



**Colorado Coroners Association  
Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Office of the Medical Examiner – Denver City and County

500 Quivas Street, Denver, Colorado 80204

720.337.7600

**(Call-In Number 712.770.5505 access code:383755)**

**Call Meeting to Order: 11:12 a.m.**

Randy Keller, President; Robert Glassmire, Vice President; Matt Reid; Brian Cotter; jen vien; Kathy Oatis, Steve Balcerovich, Emily Russell, MD

On the phone – Jeff Graf; Victor Yahn, Stephen Hunzeker; Brenda Bock, Thomas Canfield, MD, Randy Gorton, Michael Burson, MD

**Legislative Report:**

Review 5 Bills that are introduced (These can be found on our website)

SEE THEIR HANDOUT

- HB20-1029 Allows County Officers to accept lower salary. Not mandated. Does not apply to anything we deal with
- HB20-1051 Identification of Veteran Remains for Proper Military Burial. Part of a National movement to identify Veterans. These are unclaimed cremated remains. This is mostly a Public Administrator issue.
- HB20-1060 Natural Organic Reduction of Human Remains.
- HB20-1085 – Prevention of Substance Use Disorders. Allows access when an autopsy will be performed.

- HB20-1148 – Offenses Committed Against a Deceased Human Body. This will increase the penalty for mutilating a corpse. Moving forward this could be moved to a felony and increasing the penalties.

Randy Keller met with the Colorado Press Association to discuss sealing Autopsy Reports for Minors. The Press Association would like to have access to the decedents name, date of birth, date of death, cause of death (actual reason person died) and manner of death. This is a major change from what we looked at 2 years ago. We don't have the same support on this Bill that we had 2 years ago.

What is CCA willing to negotiate? Compromise – pull the name, give dates, cause and manner. OR give age, cause and manner OR minor/adult, cause and manner. Age is important – a nine-year-old vs. a seventeen-year-old.

Recommended by Steve and Kathy: Age, date of death, cause of death, manner of death. No name, no date of birth.

Motion to vote to abandon the Bill altogether. Second. Discussion.

Motion failed. Motion to give age, date of death, cause of death, manner of death. Second. Accepted unanimously. We will NOT support giving the decedents name. This is the decision of the Colorado Coroners Association Board. If Representative Gray still wants to move forward on this Bill, it will be introduced next week.

### **Major Coroner Issues: (ONGOING)**

- Category I Election Requirement Legislation  
Kathy spoke to Senator Winter in December. Senator Winter wants to make certain CCA supports this legislation. Requiring ABMDI certification prior to announcing an individual is running could be illegal. Being POST certified before running did not work in prior years.

Steve and Kathy will keep us updated should things change on this. Not much happening and Senator Winters not really pursuing this, so will let it ride for now.

#### Ethnic and Cultural Autopsy Sensitivity/Requirements

Minnesota Bill – look into this topic. Perhaps start including sensitivity training in our Conferences and Trainings.

#### Sealing Minors Autopsy Reports

Senate Bill 18-233

Sealed except for certain exceptions

Big bill of the day. Steve and Kathy will take on the press.

Steve and Kathy need some strong support from CCA to address/support

#### Mutilated Body Statute

Sponsored by Representative Soper

There is conflict between Coroners offices and Funeral Homes. “Kickbacks” are an issue. There are some Coroners who make money being a Coroner and owning a funeral home in the county. Mutilation of body should be increased to a felony versus a misdemeanor. Will work up a draft of a bill and send to Steve and Kathy, and CCA will have a chance to review. Representative Soper is looking for input from CCA. 2021 Legislation. **(ONGOING)**

Randy Keller has been looking at obtaining some of the funds spent on death certificates to go towards education/mental health for Coroners offices.

**Secretary's Report:**

Review Minutes from October 8, 2019 Meeting (**Hand out**)

Correction – Change Minority to Minors.

Motion to accept; Second; Accepted unanimously

**Treasurer's Report:**

(**Hand out**)

Ike Miller - \$9,121.7776

General Fund - \$29,641.79

Education - \$23,818.00

Savings – \$76,698.45

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented; Second; Accepted Unanimously

Dues Update (**Handout**)

Victor needs an external hard drive for keeping records.

Randy Keller and Victor will handle this

**New Coroner Institute:**

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

- By-Laws Update  
Randy Keller would like to review with some other Board Members.  
Will send out in an email for review – (**ONGOING**)
- Policies Update (**ONGOING**)  
Review and be familiar with by the January meeting.  
Change the By-Laws to follow the Election of Executive Board
- Ad-Hoc Finance Committee for Evaluations, Compensation and Contract Review; Randy Keller, Chair; Matt Reid, Rob Glassmire

Working on, need more time. Matt has some contract samples.  
**(ONGOING)**

- Coroner Access to State Prescription Drug Program  
Bill #19-228 Resolved by adding Death Investigation to the Bill.
- Trailer title needs an address for licensing and taxes.  
Trailer will be licensed in El Paso County using the 7390 Julynn Road address. Matt Reid will take care of getting the license plates.  
Will be registered on January 23.
- New A/V equipment – Where are we on purchasing additional equipment. Waiting on proposals.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Certification:**

Jen Vien

#### **2020 Stats**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: 1 “New”; 6 “Re-new”

We have 165 “known” active Certified Death Investigators

#### **Coroner Assist Team**

#### **Education**

Brenda Bock, Randy Keller, Matt Reid, Emily Russell, MD, jen vien

- 2020 locations - Sheraton Lakewood for June 10, 11, 12  
Ridgeline Hotel in Estes Park for October 7, 8, 9
- 2021 – DoubleTree Hotel in Colorado Springs – June 9, 10, 11  
DoubleTree Hotel in Grand Junction – October 6, 7, 8

Review Proposals for 2021 (**Handout**)

Jen will get a couple other quotes for 2021

## **CCSTB**

Randy Keller attended on January 16, 2020. Three Coroners will be getting suspension letters. Conejos, Lake and Phillips.

Monica Broncuccia-Jordan and James Caruso, MD are term limited and will be leaving the CCSTB Board. Through CCSTB by-laws, when Monica steps down, Randy Keller must step up to President. He will check with them to make sure his position with CCA is not a conflict of interest.

## **Peer Review**

Randy Keller had a phone call from a coroner with a complaint. Randy instructed this person to send the complaint in writing.

## **Marketing & Promotions**

Matt Reid – Reviewed marketing survey that Emma had created.

Quote for clothing to stock the store comes to close to \$4,000.

Motion to give Matt Reid permission to order product for the store – not to exceed \$8,000. Second. Accepted unanimously.

Check into using Constant Contact for emailing our Conference and Training information.

## **Public Relations**

### **Website**

### **Scholarships**

We have one Scholarship application from Annette Cannon – Jeffco - for Conference only. No hotel room needed.

## **Next Board Meeting**

April, 2020 – El Paso County 11:00 a.m. Date TBD

June 9, 2020 1:00 p.m., Sheraton Lakewood

October 6, 2020 1:00 p.m. Ridgeline Hotel, Estes Park

**Adjourn: 12:56p.m.**

**Motion to adjourn. Second. Accepted unanimously.**