



Medical Examiners Commission Meeting

February 16, 2018

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D. • Sheriff Harrell Reid • Kenneth T. Jones • Wesley H. Heidt, J.D.
Jeffrey A. Siegmeister, J.D. • James S. Purdy, J.D. • Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D.
Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P. • Carol Whitmore, R.N.

MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING

Rosen Centre Hotel
9840 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819
February 16, 2018, 10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Introduction of Commission Members and Staff

Approval of Meeting Agenda and Minutes from previous Commission Meeting of December 19, 2017

<u>ISSUE NUMBER</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
1. Election of Chairman	Vickie Koenig
2. Informational Items:	
• Reappointment/Assessment Process for Districts 1-6	Vickie Koenig
• District 7 Vacancy	Chairman
• Status Update: MEC Reappointments	Vickie Koenig
• Status Update: Districts 8, 10, 12, and 18-24	Vickie Koenig
• Status Update: Districts 14 and 16 Appointment	Vickie Koenig
• 2017 Interim Drugs in Deceased Persons Report	Beth McNeil
• 2017 Coverdell Status Update	Beth McNeil
• Bills Filed for the 2018 Legislative Session	Jim Martin, J.D.
3. Coverdell Grant – 2018 Proposals	Beth McNeil
4. Organ Procurement Organization Annual Report 2017	Larry Cochran, LifeQuest
5. Mass Fatality Plans	Chairman
6. Unidentified Deceased Initiative	Doug Culbertson
7. Emerging Drugs	Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D.
8. 2018 FAME Educational Conference	Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D.
9. Other Business	Chairman
• U.S. Attorney Request for Drug Data	
• State Child Death Review Committee Reappointment	

MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING

Embassy Suites Orlando, Lake Buena Vista South
4955 Kyngs Heath Road
Kissimmee, Florida
December 19, 2017, 10:00 AM

Chairman Stephen J. Nelson, M.D. called the meeting of the Medical Examiners Commission to order at **10:00 AM** at the Embassy Suites Orlando, Kissimmee, Florida. 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 Medical Examiner
Wesley H. Heidt, J.D., Office of the Attorney General
Hon. James S. Purdy, J.D., Public Defender, 7th Judicial Circuit
Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D., Funeral Director
Kenneth T. Jones, State Registrar, Department of Health
Hon. Carol Whitmore, R.N., Manatee County Commissioner
Hon. J. Harrell Reid, Sheriff, Hamilton County
Hon. Jeff Siegmeister, State Attorney, 3rd Judicial Circuit

Commission staff present:

Vickie Koenig	Beth McNeil
James D. Martin, J.D.	Doug Culbertson

District Medical Examiners present:

Jon Thogmartin, M.D. (District 6)	Joshua Stephany, M.D. (Districts 9 and 25)
Riazul H. Imami, M.D. (District 22)	Craig Mallak, M.D. (District 17)

Other District personnel present:

Jeff Martin (District 1)	Cathy Weldon (District 8)
Aurelian Nicolaescu, M.D. (District 4)	Bill Pellan (District 6)
Sheri Blanton (Districts 9 and 25)	Brett Harding (District 5)
Lindsey Bayer (District 5)	

Guests present:

Bruce A. Goldberger, Ph.D. (UF)	Ricardo Camacho (UF)
Rebecca Sayer (LifeLink)	DiAnne McCormack (KeraLink International)
Josh Beckard (USF)	Chandler Brownlee (LifeNet)
Joshua Sturms (DOH)	Leah Colston (DOH)
Karen Card (DOH)	Amy Reese (RTI Donor Services)
Lynnetta Oxendine (TransLife)	Heather Hoog (RTI Donor Services)
Linda Pollard (FDLE)	Brendie Hawkins (FDLE)
Lisa Robinson (LEITR)	James Rosa (LEITR)
Ginny McBride (TransLife)	Linda Sullivan (Wuesthoff Reference Lab)
Rebekka McCollom (KeraLink International)	

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 AS AMENDED OF THE AUGUST 25, 2017, MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING.

