

Wisconsin Coroner's and Medical Examiner's Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Best Western Premier- Neenah
October 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer Schroeter at 16:09. Those in attendance were:

Agenda was presented to all present by President Schroeter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April and July minute approval, *motion (Joe/Barry)* – all in favor, no opposes

Britany Grogan, DHS present: WI violent death reporting system

1. They received a grant to add opiate involved overdose to the system, which requires getting ME reports for those deaths. CEC grant
2. Regular violent death reporting system grant got a small increase in budget and they want to work with the state lab of hygiene on distrusting a survey to ME/Coroners to figure out specific barriers
3. They would like to distribute surgery to everyone and then everyone who fills out survey gets entered into a drawing they win a \$500 scholarship to the next conference. They hope this encourages people to take the survey.
4. Dr. Rogalska mentioned we don't have toxicology reports available for a long time. Inquired if the grant offers someone from their department come to ME office and look through records and also required which drugs specifically they are looking for.
5. Britany stated that the records they collect have only ones that have opiates involved on the DC. They're hiring a new abstractor with the grant that will be traveling if needed to ppls offices. Britany stated they have a lot of things to work out and haven't hired a person right now. It will work the same as with the VDRS system that is currently in place.
6. Dr. Rogalska asked if the sheet is electronic – Britany stated they are still working it out and they would just request the actual report and not fill out a form and then they can find the things themselves.
7. Barry asked if the VDRS form would get another paged added and Britany states she does not think a form would be added to the current one. IT does not include a long list of the opiates.
8. Britany stated that with the suicides and homicides it is important to get the form right away however with drugs/overdoses it would be okay to wait for the toxicology.
9. Britany stated she has worked on the survey and if some people wanted to look at it, it would be really helpful and she would send the survey to people.
10. Jennifer asked how long the survey would take; Britany stated no one has tested the survey yet so she isn't sure. The state lab is putting it together and it will be electronic. Email and letter to take survey.

Chris Lenzendorf, WCMEA Lobbyist:

1. Pretty active election cycle: our bill would be split? The 979 bill we could really use foster our relationships with other associations, mainly the hospital. Dr. Rogalska and he spent the day at the hospital associations. They are going to have a meeting in three weeks to discuss DNA testing. IF we can get some other programs in other associations it would help a lot. The hospital association would need a program.
2. The FDA meeting he talked about setting up meetings with the districts and that a couple big funeral homes were controlling the direction.
3. Called the WFDA and they said absolutely not and that we don't want to talk about legislation and Chris voiced his concern of why and why coming to a meeting talking about plans would be negative.

4. Chris emailed lobbyist and executive director and asked why this would be bad and they emailed back and said we never let groups come in and pitch their legislation. With that being said we are looking forward to working together.
5. The WFDA is only 40% of funeral homes in WI – even at best we aren't hitting all the funeral directors which he feels is important. They are a huge association and have a lot of power. But no one from the WFDA knows about our legislation or the fee legislation.
6. Chris suggested having our own meetings in certain districts and inviting funeral directors. And we can do it under the catchy headline “cocktails with coroners. It gets them in and starts discussion on legislation and then an email that says we are going to come and have a discussion about our ME's office and what we plan on doing in the next year and get feedback on times we are confused or concerned about.
7. More importantly it would start conversation about legislation and it would be a yelling match but they would deal with that as it comes.
8. The WFDA knew about fee bill and then tried to make coroners jobs more difficult, major problems Goal is to make sure we always have a voice and a seat at the table.
9. Barry Irmen called Mike Smits who works at Gunderson (largest member of WFDA), asked about why not coming and talk about legislation, and he said he didn't know so he called Adam who is the executive director and he said “they don't pitch membership” Mike said he would be happy to be a part of that meeting so that the message would be sent evenly. So Barry stated that is something we should do, and also just send a summary to every funeral home in state. If we can't get Adam through their own group why not address them individually.
10. Barry Busby stated that everyone works individually with FH's and we should all be able to talk to them. All the people in Winnebago and surrounding that he deals with knew nothing about the association.
11. Chris said another side effect of not attending is communication and talking about what is going on, they can call Adam and put pressure on him. Why are we opposing it?
12. It took Gunderson Funeral Home to get involved for them to get together and sit down with us. When we were in the 11th hour of bill and going through changes and Mike Schraa and had WFDA on speaker and stated they never heard of bill and now we want to be in favor? Chris stated he emailed it to them six months ago and they stated they didn't have it.
13. The pressure has to come from a large funeral home; we are doing them a favor because we do not need their support because they come out against us for latest bill.
14. If this is the route we go he would put together a PowerPoint and have the board look at it before presenting and would like to get going on it right after the conference.
15. Barry stated that the WCMEA shouldn't be buying alcohol for them as an association.
16. Chris asked what a realistic budget would be for this (\$200-\$300) for appetizers.
17. The bill is public and not hidden, it is out there.
18. Dr. Rogalska stated that it is a concern is uniformity and the same people going to each meeting and having same message, having individual members has a chance of giving more information than needed. Use same people and they only go to meetings and it the story stays consistent.
19. Dr. Rogalska brought up the baby DNA cards – in Virginia the pathologist got an agreement with a company who produces DNA Cards, and they committed with her to provide with her these DNA Cards to any hospital, or all for the purposes to create DNA cards for babies. The foot prints function better as memorable as forensic evidence. The footprint is often bobbled as nurses take their pinky to make toes.
20. Children's Hospital of Milwaukee was supportive as were other areas, really great idea. The value of it is that it is a card that goes with mom and only the mom has it. It costs the hospital less than \$1; it gives people the availability to identify their child. For future genetic requires just a punch from one of the cards could be sent in lieu of blood taken post mortem, there are a lot of advantages. Only things opposable were cost which is fixed and registry which is being given to mom.

