

Tennessee Medical Examiner Advisory Council
Friday, October 21, 2016, 1:00 P.M. - 1:55 P.M. CST

MEMBERS	REPRESENTATION	STATUS
Jacky E. Carver, Jr.	Licensed Funeral Director	Present
Julia Goodin, M.D., M.P.A.	Commissioner of Health's Designee and State Chief Medical Examiner	Present
D. Michael Dunavant	District Attorney General	Present
Tony R. Emison, M.D.	County Medical Examiner (West TN)	Present
Dwayne Johnson	Assistant Director of the TBI	Present
Gerald L. Melton	District Public Defender	Not-Present
Samuel Smith, M.D.	County Medical Examiner (Middle TN)	Present
NON-MEMBERS	REPRESENTATION	STATUS
Adele Lewis, M.D.	Deputy State Chief Medical Examiner	Present
Margaret A. Hyder, M.A.	Deputy Director	Present
Fran Wheatley, M.A., F-ABMDI	Medicolegal Death Investigator	Present
Andrew Wilson, B.S., D-ABMDI	Medicolegal Death Investigator	Present
Ben Simpson	Legislative Liaison	Present
GUESTS	REPRESENTATION	STATUS
Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D.	Davidson County Medical Examiner	Present
Jim Farris	Forensic Medical	Present
James Metcalfe, M.D.	Hamilton County Medical Examiner	Present
Will Denami	Hamilton County Lobbyist	Present
J.A. Bucy	Middle TN and Funeral Home Lobbyist	Present
Guy Jones	TN DAGC Lobbyist	Present

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, October 21, 2016 in Conference Room A, 5th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower.

1:00 P.M. **1. Roll Call and Voting:** Dr. Goodin welcomed everyone, and requested introductions from each member, their names and representations. Dr. Smith moved to approve the minutes from July 15, 2016 which were electronically distributed prior to the meeting. Minutes approval unanimously voted "Yea."

1:02 P.M. **2. State Medical Examiner Office Update:**
Dr. Goodin introduced the two new State Medicolegal Death Investigators, Fran Wheatley and Andrew Wilson.

Dr. Goodin gave a progress update on upcoming grant funded trainings and basic training. The Justice Assistance Grant training, Bullets, Drugs, and Deception, will be conducted in six regions. As suggested in the last Council meeting, the Death Investigation 101 courses will take place mainly in regions designated by the Judicial Districts.

The OSCME has begun the process of identifying and procuring a statewide case management system. The process is anticipated to take several years. The OSCME has consolidated the six-page "Report of Investigation" (ROI) to a two-page form which has been distributed with a quarterly newsletter.

1:08 P.M. 3. Report for Medical Examiner Survey: Fran Wheatley presented the results from a Medical Examiner Survey.

- Funding varies county to county.
- Time spent on M.E. duties varies significantly.
- Most M.E.'s are practicing medicine in their specialties.

1:21 P.M. 4. Communication with Medical Examiner Offices:

- a. The OSCME will be distributing a quarterly newsletter.
- b. Currently working on an RFP to acquire a statewide case management system.
- c. Interim database will be used to produce an annual report.
- d. The OSCME is participating in development of VRISM.
- e. CSMD enhancement for M.E. role and 'overdose' option.

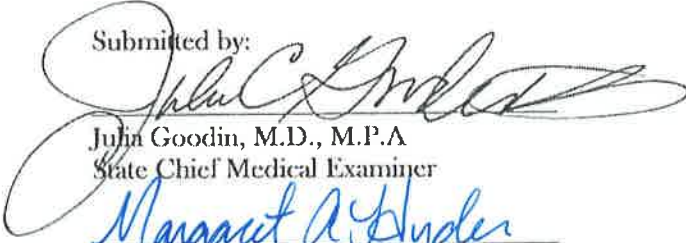
1:35 P.M. 5. New Business:

- a. County M.E. Guidelines:
 - a. Members were provided USB drives containing a draft of the guidelines, and asked to review the sections and return any edits or comments by November 15th.
- b. District Attorneys General Concerns:
 - a. General Dunavant would like the Council to troubleshoot solutions for the burden of Forensic Pathologists leaving the state, and the requirement for them to testify in trials.
 - b. General Dunavant suggested that other regions might want to consider having a Memorandum of Understanding with their Regional Forensic Centers, to verify and communicate case status with DAG and Law Enforcement to make sure no hold had been placed on the case prior to releasing reports, similar to the one established with the West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center.

1:54 P.M. 6. Council Wrap-Up:

- The next meeting of the council was set for December 9th, 2016 at 1:00 P.M.

Submitted by:


Julia Goodin, M.D., M.P.A.
State Chief Medical Examiner


Margaret A. Hyder, M.A.
Deputy Director