ISSUE NUMBER 1: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Sheriff Harrell Reid, Hamilton County, and Hon. Jeffrey Siegmeister, State Attorney for the 3rd Judicial Circuit were welcomed to the Medical Examiners Commission by Dr. Nelson having been recently appointed by Governor Scott.
- Ms. Koenig informed the Commission that the District Medical Examiner, the licensed funeral home director, and the county commissioner positions on the MEC are pending reappointment by Governor Scott. The Public Defender position on the MEC is also pending appointment, and Mr. Purdy will continue to serve until that appointment is made by Governor Scott.
- Status Report: District 14 and District 16 Appointments – The recommendations of Jay M. Radtke, M.D. as District Medical Examiner in District 14 (Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties) and Michael R. Steckbauer, M.D. in District 16 (Monroe County) are still pending gubernatorial appointment by Governor Scott.
- Status Report: Reappointments for Districts 8, 10, 12, and 18-24 – Ms. Koenig informed the Commission the Governor's Appointments Office has not yet reappointed the District Medical Examiners in Districts 8 (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union counties), 10 (Hardee, Highlands, and Polk counties), 12 (DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties), 18 (Brevard county), 19 (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie counties), 20 (Collier county), 21 (Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties), 22 (Charlotte county), 23 (Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns counties), or 24 (Seminole county). The incumbent District Medical Examiners continue to serve until reappointed or replaced by the Governor, pursuant to Article X, Section 3, of the Florida Constitution.
- 2016 Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons Report – Ms. McNeil reported that the Report has been released and is on the MEC website.
- 2016 Annual Workload Report – Ms. McNeil stated that the Report is complete, and has been posted on the website.
- 2017 Interim Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons Report – Ms. McNeil reminded everyone that January – June 2017 drug data is due December 31, 2017.
- Coverdell Grant – Ms. McNeil announced that she is in contact with the 14 districts awarded funding for the 2016 grant. Four districts have received approved budget amendments, and 7 districts have submitted reimbursement requests. She will continue to monitor the spending of the remaining districts. Funding has not yet been awarded for the 2017 grant, but we anticipate the award to be made sometime after the first of the year. Solicitation for 2018 grant funds will be requested in January so that the proposals will be available for Commission review at the February meeting.

- Ms. Koenig informed the Commission that the surveys and assessments for the reappointments of District Medical Examiners for districts 1 (Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties), 2 (Franklin, Gadsden, Leon, Liberty, Jefferson, Taylor and Wakulla counties), 3 (Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison and Suwannee counties), 4 (Duval, Nassau and Clay counties), 5 (Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter counties), 6 (Pinellas and Pasco counties) and 7 (Volusia county, Home Rule) will be sent to the constituents of these districts in January 2018. Surveys and assessments for the funeral homes will again be sent via U.S. mail; electronic surveys will be sent to all other constituents.
- Mr. Martin briefed the Commission on bills of interest to the medical examiners. In particular:

Controlled Substance Prescribing – PDMP (HB 21 Boyd / SB 8 Benacquisto)

These bills provide medical examiners with indirect access to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Medical examiners conducting an authorized investigation pursuant to §406.11, F.S., may request information from the PDMP through a program manager within the Department of Health. Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

Deaths Resulting from Overdoses (HB 125 Payne)

This bill amends §893.0301, F.S., to require the report prepared by the law enforcement agency investigating a death from an apparent drug overdose to include all controlled substances (Schedules I-IV of §893.03, F.S.) found on or near the deceased person or among the deceased possessions. The report must identify who prescribed or delivered the controlled substances if known, and must classify the death as a “suspicious death” or a “death investigation”. The bill further requires the classification of death made by law enforcement to be included in the medical examiner report prepared pursuant to §406.11, F.S. Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018. *(NOTE: This bill was withdrawn from consideration prior to formal introduction on January 3, 2018).*

Nursing Homes (HB 655 Edwards / SB 896 Farmer)

These bills add deaths in nursing homes on the federal Special Focus Facility list or the Agency for Health Care Administration’s Nursing Home Guide Watch list to the enumerated types of deaths that become medical examiner cases in §406.11, F.S. The bills further require the medical examiner to notify and forward all documentation to the state attorney in support of a determination that a nursing home resident died as a result of abuse, sexual abuse, or negligence. The state attorney is required to convene a grand jury within 90 days of such notification and investigate whether to file criminal charges. Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

Photographs, Video or Audio Recordings Depicting the Killing of a Person (HB 653 Brown / SB 1178 Bracy)

These bills expand the public records exemption in §406.136, F.S. to include any photograph, video, or audio recording held by an agency that depicts or records the killing of a person, not just a law enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity. This essentially restores §406.136, F.S. to its wording prior to October 1, 2016. Proposed effective date is October 1, 2018.

Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams (HB 259 Watson / 422 Gibson)

These bills authorize the establishment of elder abuse fatality review teams to review abuse related deaths. Review teams must be established in each judicial circuit by December 31, 2018, and are composed of volunteers who serve 2-year terms without compensation. A medical examiner is among those listed as possible members of the review team. The review teams are assigned to the Department of Elder Affairs for administrative purposes. Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

Varnadoe Forensic Research Center (HB 2255 Burgess)

This bill accompanies an appropriations project to establish a forensic anthropology research facility. Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

Joint Medical Examiner/Broward Sheriff's Office Crime Lab Facility (HB 3599 Moraitis)

This bill accompanies an appropriation project to construct a state of the art facility for the Broward Medical Examiner's Office and the Broward Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory. Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

Public Meetings (HB 589 Newton / SB 1092 Radar)

These bills apply to meetings of any board or commission of any state agency or authority, or any county, municipal corporation or political subdivision. They require notices of any such meeting at least 3 days prior to the meeting to include publication of the agenda and any materials distributed at the meeting. Two complete copies of the agenda and related items must be available for public inspection at the meeting. Time must be allotted for public comment as either the first or last agenda item. Each member of the public has the right to speak for 3 minutes. Time may be extended by the chair or restricted to 1 minute per person when more than 20 individuals request to address one agenda item. A response is required to any question posed to the board or commission either at the meeting or through written correspondence within 10 days after the meeting. Written responses must be incorporated into the minutes of the meeting. Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

ISSUE NUMBER 2: UNIDENTIFIED DECEASED INITIATIVE

Mr. Culbertson presented a success story from District 17. The case was an unknown male found badly decomposed behind an abandoned house in Hollywood, Florida in October 2016. He had several tattoos, which a forensic artist sketched for a Hollywood Police Department press release, with no success. In January 2017, the DNA was submitted to UNT to be entered into CODIS.

