



OFFICE OF THE
MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR

NEW MEXICO BOARD OF MEDICAL INVESTIGATORS
MINUTES OF MEETING- December 3, 2020

NM Office of the Medical Investigator
The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
VIRTUAL MEETING

BOARD PRESENT:

| | |
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| Martha Cole McGrew, MD <i>Acting Board Chair</i> | Interim Dean, UNM School of Medicine |
| Tim Johnson <i>Board Member</i> | Chief, New Mexico State Police |
| David Houston <i>Board Member</i> | Chairman, New Mexico Board of Funeral Services |
| Tracie Collins, MD, MPH <i>Acting Board Member</i> | Acting Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Dept. of Health |
| Thomas Massaro <i>Designate</i> | Chief Medical Officer, NMDOH |

BOARD ABSENT:

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|---|---|
| Lynn Trujillo <i>Board Member</i> | Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Dept. of Indian Affairs |
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ATTENDEES:

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|----------------------|---|
| Douglas Ziedonis, MD | EVP, of UNM HSC, CEO of UNM Health System |
| Heather Jarrell, MD | Interim Chief Medical Investigator, NM OMI |
| Nancy Joste, MD | Professor, Interim Department Chair, UNM Dept. of Pathology |
| Clarissa Krinsky, MD | Medical Investigator, NM OMI |
| Ross Zumwalt, MD | Medical Investigator, NM OMI |
| Lauren Decker, MD | Medical Investigator, NM OM |
| Lori Proe, DO | Medical Investigator, NM OM |
| Yvonne Villalobos | Director of Operations, NM OMI |
| Thu Luu | Accounting Manager, NM OMI |
| Albert Arocha | Supervisor of Morphology Services, NM OMI |
| Amy Wyman | Supervisor of Field Investigations, NM OMI |
| Natalie Adolphi, PhD | Director, Center for Forensic Imaging, NM OMI |
| Martin Wetterstrom | IT Manager, NM OMI |
| Paul Carbajal | Administrative Assistant 3, NM OMI |
| Felicia Garcia | Fiscal Service Tech, NM OMI |
| Garon Bodar | Research Scientist, NM OMI |
| Elizabeth Gonzales | Supervisor of Central Office Investigations, NM OMI |
| Anthony Cervantes | Unit Administrator, Asst. to the Interim Chief MI, NM OMI |
| Scot Sauder | Deputy University Counsel, UNM HSC |
| Alexandra Sanchez | PIO, UNM Health Sciences |
| Donna Sigl, MD, MS | Assistant Dean, Office of Faculty Affairs |
| April Rodriquez | Director, Office of Faculty Affairs |
| Stephanie Salazar | General Counsel, NM Indian Affairs Dept. |
| Luis Terrazas | Terrazas Funeral Chapels |
| Dion Leyba | NM Board of Funeral Services, Board Administrator |

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Dr. McGrew called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (action item)**

Mr. Houston moved to accept the agenda as presented. Chief Johnson **SECONDED**. All were in favor. Motion **CARRIED**.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (action item)**

Chief Johnson moved to approve the June 23, 2020 General Meeting Minutes. Mr. Houston **SECONDED**. All were in favor. Motion **CARRIED**.

4. **ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS: (action item)**

Dr. McGrew asked for a nomination of the OMI Board Chair. Chief Johnson nominated the Acting Health Secretary, Dr. Collins as Board Chair, Mr. Houston as the Vice Chair and Dr. McGrew as the Board Secretary. Dr. McGrew asked the nominees if they agree to serve in those roles. Mr. Houston agreed. Dr. Collins declined the nomination of Board Chair. Dr. McGrew made mention that Sec. Trujillo was not present therefore the board may table the action item to the next board meeting.

Dr. McGrew asked for a motion to table the election of board officers to the next board meeting. Mr. Houston **MOVED**. Chief Johnson **SECONDED**. All were in favor. Motion **CARRIED**.

Dr. McGrew introduced the new Executive Vice President of UNM Health Sciences Center and CEO of UNM Health, Dr. Douglas Ziedonis. Dr. Ziedonis thanked Dr. McGrew for the Introduction.

5. **UPDATE OF OMI CHIEF SEARCH:**

Dr. Sigl, chair of the search committee for the OMI chief search updated the board. This is the seconded search for the OMI Chief Medical Investigator. There were three applicants in this search. One did not meet the minimum requirements. The search committee interviewed both applicants and unanimously recommended that one of the applicants be put forward as a candidate for seconded interviews. That applicant is the current OMI Interim Chief Medical Investigator, Dr. Heather Jarrell. Seconded Interviews are ongoing. At completion of the process, Dr. McGrew will make a recommendation to the hiring agent which is the OMI Board.

