



Colorado Coroners Association

Board Meeting Agenda

November 21, 2023 ~ 1:00 p.m.

Call Meeting To Order - 103pm

Tawnya Bailey; Rick Fellabaum; Raeann Brown, Treasurer; Randy Keller, President; Glenn Boyd; Erin Snow, Lobbyist; Amber Flenniken; Brian Cotter, Secretary; Vonnie Valdez;

Absent – Emma Hall; Emily Russell, MD; Lance Boren, Vice President

New Business –

Can each Committee create their own application for Members to apply

Until we change By Laws, we cannot do this. At this time, By Laws state appointment is by President

Monthly meetings must be addressed in By Laws also

Glenn – very simple application with a line – which committee are you applying for. Glenn will take this on.

CCA Cell Phone eligible for an upgrade – current phone (7 years) does not hold a charge

Does anyone have objections? Randy is fine. Any other issues.

Randy – motion to approve upgrade. Second by Amber Flenniken. Approved unanimously.

Recruitment letter for open Board seat

Randy – send out recruitment letter to Membership and at that time, we will chose a replacement.

Jen to draft email to advertise seat, it can be either Coroner or Deputy Coroner

Randy – we need representation from Deputies. We need category sized counties. A small county would be ideal.

Tawnya – do we need specific dates.

Randy – is 30 days enough time?

Rick – Fellabaum suggests 15th of December deadline

Randy – Emma Hall. Several phone calls about what is going on. She has had some accusations. I feel this Board needs to be looking out for the best interests of our membership. My opinion is that she has been accused, but I believe in innocent until proven guilty, we need to discuss. I feel there is not enough information yet to remove her from the Board. We need to discuss. Any suggestions, concerns??

Cotter – innocent until proven guilty

Randy – I need to hear from each.

Amber – innocent until proven guilty

Raeann – I believe that someone should be able to defend themselves. However we are in a tough spot. The report that came out, the 85 page investigation report needs to be considered. She pulled everyone together and said that as things progress she would resign. Don't get me wrong, but I think knowing this report came out after her comments, puts us in a bad position because she did not make a decision to protect this Board or Membership. What if this goes to the media. I have been contacted by people outside our organization, along with other coroners saying I don't want her to represent me. She said she would make the decision if things progressed, but she didn't.

Randy – I don't know how far she meant for things to go.....

Raeann – Do we make the decision for her to stay on the Board, do we hold her position, or do we ask her to decide once the decision is made. With her on vacation in Europe, we cannot contact her.

Randy – I want to know everyone's opinion. If we make the wrong decision...

Glenn – I disagree a little bit. I don't like the phrase what if it goes wrong and then what do we do. Until we know the ramifications, it is hard to know what to do.

Tawnya – we are in a precarious position. If we remove her now, that could reflect poorly for her. But I also want to represent the Board. All we have now are allegations. What do we lose by waiting 30 days?

Rick – Until a few minutes ago, I was unaware of the allegations. I would like to recommend we stay neutral. Let's let Emma come back and we discuss it with her. Let her make the decision. Can we set her to the side for now.

Vonnie – Agrees with Randy. Let's let things ride for now.

Randy – I agree with Tawnya in that if we do anything right now, it may reflect poorly on Emma. None of us has enough info right now to make a decision. A removal from the Board right now could damage her case.

Tawnya – I choose us first, but we need to consider what happens if we do nothing.

Randy – I have offered her a leave of absence. I did not get an answer from her. I will get in contact with her and ask her for an update.

Raeann – we want to give her the opportunity to defend herself. I agree with all of the comments we are sharing.

Old Business –

Approve Minutes - Cotter

Brian Cotter motion to accept minutes as printed. Second Rick Fellabaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Updates:

Ike Miller & Scholarship – Boren

Legislative – Keller

Should Lobbyists continue to come to monthly meetings, or should they meet monthly with the Legislative Committee?

Randy – Do we just have them meet with us quarterly? Danny and Emily have discussed have us present, but during Legislative sessions, we back that down.

Randy – I would like to see quarterly reports rather than monthly reports. With very frequent reports during the session, we can cut that back.

Rick – Quarterly sounds good.

Erin – What times do you want to see us. For certain our June and October meetings. If it is off season, I don't see it necessary. October and June and maybe one other meeting. Does anyone else want them present?

1:36 p.m. Randy Keller had to leave. Brian Cotter heading meeting

Erin gave an overview on what they are working on. Sessions are done for now.

Autopsy Bill was discussed again. Concessions were discussed.

Rick - We may be able to be flexible, but we are still going to limit the information they get. If we can give them information 30 days out, the article is out of the news.

Tawnya – our press keeps on top of these items until they get an answer. They wait 8-10 weeks for autopsy report

Glenn – When you think about it, on a general case, but on heinous cases, they hold on and want them no matter how long we hold off.

Tawnya – the families don't want the details, but the press does.

Rick – on 2018 Bill. Hickenlooper was going to make a run. He lost. Can we try it again?

Vigil Bill - Any Coroner elected to a position of a county of more than 250,000 shall be a certified death investigator.

Cotter – arbitrary number makes no sense. It should be category listed as we already have in place.

Raeann – I agree. As a level one county, we already have a medical examiner model. The second part of the bill coroner vs medical examiner is neither here nor there. Two different issues

Cotter – I don't see anything. This is a constitutional issue.

Fellabaum – I thought we had to be certified within one year

Excited delirium used to be an official designation for cause of death, but is not relevant any more.

Cotter – there are many more important things than this to spend time on

Call with DORA about sunrise review to regulate funeral service professionals

Brian – We had a terribly tragedy recently. What I have heard is that the state can come in and inspect funeral homes. That is a waste of time as the state can already do that.

Session starts again on January 10 through May 9

Marketing & Promotions – Flenniken

Amber – sent a spreadsheet with items that we have.

What have we spent in the past???

Raeann – no budget. We need to decide what to spend and what we need.

Amber – several orders we have not fulfilled

Tawnya – Let’s look at what Amber is doing and ordering, and we set dollar amounts on store merchandise, giveaways and morning giveaways.

Brian – send out a note to members as to what kind of merchandise do they want to see?

Glenn – think about the things that rural counties have a

Certification – Brown

Jen and Raeann to discuss

Peer Review – Cotter

Jen read weirdo letter

Matan emails reviewed

Send emails asking for specific topics

Education – Boyd/Flenniken

Review Course Evaluation Form and revamp? (Handout)

Amber – first 2 questions are the same. What do you want.

Public Relations – Keller

Coroner Assist – Fellabaum

Rick – Nothing to report

I don’t want to be the Chair of this committee.

We need to find out what each county has and what they are willing to share

Website – Bailey

Not good. Upgrade took place. It is awful

Vendor – Boyd

Working on Emergency Management meeting at this time. Will set time with jen

Banquet – Boren

By Laws – Hall

Elections Ad Hoc – Hall

Next Board Meeting –

December 19, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – ZOOM

Adjourn: 2:52p.m.