On October 16, 2017, District 17 received a letter via email from UNT stating the DNA submission into CODIS matched a hit from the FBI DNA felon database. The positive identification was for Jason Michael Mutascio, DOB 09/30/1980. Hollywood Police Department was contacted and advised of the information. In addition, the decedent's DAVID information as well as information on possible relatives found via Accurant was sent, and the next of kin was notified.

District 8 Forensic Investigator Cathy Weldon presented a success story from District 8 that involved a case of a 78 year old woman with dementia who disappeared 27 years ago. In 2001, some children playing in a wooded area found a human skull and brought it home, which led investigators to find more bones in the area. In 2017, a relative of the missing woman went to Alachua County Sheriff's Office on an unrelated case, and submitted DNA to UNT for the missing person case. A match was made, and the remains were identified as Ella Mae Williams.

FDLE Inspector Linda Pollard presented the following two success stories:

In 2003, an unknown white male was found hanging from a tree in Hillsborough County, and the death was determined to be suicide. The decedent had a tattoo "EJ" on left arm, and investigators found that he may have gone by the name Escoban Jiménez, but no positive identification was made. In 2016, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office ran fingerprints but with no results. In October 2017, FDLE submitted the fingerprints to Homeland Security and received a positive hit on Escoban Jiménez Hernandez, a Mexican national. FDLE is currently trying to locate the next of kin.

Polk County Sheriff's Office had a case that involved an unknown Hispanic male who set himself on fire next to a road. He had been seen earlier at a convenience store where he bought a gas can. His girlfriend said that his name was Carmelo, and that he was approximately 28-30 years old, but she didn't know his last name or any relatives. Video from convenience store was sent to the FDLE lab for possible facial recognition or to create a composite, but the quality of the video was not of sufficient resolution for either. In July 2017, Polk County Sheriff's Office was contacted to see if any fingerprints were available. Fingerprints were available and sent to the Department of Homeland Security with negative results. The prints were then sent to the CJIS Biometric Services Unit where a hit was made, and the decedent was identified as Carmelino Velasco Aguilar, a Mexican national.

Inspector Pollard advised the Commission that the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement have fingerprint databases from undocumented aliens they have encountered. These databases are not tied into the FBI database. FDLE can assist the medical examiners in running fingerprints through these databases if other avenues fail to produce results.

ISSUE NUMBER 3: 2018 DRUG DATA CHANGES

Ms. Koenig announced that some minor modifications were being made to 2018 drug database in order to speed collection. Fentanyl analogs are taking too much time in searching. The most frequent occurring analogs have been identified as acetyl fentanyl, carfentanil, furanyl fentanyl, and 4-ANPP (despropionyl fentanyl). These drugs will be stand-alone drugs in the database. Any other fentanyl analogs will be grouped together under the "Other Fentanyl Analogs" designation and the exact analog(s) should be identified in the metabolite field. U47700 will also be added to the list of drugs tracked for 2018.

ISSUE NUMBER 4: EMERGING DRUGS

Bruce A. Goldberger, Ph.D. (University of Florida) said that it is a best practice to look for fentanyl analogs in cocaine and methamphetamine cases. These drugs are being cut with fentanyl and fentanyl analogs.

More than a half dozen inmate deaths have been attributed to synthetic cannabinoids, so it would be a good idea to check for those in cases of sudden inmate deaths. It is apparently easy to smuggle synthetics into the prisons and jails.

Mytragynine (Kratom) deaths have been back after a long absence, and should be noted in the metabolite field.

Mr. Purdy asked why anyone would cut cocaine with fentanyl or fentanyl analogs. Dr. Goldberger indicated that it would be similar to a "speedball" which would produce quite a euphoric effect. Mr.

Purdy asked if fentanyl would be more expensive than cutting with an inert substance. Dr. Goldberger indicated that the fentanyl coming from China is very cheap.

ISSUE NUMBER 5: 2018 FAME EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dr. Goldberger reported that the 2018 FAME Educational Conference is tentatively scheduled for July 18-20, 2018, at the Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, with a \$155 per night rate. The District 14 Medical Examiner's Office will host the 2018 conference.