Dr. McGrew announced to consider a special meeting of the board in early January 2021, to move forward with selecting a new OMI chief and revisit the election of OMI board officers.

The search committee members are as followed:

- Dr. Sigl, Assistant Dean, UNM Office of Faculty Affairs
- Dr. Joste, Professor & Interim Chair, UNM Dept. of Pathology
- Cabinet Sec. Lynn Trujillo, NM Dept. of Indian Affairs
- Thomas Massaro Chief Medical Officer, NMDOH
- Lieutenant Richard Matthews, NM State Police
- Dr. Mlady, Chair, UNM SOM Dept. of Radiology
- Dr. Lathrop, UNM Professor of Pathology, OMI Epidemiologist
- Dr. Justin Baca, UNM Dept. of Emergency Medicine

6. **REPORT FROM THE INTERIM CHIEF MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR:**

Dr. Jarrell reported to the board that the OMI received National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation. Dr. Jarrell introduced new OMI Forensic Pathologist Dr. Clarissa Krinsky.

Dr. Jarrell presented a slide that highlighted a funding request- Research and Public Service Project (RPSP) she presented to the Legislative Health and Humans Services Committee (LHHS) on October 27, 2020. The OMI was issued a 6% cut for FY22. The slide reflects the request for the 6% back for a total RPSP request of \$537,950

Total RPSP Request: \$537,950



1. OMI Departments Requiring Additional Staff: \$305,342

- 2 FTEs Morphology Technician (Autopsy).
 - Total Request \$93,702 (Salary + Fringe)
- 3 FTEs Central Office Investigators.
 - Total Request \$173,690 (Salary + fringe)
- 0.50 FTE Forensic Anthropologist Staff.
 - Total Request \$37,950 (Salary + Fringe)

2. Decedent Transportation: \$165,108

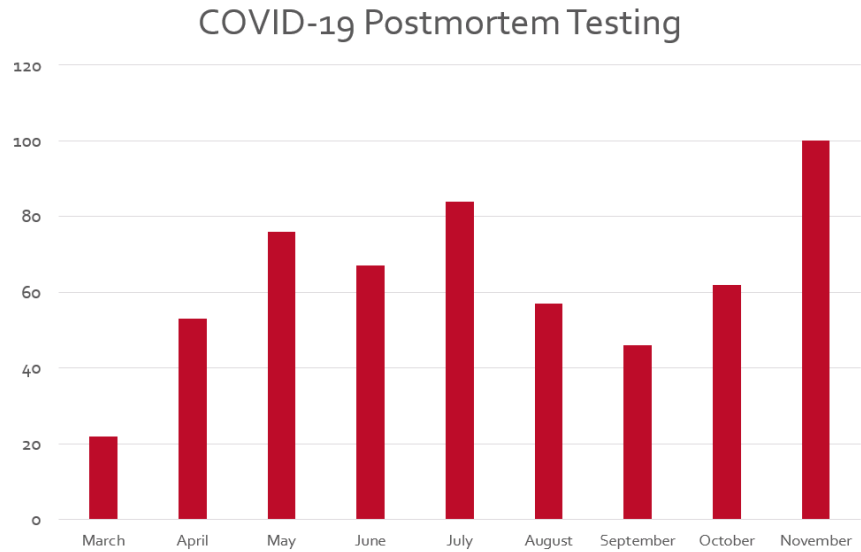
- Annual decedent transportation cost is \$1.1 to \$1.2 million
- Large expenditure to total operating budget

3. NMS Toxicology: \$67,500

- Non-pending toxicology projected expense for FY22 is approximately \$250,000

Dr. Jarrell presented slides illustrating COVID-19 Postmortem Testing. Late November, the OMI had to change the case triage approach to COVID-19, for decedents with reported symptoms who died unattended deaths. Decedents with significant comorbidities present on CT and/or provided medical history that could otherwise account for death, will be evaluated with an external exam, CT, and nasopharyngeal swab due to overwhelming volume of cases.

