

Tennessee Medical Examiner Advisory Council  
Friday, December 9, 2016, 1:00 P.M. - 2:11 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)	Not-Present
Jason Locke	Deputy Director of the TBI	Not-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
Frances Wheatley, M.A., ABMDI-F	State Medicolegal Death Investigator	Present
Andrew Wilson, B.S., ABMDI-F	State Medicolegal Death Investigator	Present
GUESTS	REPRESENTATION	STATUS
Jerry Estes, J.D.	TDAGC	Present
Will Denami	Hamilton County Lobbyist	Present
J.A. Bucy	Middle TN and Funeral Home Lobbyist	Present
James Metcalfe, M.D.	Hamilton County Medical Examiner	Present

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 P.M. on Friday, December 9, 2016 in Conference Room A, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower.

1:05 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 October 21, 2016 which were electronically distributed prior to the meeting. Minutes approval unanimously voted "Yea."

1:07 P.M.      2. 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 with six sessions planned for 2016/2017. The office is also developing a new "Death Investigation 101" one day basic training program for county medical examiners and death investigators to be provided to all counties (1-4 counties per session) over the next two years.

Dr. Goodin advised the council that in January an interim case management system would become available for counties to enter their report of investigation on medical examiner cases electronically. The information gathered by the system will enable production of an annual report.

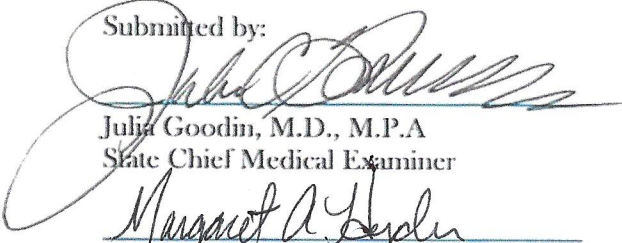
1:13 P.M.      3. Update on Electronic Death Certification:  
Discussion occurred of rollout occurring in June 2017. Plans to educate death certification through TMA are in process.

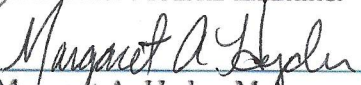
1:21 P.M. 4. Updated County Medical Examiner Guidelines:  
a. Updated Guidelines were presented to the council. Council Member Dunavant recommended approval, seconded by Dr. Smith. The Updated Guidelines were approved unanimously.

1:27 P.M. 5. Discussion Concerning Forensic Pathologist Testimony:  
a. Problem obtaining testimony from Forensic Pathologists:  
a. Michael Dunavant raised concerns regarding difficulties obtaining testimony from Forensic Pathologists who previously performed autopsies in Tennessee, but have moved to another state or jurisdiction..  
b. Jerry Estes was introduced by Council Member Dunavant to speak on the issue statewide.  
c. The burden of payment to forensic pathologist witnesses was discussed, with a final suggestion of Jerry Estes obtaining an Attorney General Opinion.

2:05 P.M. 6. Council Wrap-Up:  
• The next meeting of the council was set for March 31, 2017 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