ISSUE NUMBER 6: OTHER BUSINESS

Department of Health Grant: Representatives from the Department of Health (DOH) addressed the Commission regarding the status of the grant from the Centers for Disease Control for tracking fatal and nonfatal overdoses of opioids. DOH previously appeared before the Commission in May 2016, and August 2017. DOH has been awarded the grant for a 2-year period beginning September 1, 2017. This grant has identified 16 medical examiner districts for data collection. DOH has also been awarded a supplemental grant to assist the district medical examiners with the cost of toxicology testing. At this meeting, DOH clarified that the supplement grant money is direct payment to participating districts that submit a letter of support, rather than reimbursement for services. If one of the 16 core districts does not submit a letter of support, the district will still be required to provide the data needed for the primary grant and will be reimbursed for the costs to provide the data. Ms. Whitmore encouraged the 14 districts that had not yet provided a letter of support to receive toxicology assistance to participate.

Josh Beckard, a graduate student at the University of South Florida, advised the Commission that the forensic anthropology research facility was making progress. The land, fencing for the outdoor research area, and anatomical gift program were operational.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.



**Department of Public Protection
Office of the Medical Examiner**

January 16, 2018

Phil Archer, Esq.
State Attorney's Office
101 Bush Boulevard
Sanford, Florida 32772

Dear Mr. Archer,

This letter is to advise you that I am retiring on January 31, 2018, and will also be resigning as the District 24 Medical Examiner for Seminole County, effective on the same date.

If you have questions concerning this, please contact the Volusia County Department of Public Protection at 386-740-5120.

Sincerely,

Marie A. Herrmann, M.D
Medical Examiner for Volusia and Seminole Counties

Copy to: Stacey Salmons, Assistant State Attorney, 18th Circuit
Terry Sanders, Director, Department of Public Protection, Volusia County
Stephen Nelson, Chairman, Medical Examiner Commission



ED KELLEY
COUNTY CHAIR

DEBORAH DENYS
VICE CHAIR
DISTRICT 3

JOYCE CUSACK
AT-LARGE

PAT PATTERSON
VICE CHAIR
DISTRICT 1

BILLIE WHEELER
DISTRICT 2

HEATHER POST
DISTRICT 4

FRED LOWRY
DISTRICT 5

JAMES T. DINNEEN
COUNTY MANAGER

January 22, 2018

Dr. Andrew S. Koopmeiners, M.D.
6608 Mansour Lane
Port Orange, FL 32128

Dear Dr. Koopmeiners:

This letter serves to confirm my appointment of you as Acting Medical Examiner for Volusia County effective February 1, 2018.

Any and all matters concerning your appointment and/or responsibilities of the office may be referred to Terry Sanders, Director of Public Protection, or in his absence, his deputy directors, Patricia Bythwood and Mark Swanson, or directly to me.

Sincerely,

James T. Dinneen
County Manager

c: George Recktenwald, Deputy County Manager
Terry Sanders, Public Protection Director
Mark Swanson, Public Protection Deputy Director
Patricia Bythwood, Public Protection Deputy Director

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

BREVARD AND SEMINOLE COUNTIES

PHIL ARCHER

STATE ATTORNEY

Brevard County Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Bldg. D
Viera, FL 32940-6605
(321) 617-7510

Seminole County Office
101 Eslinger Way
P.O. Box 8006
Sanford, FL 32772-8006
(407) 665-6000



February 1, 2018

Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.
Chairman of Medical Examiner's Commission
1021 Jim Keene Blvd.
Winter Haven, FL 22880

Dear Dr. Nelson:

I hereby name Andrew S. Koopmeiners, M.D. as Interim Medical Examiner
for Seminole County, District 24.

Sincerely,

PHIL ARCHER
STATE ATTORNEY

2018 Legislative Bills of Interest

Controlled Substance Prescribing – PDMP (HB 21 Boyd / SB 8 Benacquisto)

These bills provide medical examiners with indirect access to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Medical examiners conducting an authorized investigation pursuant to s. 406.11, F.S., may request information from the PDMP through a program manager within the Department of Health. The specific authorizations in each bill are found in HB 21 on pages 48 and 64 and in SB 8 on pages 48 and 61.

Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

Public Records (HB 1317 Jacobs / SB 1850 Stewart)

These bills add autopsy reports and related written records that personally identify the deceased to materials that are to be exempt and confidential from public record pursuant to s. 406.135, F.S., until 10-days after the medical examiner completes the autopsy report. An exception is provided for the surviving spouse to view and copy records, and the others in the succession list if there is no surviving spouse. Additionally, these bills add legal guardian in the succession list of individuals who are authorized to view copy, or listen to materials exempted in this section of statute. This exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will be repealed on October 2, 2023 unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature. This exemption has retroactive application.

Proposed effective date is upon becoming law.

Photographs, Video or Audio Recordings Depicting the Killing of a Person (HB 653 Brown / SB 1178 Bracy)

These bills expand the public records exemption in s. 406.136, F.S. to include any photograph, video, or audio recording held by an agency that depicts or records the killing of a person, not just a law enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity. This essentially restores s. 406.136, F.S. to its wording prior to October 1, 2016 with retroactive application. This exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will be repealed on October 2, 2023 unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

Proposed effective date is October 1, 2018.

Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams (HB 259 Watson / 422 Gibson)

These bills authorize the establishment of elder abuse fatality review teams to review abuse related deaths. Review teams may be established in each judicial circuit and are composed of volunteers who serve 2-year terms without compensation. A medical examiner is among those listed as possible members of the review team. The review teams are assigned to the Department of Elder Affairs for administrative purposes.

Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

Varnadoe Forensic Research Center (HB 2255 Burgess)

This bill accompanies an appropriations project to establish a forensic anthropology research facility. This project is included in the proposed House budget, but not in the proposed Senate budget.

Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

Bills filed but no movement to date during session

Nursing Homes (HB 655 Edwards / SB 896 Farmer)

These bills add deaths in nursing homes on the federal Special Focus Facility list or the Agency for Health Care Administration's Nursing Home Guide Watch list to the enumerated types of deaths that become medical examiner cases in s. 406.11, F.S. The bills further require the medical examiner to notify and forward all documentation to the state attorney in support of a determination that a nursing home resident died as a result of abuse, sexual abuse, or negligence. The state attorney is required to convene a grand jury within 90 days of such notification and investigate whether to file criminal charges. The specific changes impacting medical examiners are found in HB 655 on pages 58-60 and in SB 896 on pages 50-52.

Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

Public Meetings (HB 589 Newton / SB 1092 Radar)

These bills apply to meetings of any board or commission of any state agency or authority, or any county, municipal corporation or political subdivision. They require notices of any such meeting at least 3 days prior to the meeting to include publication of the agenda and any materials distributed at the meeting. Two complete copies of the agenda and related items must be available for public inspection at the meeting. Time must be allotted for public comment as either the first or last agenda item. Each member of the public has the right to speak for 3 minutes. Time may be extended by the chair or restricted to 1 minute per person when more than 20 individuals request to address an agenda item. A response is required to any question posed to the board or commission either at the meeting or through written correspondence within 10 days after the meeting. Written responses must be incorporated into the minutes of the meeting.

Proposed effective date is July 1, 2018.

2018 Paul Coverdell Grant Summary

Total Amount Requested by Districts (18)	\$61,683.17
Total Allotment for Medical Examiners	TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/16/18)
District Two Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Two Medical Examiner Office requests funds to purchase a new digital camera and batteries. The current camera is old and worn out; the batteries will not make it through a complete autopsy. A new camera will help the office maintain efficiency during cases and allow for the completion of multiple cases on one battery charge. District 2 also requests funds for the purchase of an autopsy saw. The current saw has required maintenance several times and the office needs a more reliable primary saw. The lack of a properly functioning saw can delay cases significantly, as the brain portion of the investigation cannot be completed.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Digital camera	\$479.00
1	Autopsy saw	\$2,050.00
10	Camera batteries (\$9.89 each)	\$98.90

Total Request Amount: \$2,627.90

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: **\$TBD**

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/19/18)
District Four Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Four Medical Examiner Office requests funds for the purchase of equipment to enhance the accuracy/quality of the forensic investigation. The compact scale and caliper will aid in the determination of type of ballistic projectile retrieved from the decedent. The polarizing kit will be used to enhance or identify qualities of specimens during microscopic study. The autopsy saw is needed to replace aging equipment.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Compact balance	\$653.00
1	Caliper	\$355.00
1	Leica DMLB pole kit	\$1,059.00
1	Autopsy saw	\$1,434.00

Total Request Amount: \$3,501.00

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/18/18)
District Five Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Five Medical Examiner Office requests funds to purchase two crematory storage racks in order to accommodate more decedents. As the district's caseload continues to increase annually, the ability to store decedents in the body cooler has provided some challenges. In addition to providing storage for six additional decedents, it will also open up additional cooler space for autopsy trays.

Quantity	Item	Cost
2	Crematory storage rack	\$2,551.90

Category: Consultants/Contracts

The District Five Medical Examiner Office requests funds to rent an auto slide feeder for two weeks for the transfer of 14 years of 35mm slides into a digital format. The necessity to preserve photographic case information that predates 1986 has provided challenges regarding storage and accessibility in the realm of records management. Currently the 35mm slides are contained in approximately 100 3" binders which take up a significant amount of space in the records room. As technology ages and current storage venues lose support it is becoming critical to upgrade the storage of these case images so they are easily accessible when needed.