COVID-19 Updates



The following slides illustrate how COVID-19 has impacted the OMI

Case Load Comparisons

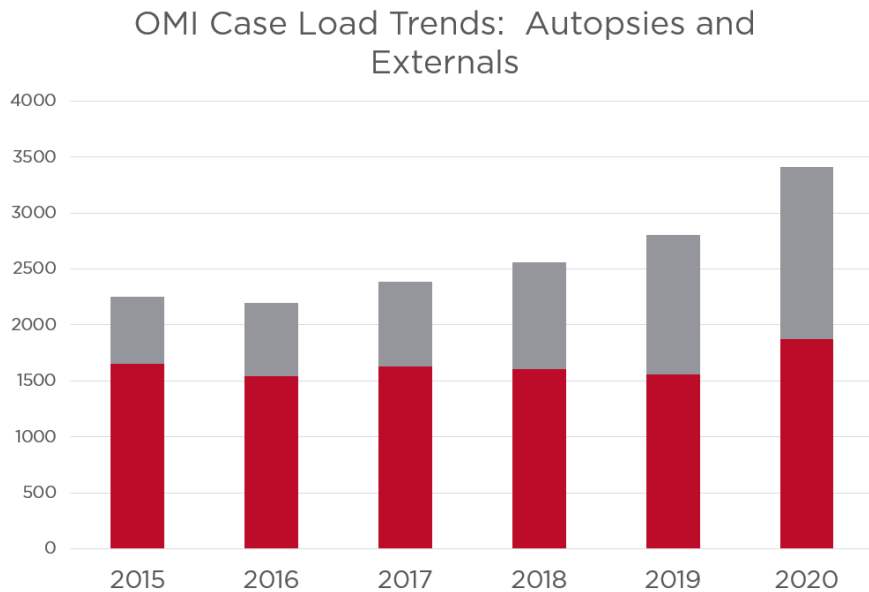
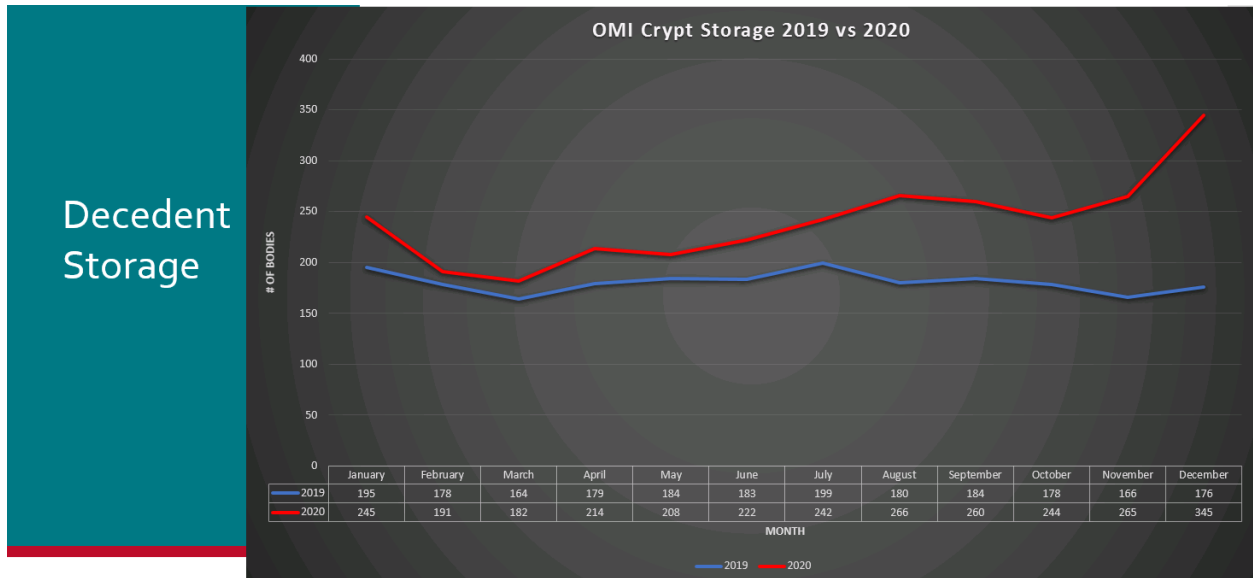


Chart only includes up to Dec. 1st for 2020



Decedent Storage

The red line indicates the OMI decedent storage for 2020.

Covid-19 Related Expenses As of 11/13/20

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| PPEs (PAPRs, Gloves, Face Masks, and Other Respirators) | |
| Fit Testing for staff including on-call staff | |
| Other Lab Supplies | \$ 172,453 |
| Heavy Equipment | |
| Body bags | |
| FEMA Refrigerated Truck-Related Expenses: Portable handwashing station, Portable Toilet, Fuels, etc... | \$ 28,833 |
| Office Covid-19 Related Expenses: Counter safety shield protections, Temperature check guns, Webcams, Lodging for In-state travel for trailers inspections, Working Remote Reimb., etc... | \$ 25,495 |
| LTD - body transport | \$ 10,291 |
| Total Covid-19 Related Spending As of 6/5/20 | \$ 237,072 |

COVID Spending

Indigent Burials/ Cremations and Cremation Permits

- OMI must issue cremation permits to authorize cremation, which is a checkpoint to ensure that a decedent who falls under OMI isn't cremated prior to OMI examination
- Average about 80 cremation permits per day
- Indigent burials/cremations being processed, but the process is slowing down in the pandemic due to outside agency capacity to house

7. **DEATH CERTIFICATES:**

Dr. Jarrell reports that the next agenda item is to provide situational awareness to the OMI board. The OMI currently has five cases where additional information and/or circumstances have been brought forward and the manner of death needs to be amended. This state statute has caused families to have to wait longer to receive the amended death certificate. Dr. Jarrell has reached out to NMDOH BVS and University Counsel, Scot Sauder to try and work out a solution.

Death Certificates

7.2.2.17 AMENDMENT OF LIVE BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES:

G. Amendment of the same item more than once. Once an amendment of an item is made on a vital record, that item shall not be amended again except upon receipt of a certified court order.

Mr. Sauder informed the board that he will suggest to NMDOH to publish an amendment to this regulation to except the OMI from this rule.

8. **BUDGET UPDATE:**

Dr. Jarrell presented a slide to the board and gave an update about the OMI budget.

- OMI FY21 Income Statement Projection 7/1/20 – 06/30/21

OMI FY21 Income Statement Projection 7/1/20 - 6/30/21

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Revenue | |
| Operating Revenue | |
| University Hospital Revenue | \$942,036 |
| Sandoval Regional MC Revenue | \$16,680 |
| Other Revenue Services | \$4,487,369 |
| | |
| Non-operating Revenue | |
| State Appropriation | \$5,413,700 |
| | |
| Intra University Activities | |
| Transfer & Allocation | (\$50,786) |
| Total Revenue | <u>\$10,808,999</u> |
| | |
| Expenses | |
| Salary & Fringe | \$6,792,603 |
| Salary & Fringe (Staff To Be Hired - Covid Peak Rise) | \$642,530 |
| Body Transportation | \$1,479,008 |
| Utilities & Plant Maintenance (SLD, Security, Kone Elevator, Pe | \$460,500 |
| Equipment Warranties (Phillips, Siemens, Stryker, C-Scan Tech | \$232,000 |
| Services (Locums, J&J, Janitorial, Waste Destruction, Malpractice, | \$1,285,189 |
| Patient Care Expenses | \$380,163 |
| NMS - Toxicology | \$51,175 |
| Other Expenses (Appropriation's Overhead Charge, bad debt, Ver | \$851,249 |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$12,174,417</u> |
| | |
| FY21 Projected Net | (\$1,365,418) |
| | |
| FY20 Reserves | \$324,029 |
| FY20 Less Grief Return | (\$40,028) |
| | |
| FY21 Overall Projected Net | (\$1,081,417) |

Dr. Jarrell mentioned in her budget report that the OMI does receive some reimbursement from FEMA for COVID-19 related expenses.

Chief Johnson asked if the OMI includes body transportation expenses that are COVID-19 related in the reimbursements submitted to FEMA. Dr. Jarrell replied that this is a good idea to consider and she will take this recommendation and review with OMI accounting.

Dr. McGrew inquired of the 4 vacant forensic pathologist positions, are salary savings from those vacancies applied to the OMI budget. Dr. Jarrell replied that the salary savings go to locums and

faculty extra compensation base on the additional workload. Dr. McGrew thanked Dr. Jarrell and the OMI for everything they have done in the last year.

Mr. Luis Terrazas of Terrazas Funeral Chapels joined the meeting late and commented that he appreciates all that OMI does and is mindful of their budget shortfall. He has reached out to OMI leadership, the Legislative Finance Committee and Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales regarding OMI's budget cuts. Mr. Terrazas further spoke to the board about the cremation permit and indigent process with OMI and funeral home industry.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Dr. McGrew asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Houston **MOVED**. The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 3:13 PM

Approval of Minutes:



Tim Johnson, Board Secretary



Date