

Tennessee Medical Examiner Advisory Council
Friday, December 1, 2017, 1:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. CST

MEMBERS	REPRESENTATION	STATUS
Darinka Mileusnic, M.D., Ph.D.	Forensic Pathologist Forensic Center	Present
Bob Batson	Licensed Funeral Director	Present
Julia Goodin, M.D., M.P.A.	State Chief Medical Examiner	Present
Honorable Amy Weirich	District Attorney General	Telephonic
Tony R. Emison, M.D.	County Medical Examiner (West TN)	Telephonic
Dwayne Johnson	Assistant Director of the TBI	Present
Ed Miller, J.D.	District Public Defender	Telephonic
Lorraine MacDonald, M.D.	County Medical Examiner (Middle TN)	Present
Benjamin Figura, Ph.D.	Admin Regional Forensic Center (West)	Present
E. Hunt Scheuerman, M.D.	Forensic Pathologist Forensic Center	Present
Feng Li, M.D., Ph.D., J.D.	Forensic Pathologist Forensic Center	Present
James Metcalfe, M.D.	Forensic Pathologist Forensic Center	Present
Marco Ross, M.D.	Forensic Pathologist Forensic Center	Telephonic
David Darden, D.O., M.P.H.	County Medical Examiner (East TN)	Present
Mayor Jake Bynum	Weakley County Mayor	Telephonic
NON-MEMBERS	REPRESENTATION	STATUS
Adele Lewis, M.D.	Deputy State Chief Medical Examiner	Present
Margaret A. Hyder, M.A.	Deputy Director	Present
Francess Wheatley, M.A., ABMDI-F	State Medicolegal Death Investigator	Present
Andrew Wilson, B.S., ABMDI-F	State Medicolegal Death Investigator	Present
Mary Kennedy, J.D.	TIDH Office General Counsel	Present
GUESTS	REPRESENTATION	STATUS
John Lott, R.N., M.S.	Knox County Regional Forensic Center	Present
Laura Parsons, B.S., ABMDI-F	WIJ Forensic Center	Present
Courtney Atnip	FMMS & TFDA Lobbyist	Present

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, December 1, 2017 in Conference Room A, 5th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower.

1:00 P.M. 1. Meeting to Order:

Dr. Goodin welcomed everyone to first council meeting since legislative reorganization during 2017 session. Updated legislation was distributed to members, as well as rules that govern.

1:03 P.M. 2. Roll Call

Dr. Goodin called the names and titles of each member, advised whether present in-person, telephonic, or absent. All council members were present in-person or telephonic.

1:06 P.M. 3. State Medical Examiner Office Update:

Dr. Goodin gave a presentation to the council on the progress of the Office of the State Chief Medical Examiner (OSCME).

The OSCME will continue to provide the two-day grant funded death investigation training: Bats, Clubs, Knives, and Murder... or not? One of the six training sessions has occurred, with great improvement displayed in pretest versus post-test scores. The office has also completed training sessions in five counties for the new "Death Investigation 101" one-day basic training program for

county medical examiners and death investigators. Both trainings are approved for CME credits, POST credits, EMS credits and ABMDI credits. The OSCME hopes to increase the number of ABMDI registry level death investigators.

Dr. Goodin advised the council that the OSCME has published five newsletters, available on the state website. Also recently published was the 2017 Medical Examiner's Handbook, which may also be found on the state website.

The OSCME is wrapping up the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a statewide case management system, in hopes of soliciting bids early next year. The interim case management, I-MED, is live with 169 users registered and entering case information. The OSCME goal is to have 100% entry of all 2017 data to produce an annual report.

The OSCME is staying actively involved in the development of VRISM.

The OSCME is currently revising and updating the state mass fatality plan. The office recently had a tabletop exercise with a core working group representing the regional forensic centers and representatives from multiple emergency preparedness state agencies to review the current plan and discuss needed updates. Additional meetings are in the process of being planned.

1:16 P.M. **4. Review of Tennessee Code Annotated 38-7-201:**

Dr. Goodin reviewed the updated code for the Medical Examiner Advisory Council.

1:21 P.M. **5. Rules of Tennessee Open Meetings:**

Mary Kennedy provided a handout for council members, and presented the rules for the council members. Key points provided below:

- a. Transparency: Meetings shall not be conducted in secret.
- b. Adequate Public Notice: The public has the right to attend meetings.
- c. Meeting Minutes: Promptly and fully recorded and open to public inspection.
- d. All votes must be public: Vocal expression "aye" or "nay."
- e. Emails about public business are public records.

1:42 P.M. **6. Conflict of Interest Statements:**

All council members signed and returned Conflict of Interest Statements.

1:44 P.M. **7. Election of the Chair:**

Dr. Goodin handed out a list of members to serve as a ballot for the election of the chair. The list omitted Dr. Goodin and Mark Gwyn from election. Members were asked if anyone would like their name removed from ballot. Amy Weirich, Tony Emison, Bob Batson, and Marco Ross asked to have their names removed. Dr. Metcalfe nominated Dr. Mileusnic to serve as chair, the nomination was seconded by Mr. Batson. All members agreed with nomination, and Dr. Darden moved to close nominations, seconded by Dr. Scheuerman.

1:51 P.M. **8. Newly Appointed Chair Accepts:**

Dr. Mileusnic accepts the nomination for chair of the council. The first order of business is to schedule dates for the future meetings:

- a) January 12, 2018 - 1:00 CST - Andrew Johnson Tower, 5th Floor, Conference Room A
 - b) April 13, 2018 - 1:00 CST - Andrew Johnson Tower, 5th Floor, Conference Room A
 - c) July 13, 2018 - 1:00 CST - Andrew Johnson Tower, 5th Floor, Conference Room A
 - d) October 12, 2018 - 1:00 CST - Andrew Johnson Tower, 5th Floor, Conference Room A
- * Conference Room Subject to Availability

Questions were asked concerning who had the authority to approve the absence of a member from the meeting and if a delegate could be sent in their place. Following some discussion, Dr. Mileusnic asks for allowance of delegate to attend up to one meeting, with advance notice of delegates appointed. Mary Kennedy advises she will research rules on delegates for public councils, and draft a rule if one does not exist.

1:59 P.M. **9. Problem Areas and Agenda for Future Meeting:**

Dr. Mileusnic asks the council for subjects the council should address in future meetings. The topics of concern are listed below:

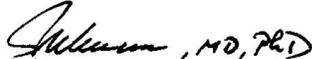
- a) Issuance of a yearly report,
- b) Changing statute to address areas of concerns counties face,
- c) Need for death investigators and lack of funding to employ them,
- d) Succession plan for medical examiners as they age out of the role,
- e) State Chief Medical Examiner should be an independent body, removed from Department of Health, possibly achieved by executive order,

Dr. Mileusnic suggest we schedule a legislative liaison to attend the next council meeting to discuss how to make the Office of the State Chief Medical Examiner office independent of the Department of Health.

2:13 P.M. **10. Council Wrap-Up:**

- The council agreed that all future meetings should occur at a central location, which was decided to be Andrew Johnson Tower. The next meeting of the council was set for January 12, 2018 at 1:00 P.M.

Submitted by:



Darinka Mileusnic, M.D., Ph.D.
Knox County Chief Medical Examiner
Chair, Medical Examiner Advisory Council



Margaret A. Hyder, M.A.
Deputy Director
Office of the State Chief Medical Examiner