Quantity	Item	Cost
2	Auto slide feeder rental (\$425/week)	\$850.00

Total Request Amount: \$3,401.90

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/19/18)
District Six Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Six Medical Examiner Office requests funds for the purchase of a decedent removal stretcher and a digital SLR camera. The death scene investigation by medical examiner staff has proven to be beneficial to the death investigation process in many ways. From securing and protecting the integrity of the evidence (the body and any evidentiary items on/in it) on criminal cases, to having trained and experienced medical examiner staff present at every death location to handle and transport the decedent, has proven invaluable. Dependable and functioning decedent removal/transportation equipment is essential. The digital SLR cameras used during scene investigation and decedent processing within the autopsy suite provide for high quality digital image documentation during these functions. The quality images are extremely beneficial. This equipment will provide for the continued quality and timeliness of scene response, decedent transportation, and decedent processing, which will result in a reduction in time spent conducting scene investigations and case preparation, and thus provide a high level of overall quality of service to the citizens and agencies in the district that this office serves.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Decedent removal stretcher	\$2,554.95
1	Digital SLR camera with lens	\$496.95

Total Request Amount: \$3,051.90

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/10/18)
District Seven Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Seven Medical Examiner Office requests funds to purchase an autopsy saw and blades.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Autopsy Saw	\$2,450.00
5	Round Blade for Autopsy Saw	\$550.00

Total Request Amount: \$3,000.00

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/31/18)
District Eight Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The **District Eight Medical Examiner Office** requests funds to purchase one new Stryker saw to be used for the opening of the cranium, bone marrow dissection, and cast removal. These tasks are routinely performed by the medical examiner, associate medical examiners, and forensic autopsy technicians.

Also, the **District Eight Medical Examiner Office** requests funds to purchase two Thermo Scientific Shandon block cabinets. These cabinets will provide the protection for tissue sections that are needed for histological review by the ME. These cases are solvent proofed, can be stacked, are constructed of steel, and can store up to 7,500 blocks per case.

Quantity	Item	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
1	Stryker autopsy saw	\$2,679.00	\$2,679.00
2	Thermo Scientific blockstore cabinet	\$359.40	\$718.80

Category: Indirect Costs

The **District Eight Medical Examiner Office** requests funds to offset indirect costs associated with the above purchase.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Indirect Costs (10%)	\$339.78

Total Requested Amount: \$3,737.58

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: **\$TBD**

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/10/18)
District Nine Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Nine Medical Examiner Office requests funds for a microscope. Due to the increase in caseload, the office needed to increase the number of medical examiners on staff. As such, District 9 also needs to increase the number of microscopes on hand for all the doctors to have one so that they will be able to inspect the histology slides they requested on specific medical examiner cases. Sharing microscopes can cause unnecessary delays and all doctors should be given the same necessary tools to complete their work. By allocating funds for the microscope, there will not be a delay in permitting the new doctor from reading slides. It will also minimize the time necessary for the doctor to dictate those findings and include them in the autopsy reports the doctor generates on those cases.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Microscope	\$6,336.75

Total Request Amount: \$6,336.75

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: **\$TBD**

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/04/18)
District Ten Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Consultants/Contracts

The District Ten Medical Examiner Office requests funds for anthropology services. This consultant is needed to aid in the identification of unknown decedents and assist in determining cause and manner of death. Without these services, medical examiner cases would stagnate and not move forward. These services will improve the timeliness and eliminate backlog of medical examiner cases.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Anthropology Services	\$3,000.00

Total Request Amount: \$3,000.00

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/10/18)
District Eleven Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Eleven Medical Examiner Office requests funds for three HP EliteDesk 800 computers which will replace computers that are more than five years old and no longer under warranty. Newer applications require more computing capacity and RAM than District Eleven's older computers can provide. These computers will expedite the office's processes and allow for the sharing of information in a timely manner.

Quantity	Item	Cost
3	HP EliteDesk 800 PCs (3 @ \$1,154.23 each)	\$3,462.69

Total Request Amount: \$3,462.69

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/05/18)
District Twelve Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Twelve Medical Examiner Office requests funds to purchase new computer equipment that would facilitate and increase concurrent analytical and data analysis with their newly purchased case management database; and/or upgrade software operating systems that would interface more efficiently with new hardware technology of their current case management database, thus providing better service to the public; and/or apply funds towards their new computer database's CME Software Annual Maintenance fee.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Computer equipment/software	\$8,000.00

Total Request Amount: \$8,000.00

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/19/18)
District Fourteen Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Fourteen Medical Examiner Office requests funds to purchase a submersible autopsy saw. This saw will replace an existing saw that is not submersible. The new saw is quieter, easier to clean, and will help improve efficiency in the morgue.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Autopsy Saw	\$2,080.00

Total Request Amount: \$2,080.00

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/19/18)
District Fifteen Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Consultants/Contracts

The District Fifteen Medical Examiner Office requests funds for genetic testing on young (age < 40 years old) decedents who die suddenly and have negative autopsy (including toxicology). The test will identify gene mutations causing cardiac channelopathies and cardiomyopathies associated with sudden death. This testing will aid and speed the diagnosis of these previously puzzling sudden and unexpected deaths.

Quantity	Item	Cost
6	Genetic testing (\$475 each)	\$2,850.00

Total Request Amount: \$2,850.00

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/19/18)
District Sixteen Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Sixteen Medical Examiner Office requests funds to purchase two digital cameras. The digital SLR cameras to be used during scene investigation and decedent processing within the autopsy suite will provide for high quality digital image documentation during these functions.