21. The Baby DNA card has enough support in the local hospitals, but even if we were to get CHW and UW hospital, those are two larger, top three largest children's hospital in entire country. If we get their support could easily move forward. Tremendous asset to the WCMEA if we could push this.
22. Chris states he spoke to the WHA (WI county association) and told them what he was thinking, can't tell a hospital to do something. Doesn't have to be a law but something we can work on jointly to do together. The association would pay for it, they love funding. It gets them and us doing a joint project. If don't want to do legislatively, there is no downside. Chris stated he would like to do something with them collectively.
23. Cocktails with coroners is a good start
24. Barry Busby mentioned going to homicide investigator conference which Dr. Rogalska stated is the same week as us.
25. Dr. Rogalska stated that having funeral directors present at conferences is helpful – because they can get their FD credits.
26. Rory mentioned dedicating any afternoon to get 3-4 speakers. Talk about maggots, or what we can do to help their embalming.
27. Chris is going to get Jen information on how much a venue would be. BOD all agreed that is fine.
28. *Barry made a motion that we spend up to \$400-\$500, no more than 5 meetings for local funeral homes. Second motion PJ. All in favor, no nay*
29. PAC – we can form our own PAC to obtain money. Chris thinks it is valuable and easy to set up; Chris stated he would do more the leg work, he can't handle the money.
30. Barry Irmen stated at last board meeting we decided to move forward.
31. Barry stated the legislative committee as a group should decide, not just one person.
32. Rory stated the funds have to be separate.
33. *Motion Wisconsin Death investigator For Change (first motion Barry/second motion Joe)*
34. Jennifer asked for the amount to put in account, see treasurers report. Chris stated it doesn't need to be that much.

President's Report: Jennifer

1. Jen was able to secure contracts for the conference venues.
2. April is at the Hyatt in GB and fall is at the Ostoff in Elkhart Lake.
3. Contracts have been signed and have contact information available.
4. Jen was able to help Amanda with the conference planning – brochures are printed and mailed but sent out late, still have a low turnout rate. One brochure was sent to each county.
5. Jen worked with hotels setting up the food and vendors, worked with the legislative committee. Couple more families contacted her out of the blue. CTE mother reached out and wanted to be in the newsletter. Dr. Rogalska doesn't feel this is the venue to do that.
6. Angela mentioned maybe creating a policy for presenters to stay away from one sided story presenters.

1st Vice President: Amanda Thoma (excused)

1. Did all the conference planning and speakers. 42 people registered and 11 vendors ready for conference. 2 of the vendors that came for fall aren't able to make it this time. Amanda will be here tomorrow.

