

Tennessee Medical Examiner Advisory Council  
Friday, March 31, 2017, 1:00 P.M. - 1:44 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  | Telephonic  |
| Tony R. Emison, M.D.            | County Medical Examiner (West TN)                                  | Not-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)                                | Not-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      |
| Senator Gardenhire              | Tennessee General Assembly   | Telephonic  |
| Justin Walling, J.D.            | TDAGC  | Present     |
| William Oliver, M.D.            | Knox County Deputy Medical Examiner                                | Present     |
| Feng Li, M.D.                   | Davidson County Medical Examiner                                   | Present     |
| James Metcalfe, M.D.            | Hamilton County Medical Examiner                                   | Present     |

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, March 31, 2017 in Conference Room A, 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Jacky Carver moved to approve the minutes from December 9, 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 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: Bullets, Drugs, & Deception. Three of the six training sessions have occurred, with great improvement displayed in pretest versus post-test scores. The office has also scheduled a training session in Macon County and Putnam County 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. Mike Dunavant advised that he had several colleagues attend a recent training (Bullets, Drugs, & Deception) in Jackson, and all brought back positive reviews.

Dr. Goodin advised the council that the OSCME recently published a March newsletter, which is the third in the series, available on the state website. Also recently published was the 2017 Medical

Examiner's Handbook, which was sent electronically to the council and may also be found on the state website. The OSCME is currently deciding the best options for printing the handbook. The OSCME is wrapping up the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a statewide case management system, in hopes of soliciting bids later this year. The interim case management, I-MED, is live with 130 users registered and entering case information. As of March 17, 2017 there were 1,734 cases entered into the database. Those registered represent 41 counties. January 1, 2017 the OSCME started reimbursing counties for submission of their reports of investigation (ROI) as an incentive to receive all medical examiner reports, which will enable the OSCME to produce an annual report. Commissioner Dreyzelner sent a letter to each county mayor encouraging participation in ROI submission.

The OSCME is staying actively involved in the development of VRISM. Jacky Carver suggests legislative requirements for certifiers of death certificates. Dr. Goodin suggested a funeral home representative could provide insight to the Tennessee Medical Association as to the importance of timely death certifications and repercussions faced by families when death certification is delayed.

1:27 P.M.      **3. Discussion Concerning Forensic Pathologist Testimony:**

Dr. Goodin brought up the issues discussed at the previous council meeting regarding hardships faced by DAGC involving testimony by forensic pathologists no longer practicing in the jurisdiction of the case. Michael Dunavant advised that he would follow up with Jerry Estes regarding an opinion from the Attorney General.

1:28 P.M.      **4. Current Legislative Session:**

Dr. Goodin advised the council of current proposed legislation.

- a. SB0447/HB1172 - Extends the current MEAC
- b. SB1016/HB1027 - Creates a new MEAC with additional members
- c. SB0113/HB0044 - TBI "Help Find the Missing"
- d. SB0893/HB1149 - Suicide Bill
- e. SB0428 & SB0019 - Bills regarding disposition of remains.

1:30 P.M.      **5. Mass Fatality Planning:**

- a. Discussion of problems with current Mass Fatality Plan.
- b. Discussion of an upcoming Mass Fatality Exercise.
- c. Prior to the exercise would be a good time for stakeholders from different organizations to meet and create a new Mass Fatality Plan as a group, to avoid confusion of roles in a real situation.
- d. Mass Fatality Plan should be two tier:
  - a. High Fatalities : Low Trauma/Illness
  - b. High Trauma/Illness: Low Fatalities

1:43 P.M.      **6. New Business:**

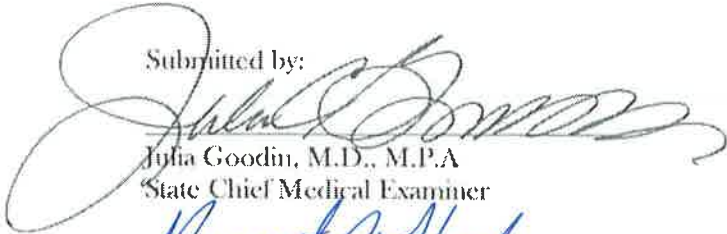
Dr. Goodin advised that the next meeting will depend on legislation. If bill SB0447/HB1172 passes the council will sunset, and meetings will continue as normal.

1:14 P.M.


**6. Council Wrap-Up:**

- The next meeting of the council was set for October 27, 2017 at 1:00 P.M.  
Jacky Carver moved to adjourn.

Submitted by:



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



Margaret A. Hyder, M.A.  
Deputy Director