Quantity	Item	Cost
2	Digital SLR cameras	\$2,197.98

Total Request Amount: \$2,197.98

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/17/18)
District Seventeen Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Seventeen Medical Examiner Office requests funds for the purchase of an autopsy saw.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Autopsy saw	\$2,050.00

Category: Other

The District Seventeen Medical Examiner Office requests funds for attendance of staff to the Florida Association of Medical Examiners (FAME) Educational Conference.

Quantity	Item	Cost
2	FAME Educational Conference Registration Fee	\$850.00

Total Request Amount: \$2,900.00

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/18/18)
District Eighteen Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Eighteen Medical Examiner Office requests funds to purchase a freezer to store homicide evidence, which is required to be kept indefinitely. The current freezer is almost filled to capacity. Funds are also requested for a camera, storage rack, and step stool to be used at an additional autopsy station. This second autopsy station needs to be equipped with a camera for photos, a storage rack for easy access to rags and other items used during an autopsy, and a step stool to gain height for some types of photos.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Compact freezer	\$1,459.00
1	Digital SLR camera	\$499.95
1	5-tier storage rack	\$40.99
1	Step stool	\$32.99

Total Request Amount: \$2,032.93

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: **\$TBD**

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/18/18)
District Nineteen Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Nineteen Medical Examiner Office requests funds to purchase printers for administrative staff to be used for cremation requests that need to be printed throughout the day. Currently a shared printer is used which is not in the near vicinity. Having printers at their desks will allow staff to operate more efficiently. Funds are also requested to purchase a laptop for doctors to use in depositions to display autopsy photos, etc.

Quantity	Item	Cost
2	Laser printer (\$399 each)	\$798.00
1	Dell laptop	\$830.00

Category: Supplies

The District Nineteen Medical Examiner Office requests funds to purchase toner for printers.

Quantity	Item	Cost
4	ECOSYS Black toner (\$162.36 each)	\$649.44
1	Black toner	\$80.41
1	Yellow toner	\$115.08
1	Magenta toner	\$115.08
1	Cyan toner	\$115.08

Total Request Amount: \$2,703.09

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/17/18)
District Twenty-One Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Twenty-One Medical Examiner Office requests funds for the purchase of an autopsy saw and a zoom lens. Autopsy saws are essential in performing autopsies. With the increased caseload of the office, this additional saw is critical, especially in the event an autopsy saw breaks down. The zoom lens will assist in enhancing photographs.

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	Autopsy saw with extended warranty	\$2,172.50
1	Zoom lens with auto focus	\$526.95

Total Request Amount: \$2,699.45

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

**2018 Paul Coverdell Grant
Expenditure List (Received 01/16/18)
District Twenty-Three Medical Examiner Office**

Category: Equipment

The District Twenty-Three Medical Examiner Office requests funds for the purchase of two autopsy saws. This equipment upgrade would provide safer and more hygienic autopsy saws for staff. During 2017, District 23 worked 478 cases. The office utilizes one outdated autopsy saw for all cases and the office would greatly benefit from the ability to purchase two bone saws designed specifically for autopsy use. The Mopec 5000 autopsy saws run on 40V for reduced vibration and are totally submersible for complete cleaning. In addition, the axial mount blades of the Mopec 5000 autopsy saw offer safer installation.

Quantity	Item	Cost
2	Autopsy saw (\$2,050 each)	\$4,100.00

Total Request Amount: \$4,100.00

Staff Recommendation:

Total Proposed Amount: \$TBD

2110 First Street, Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (Fax)



300 N. Hogan Street, Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

35 SE 1st Avenue, Suite 300
Ocala, Florida 34471
352/547-3600
352/547-3623 (Fax)

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida

Main Office
400 North Tampa Street, Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6358 (Fax)

400 West Washington Street, Suite 3100
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

Reply to: Tampa, FL

TNP

January 16, 2018

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.
District 5 Chief Medical Examiner
Medical Examiner's Office
809 Pine Street
Leesburg, FL 34748

Re: Anti-Opioid Epidemic Investigations
ME_data_MDFL@usdoj.gov
Hernando, Citrus, Lake, Marion and Sumter counties

Dear Dr. Wolf:

On November 29, 2017, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions directed every United States Attorney's Office to designate a District Opioid Coordinator in an effort to combat the opioid crisis spreading through America. I am the designated coordinator for the Middle District of Florida. The United States Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and our other law enforcement partners are working to combat the opioid epidemic. We would like work with you make a difference in Hernando, Citrus, Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties and elsewhere.

Medical examiners are on the front lines of this crisis. You know well before others which drugs are actually killing people in your respective jurisdictions. To save lives, we need prompt access to information you are already gathering. We need your help identifying and gathering overdose death information more quickly than waiting for the Florida MEC reports. Such information is—for us—extremely time sensitive.