2nd Vice President: Mary Ricci – excused

1. Worked with Amanda on ABMDI submission. 13.75 credits for this conference. Mary said that we have 255 memberships for this year. Rory states we probably have 5-6 in the last week or two. 59 counties are members, 13 are not.

Secretary Report: Kalynn Podoski

1. Nothing to report, received very few nominations in mail. Received 4 absentee votes. Will not be present on Wednesday for voting to take place. Gave nominations to Rory.

Treasurer's Report; Rory:

1. End of June fiscal year, ended year with \$63,269 in account, up about \$12,000 from previous year. As it sits right now \$63,174 in account. Stayed status quo. Most of the bills are paid out except for the facility. Still need money from those attending.
2. Donation made for Dr. Peterson son (Milwaukee County Medical Examiner)
3. Flowers sent to Laurie Parisey husband's funeral on behalf of the board.
4. Haven't had a lot of bills – have gift card for a door prize on last day to promote attendance throughout the three days. Purchased books for speakers. Purchased 40 books for \$560. We can return whatever books we don't use.
5. Barry stated maybe we should give away books instead of sending them back.
6. *Rory first motion, Barry second motion to give books to memberships.*
7. Made \$12,000 last year
8. PAC fund decision: \$5,000 (PJ motion first, Dr. Rogalska second)

Sergeant at Arms – Joe Morovits:

1. See merchandise

Member at Large: Dr. Rogalska

1. Nothing to report – from July notes suggestion of a poll, what kind of topics people want to see? Concept of poll – why did they come to conference? Topics they want to see? 4-5 questions, direct so that people can input value (not including food).
2. A list where they can pick topics, investigation toxicology, things like that.
3. Dedicated period of time for a theme – half day or day on toxicology. Bring in toxicologist, ME's, investigations, or baby deaths – pediatric abuse specialist about signs, other types of abuse. Topics we generally don't deal with. DA talks about prosecuting child deaths. Barry Busby mentioned senior abuse or hospice agencies when they are using more drugs than they should be.
4. Attach poll to amazon prize (\$50 card for tomorrow Tuesday and Wednesday, then scholarship for conference).
5. Should we send something by mail to ask what it takes to get them here? (Barry I.) Scholarship to conference? Or \$50 amazon card.
6. Rory brought up talking about sex trafficking as it relates to abuse, overdoses, etc.
7. Dr. Rogalska motion to make poll brief questions about what membership would like to see at fall/spring conference and attach to \$50 gift card amazon, Rory second. They will do poll for this conference. No more discussion.
8. Dr. Rogalska spring motion for more involved poll about why they didn't attend, PJ seconds second motion. No discussion. What prevented from you attending?
9. *Barry Irmen stated to do scholarship and membership (First motion Barry, second motion PJ)*
10. Cost of conference for one person, membership for one person, and lodging for one person. No more discussion.

Trustee's Report: Scott, PJ, Jessica

1. Scott absent – PJ report falls under committees – nominations are in, ballots are sent, and complaints have been heard.

Past president; Barry Irmen:

1. Legislative stuff we already went over.

2. Having website vendor issues – looking for new place to host our website.

Motion Joe, second PJ. No more discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee:

1. See prior

Newsletter: Jennifer –

1. Waiting until after conference for updates

Merchandise – Joe:

1. Sweatshirts – multi colors, what should we mark them up? Door prizes are books and gift cards; still have tickets for door prize. Requested to have ABMDI books (no more than \$1000) at conference and gift cards (\$250) to give away, also doing \$500 scholarship again.

Old business

1. Legislation and PAC – no more discussion.

New business

1. FVTC is throwing around the idea of starting a 40 hour medicolegal death investigator course that allows ABMDI certification. Reach out to Amanda for more information.
2. Students attending conference? 18 years or younger ... allow college students who are enrolled in criminal justice to attend but not necessarily with an office. Do we offer student rates?
3. \$125 for students to apply – need letter from instruction to let them. What about apprentice at funeral homes? Or interns at PD.
4. *Joe motion, Rory second*

Other new business - none

January BOD meeting – tentative date

Adjourn – *first motion Barry, second motion Dr Rogalska 1926 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kalynn Podoski

Secretary, Kalynn Podoski

Lead Medicolegal Investigator/Office Manager

Brown, Door and Oconto County Medical Examiner's Office