



**Colorado Coroners Association  
General Membership Meeting  
June 8, 2022 Minutes**

**Call Meeting To Order**

Randy Keller, President; Jeff Graf, Vice President; Victor Yahn, Treasurer; Matt Reid, Vonnie Valdez, Elizabeth Ortiz,

Guests – Matthew Canaga, Tawnya Bailey

Absent: Emily Russell, MD; Thomas Canfield, MD; Brian Cotter, Secretary;

**ATTENDANCE:**

Emma Hall; Jeff Martin; Robert Glassmire; Jimmy Brown; Raymond Kern; Tom Perrin; Melanie Paradise; Jann Smith; Cathy Seibel; George Deavers; Garet Talley; Carter Smith; Art Nordyke; