hon. Carol R. Whitmore, R.N., Manatee County Commissioner

Commission staff present:

Vickie Koenig	Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.
Chad Lucas	Megan Neel
James D. Martin, J.D.	

District Medical Examiners present:

Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D. (District 6)	Patricia A. Aronica, M.D. (District 19)
Wendolyn Sneed, M.D. (District 15)	Rebecca MacDougall, M.D. (District 17)
Russell S. Vega, M.D. (District 12)	

Other District personnel present:

Paul Petrino (District 15)	Ralph Saccone (District 15)
Michael Bell, M.D. (District 15)	Dan Schebler (District 1)
Thomas Steinkamp (District 17)	Erin Ely, M.D. (District 17)
Tiffany Poston (District 2)	Tim Crutchfield (District 4)
Heidi Reinhard (District 15)	

Guests present:

Katie McDaniel (DOH)	Larry Bedore (FEMORS)
Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D. (UF)	Richard Howard (LifeQuest)
Heather Markuson (LifeQuest)	

A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2022 MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING.

ISSUE NUMBER 1: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Status Report: MEC Appointment and Reappointments: Bureau Chief Brett Kirkland informed the Commission that the reappointment paperwork for Dr. Stephen J. Nelson, Dr. Barbara C. Wolf, and Mrs. Robin Giddens Sheppard are in the Governor's Appointments Office and they have everything they need for those reappointments. Additionally, the appointment paperwork for the County Commissioner seat as well as the vacant State Attorney and Sheriff seats have been submitted to the Governor's Appointments Office and they have everything they need for the appointments. We are currently awaiting approvals from the Governor's Appointments Office.
- Status Report: DME Appointments and Reappointments: Mr. Kirkland informed the Commission that all District Medical Examiners are currently pending either appointment or reappointment. The Governor's Appointments Office has stated they have received all necessary paperwork for the appointments and reappointments. We are currently awaiting approvals from the Governor's Appointments Office. Dr. Nelson commented that medical examiners in Florida have been waiting for appointments and reappointments for three years and it is becoming an issue for recruitment and retention of medical examiners coming into the state.
- District 2 Medical Examiner Vacancy: Dr. Nelson informed the Commission that the District 2 Medical Examiner Search Committee has had one organizational meeting so far and the 2nd Judicial Circuit has retained Dr. Jon Thogmartin to assist with the search for a new medical examiner. Dr. Thogmartin said that he is still working on the agreement with Leon County as well as getting the medical examiner's office new computers. There are a lot of moving parts and he thinks finding a new district medical examiner will take a while. Dr. Stewart wants to get out of the office as soon as possible. Leon County's idea was to create their own agreement for the medical examiner and then send it to all the other counties in the district to get their own versions. Dr. Nelson said that chances are that Dr. Thogmartin would be taking over the office as the interim until a new district medical examiner is found.
- District 8 Medical Examiner Vacancy: Dr. Nelson informed the commission that the first meeting of the search committee is coming up at the end of May. He has heard that there are a couple candidates that have been mentioned, but more information should be available after the search committee meeting.
- District 22 Medical Examiner Vacancy: Dr. Wolf informed the commission that a search committee has been organized and the first meeting of the committee is scheduled for the end of May.
- New District 11 Medical Examiner: Dr. Nelson informed the commission that Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava has appointed Kenneth Hutchins, M.D. as the District 11 Medical Examiner.
- New District 7 Medical Examiner Facility: Dr. Nelson informed the Commission that the Volusia County Council has approved a \$16.1 million contract for a new medical examiner facility and they hope to break ground before the end of the year.
- 2021 Interim Drugs in Deceased Persons Report: Mrs. Megan Neel reported that the 2021 Interim Drugs in Deceased Persons Report was published to the MEC website on May 13, 2022.

- 2021 Annual MEC Reports: Mrs. Neel informed the Commission that she has started receiving data for the Annual Workload Report and the Annual Drugs in Deceased Persons Report. He also reminded everyone that data for those reports is due by May 31, 2022, and asked that districts please submit their data sooner rather than later.
- 2021 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program Status Update: Mr. Chad Lucas reported that the Bureau for Justice Assistance (BJA) released funding for the 2021 Coverdell Grant. Award packages and MOUs will be e-mailed to participating districts once corrected MOUs are completed. Districts are authorized to begin spending, but reimbursements cannot be completed until signed MOUs have been received by the grant manager.
- 2022 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program Status Update: Mr. Lucas reported that MEC staff received proposals from 15 districts. The proposals totaled \$47,145.92. Once the medical examiner allotment of the 2022 Coverdell Grant is known, MEC staff will divide award money appropriately. Mr. Lucas also alerted all participating districts to be on the lookout for 2022 Coverdell Grant application documents.
- Bills Filed for the 2022 Legislative Session: FDLE General Counsel Jim Martin, J.D., informed the Commission of the following bills of interest for the MEC:

SB 768 – This bill amends Section 406.11(1), Florida Statutes, and removes the requirement that medical examiners “certify the death” for all deaths that occurring under that section. The “certify the death” language was added last year, so this revision restores the section languages back to the original language. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 20th, and the effective date is July 1, 2022. Chapter Law No. 2022-71.

General Appropriations Bill (HB 5001) – An appropriation of \$140,000 for the Polk County Medical Examiner’s Emergency Generator Replacement (previously HB 2455) and an appropriation of \$500,000 for the District 1 Medical Examiners Facility Planning and Design (previously HB 4883) were rolled into the General Appropriations Bill. At this point, the bill has not been presented to the Governor.

ISSUE NUMBER 2: REAPPOINTMENT NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICTS 8, 10, 12, AND 14 AND ASSESSMENTS FOR DISTRICTS 9, 11, 13, AND 25

The Commission reviewed the constituent surveys for the reappointments of District Medical Examiners in District 8 (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union Counties), District 10 (Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties), District 12 (DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties), and District 14 (Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties).

The Commission also reviewed the survey assessments for District 3 (Dixie County), District 9 (Orange County), District 11 (Miami-Dade County), District 13 (Hillsborough County), and District 25 (Osceola County). District 3 receives medical examiner services through contractual agreement with District 8. Districts 9, 11, 13, and 25 are home rule districts.

With constituents overwhelmingly responding with approval for the district medical examiners in districts 8, 10, 12, and 14, the Commission held a lump vote for the districts up for reappointment. Dr. Nelson recused himself from the vote for the District 10 medical examiner. No other names were submitted for consideration in any of the districts.

WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, MRS. SHEPPARD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF THE INCUMBENT MEDICAL EXAMINERS IN DISTRICTS 8, 10, 12, AND 14 AND MR. COX SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE REAPPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF DISTRICT 8, 10, 12, AND 14 MEDICAL EXAMINERS BE FORWARDED TO THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS OFFICE.

ISSUE NUMBER 3: FEMORS IN FLORIDA

Mr. Larry Bedore made a presentation to the Commission about FEMORS. The presentation included a historical overview of the FEMORS program as well as the FEMORS Field Guide, and went on to say that more information, including the field guide and other helpful materials could be found at www.femors.org.

Ms. Sheppard asked if FEMORS still needed funeral directors to sign up to provide assistance, and Mr. Bedore said that they do.

ISSUE NUMBER 4: PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANTS IN FLORIDA

Dr. Nelson reported to the Commission that District 18 reached out to MEC staff regarding the possibility of hiring Pathology Assistants in lieu of Pathologists. The question was asked due to difficulties in obtaining qualified Pathologists in the district. Dr. Nelson read from 11G-2.003(2), F.A.C., which states the following:

“Medical examiner autopsies performed pursuant to Section 406.11, F.S., shall be performed by pathologists or directly supervised residents in pathology. Performance shall require in situ examination of the tissues pertinent to determining the cause of death and the removal of viscera pertinent to the determination of the cause of death. Removal of other organs and tissues during the autopsy shall be under the direct supervision of the pathologist. Direct supervision requires the presence of the supervising pathologist in the autopsy room.”

He went on to say that only pathologists can do forensic autopsies under Chapter 406, Florida Statutes. Pathology Assistants shall not perform forensic autopsies under Chapter 406, Florida Statutes.

Dr. Wolf stated that, as of now, the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) does not have a position on Pathology Assistants, but there is currently a committee working on drafting a position paper. She went on to say it has become a very contentious issue, particularly with the NAME Standards Committee. One of the biggest concerns is what degree of supervision would be required. As far as NAME accreditation goes, many inquiries have been made from offices across the country as to how the use of Pathology Assistants will affect their caseload per pathologist. At this point, unless NAME itself comes up with a position where Pathology Assistants are acceptable, autopsies performed by Pathology Assistants will not be included in the denominator of accounting workload per pathologist.

ISSUE NUMBER 5: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OD2A AND FLVDRS UPDATES

Katherine McDaniel, MPH, reported updates to the Commission regarding the Overdose 2 Action (OD2A) grant and the Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FLVDRS). The OD2A grant is currently funded through August 31, 2023 and FLVDRS is entering a new competitive grant cycle. She reminded the Commission that the deadline to spend funds for the current fiscal year's OD2A grant is June 30,

2022. If any additional funds are needed, please let her know immediately so the money can be moved around. To date, about 64% of the funds have been allocated and they are able to redistribute the funds among districts, so if any districts have spent all of their allocated money and need more, let her know immediately. The funds cannot be used to cover the cost of new toxicology equipment. It must only be used for the toxicology testing itself.

To date, for OD2A, 90% of districts have shared data for 2021 deaths that occurred between January and June. For FLVDRS 86% of districts have shared data for 2020 deaths and 72% have shared data for 2021 deaths that happened between January and June.

ISSUE NUMBER 6: EMERGING DRUGS

Dr. Goldberger provided the Commission with an update on new drug trends. Fentanyl continues to be appearing in decedents at high rates. However, no new fentanyl analogs have been identified in decedents. Fluorofentanyl, an analog of fentanyl, continues to be identified in decedents in the state of Florida. The majority of fentanyl deaths continue to include 4-ANPP, an identifier of illicitly manufactured fentanyl.

A new class of opioids, nitazenes, has begun to emerge. They have recently been emergency scheduled by the Attorney General's Office. A general toxicology screen will likely miss nitazenes unless time of flight mass spectrometry is used, so if a death using this type of drug is suspected, let your toxicologist know ahead of time.

A rapidly emerging cathinone is N,N-dimethylpentylone. Although eutylone is still seen, this seems to be replacing it. It is often mixed with other drugs such as fentanyl, methamphetamine, or cocaine, and is often associated with a violent nature of death such as shooting or homicide by police.

ISSUE NUMBER 7: 2022 FAME EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dr. Goldberger reported that the 48th annual meeting of the Florida Association of Medical Examiners Educational Conference is scheduled for July 27-29, 2022. The meeting will be held at the Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate. The conference room rate is \$189 per night. Dr. William Hamilton and the District 8 Medical Examiner's Office is co-hosting the meeting. Please make your hotel reservation as soon as possible as they expect the rooms to sell out quickly. Additional information regarding meeting content and registration is available on the FAME website.

ISSUE NUMBER 8: OTHER BUSINESS

- Dr. Nelson addressed information that has been in the news regarding FEMA and how they overspent 4.8 billion dollars on the COVID Funeral Assistance Fund.
- Dr. Nelson shared a letter that he received from a family in Spring Branch, Texas thanking the Medical Examiners for all the help that the family received when trying to locate their loved one.
- Mr. Lucas reported the following success stories from District 17:
 - On March 15, 2021, skeletal remains of an adult male were found in a wooded area in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. At the time, there were no leads on a possible identification of the decedent

and all efforts to identify the decedent yielded negative results. DNA from the decedent was subsequently submitted to CODIS. On May 6, 2022, we received a CODIS Offender Hit Notification matching the DNA from the decedent to a convicted offender/arrestee. Law enforcement investigated and was able to notify the decedent's family of the death.

- On March 25, 2022, skeletal remains of an adult male were found inside a tent in a wooded area in Sunrise, Florida. Though the scene investigation, a Maine State identification card was found nearby belonging to a 24-year-old male. Upon further investigation, the parents of the person on the ID card were contacted and advised this individual was traveling from place to place and they have not seen or heard from him in several months. The parents also advised this individual, and his brother were adopted as a young child from overseas. The adult brother consented to a voluntary buccal swab for DNA that later matched to the decedent for a positive identification.
- On June 16, 2021, skeletal remains of an adult male were found outside a business in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. At the time, there were no leads on a possible identification of the decedent and all efforts to identify the decedent yielded negative results. DNA from the decedent was subsequently submitted to CODIS. On May 3, 2022, we received a CODIS Offender Hit Notification matching the DNA from the decedent to a convicted offender/arrestee. Law enforcement investigated and was able to notify the decedent's family of the death.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.