We are looking for all opioid-related overdose death information, including, but not limited to:

January 16, 2018

Page 2

- (1) any available data on the decedents (including personal identification information, identification of drugs, location information) which we intend to cross-reference with other available data (e.g., E-FORSCE) and use for both law enforcement intelligence purposes and as part of anti-opioid investigations and prosecutions;
- (2) any information about new analogues or other trends or problems you are observing, particularly so that we can share that information with our law enforcement partners;
- (3) any information about outbreaks of deaths in your area, particularly if you suspect there may be a pattern emerging; and
- (4) any intelligence or other information you observe that may be relevant or important for law enforcement to identify problems, causes of death, drug dealers or diverters, or any geographic commonalities (clustering) among the decedents.

To quickly collect available data, we have established a special email address: **ME_data_MDFL@usdoj.gov**. Through this email address, we can efficiently collect available data and get critical information required to attack the opioid epidemic.

Finally, I hope this letter helps us forge a partnership in the fight against the opioid epidemic and creates a dialogue about how we can work together to save lives.

Sincerely,

MARIA CHAPA LOPEZ

United States Attorney

By:



THOMAS N. PALERMO

Assistant United States Attorney

District Opioid Coordinator

Courtesy Copy:

Carol Allen

Forensic Records Coordinator

Medical Examiner's Office

U.S. Attorney's Office - Middle District of Florida 782 Opioid Cause of Death Determinations (January to June 2016, Raw Data)				
Ft. Myers Division	Jacksonville Division	Ocala Division	Orlando Division	Tampa Division
Charlotte - 7	Baker - 0	Citrus - 14	Brevard - 44	Hardee - 0
Collier - 13	Bradford - 2	Lake - 9	Orange - 97	Hernando - 9
DeSoto - 2	Clay - 23	Marion - 49	Osceola - 19	Hillsborough - 60
Glades - 1	Columbia - 1	Sumter - 4	Seminole - 25	Manatee - 34
Hendry - 3	Duval - 153		Volusia - 33	Pasco - 35
Lee - 41	Flagler - 4			Pinellas - 92
	Hamilton - 1			Polk - 33
	Nassau - 3			Sarasota - 26
	Putnam - 2			
	St. Johns - 19			
	Suwanee - 0			
	Union - 0			
67 deaths	208 deaths	76 deaths	218 deaths	289 deaths

Opioids are, here only, defined as Fentanyl, Fentanyl Analogs, Heroin, Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone, Meperidine, Methadone, Morphine, Oxycodone, Oxymorphone, and Tramadol.

Source: Raw Data, Florida Medical Examiners Commission "Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners" 2016 Interim Report (May 2017). Data set is January through June 2016. Lag: 6 months for ME reports.



State of Florida Medical Examiners Commission

P.O. Box 1489 | Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489 | (850) 410-8600

January 29, 2018

Anthony C. Clark, M.D.
Associate Medical Examiner
District 2 Medical Examiner's Office
P.O. Box 14389
Tallahassee, FL 32317-4389

In Re: State Child Abuse Death Review Committee

Dear Dr. Clark:

As we discussed on the telephone today, I received the enclosed letter from Dr. Celeste Philip, Florida's Secretary of Health, concerning your position on Florida's State Child Abuse Death Review Committee. Your appointment as the Medical Examiners Commission representative to that Committee expired on December 31, 2017.

As you have expressed to me your willingness to be re-appointed as the Medical Examiners Commission representative to that Committee, I am doing so retroactive to January 1, 2018 pursuant to my appointment authority in Florida Statutes §383.402(2)(a)(1)(f).

Please keep the Medical Examiners Commission abreast of the workings of the State Child Abuse Death Review Committee. Thank you for your willingness to serve another two-year term.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Nelson", is written over the "Sincerely yours," text.

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

SJN:jkb

Enclosure

cc: Sarah Hofmeister
Florida Dept. of Health

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

January 18, 2018

RECEIVED

JAN 29 2018

DISTRICT 10
MEDICAL EXAMINER

Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P.
Chairman
District 10 Medical Examiner
Florida Medical Examiners Commission
1021 Jim Keene Boulevard
Winter Haven, Florida 33880

Dear Dr. Nelson:

The Department of Health is updating membership on the State Child Abuse Death Review Committee, which was established by section 383.402, Florida Statutes. The primary functions of the committee are to provide direction and leadership for the review system, analyze data and recommendations from local review committees to identify issues and trends, and recommend statewide action. The committee typically meets in-person, at a minimum, quarterly.

The committee consists of 19 members who are appointed to serve two-year terms. Per statute, the head of the Florida Medical Examiners Commission shall appoint a representative to the committee. Dr. Anthony Clark has been serving as your representative, and his term expired on December 31, 2017. He is eligible for reappointment. Please select your representative for this committee and forward their contact information to:

Sarah Hofmeister, Director
Office of Executive Appointments
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-24
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1711
Office: 850-245-4210 Fax: 850-488-6495
Email: Sarah.Hofmeister@flhealth.gov

If you have any questions regarding the committee, please contact Peggy Scheuermann at 850-245-4220.

Sincerely,

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

CP/sh

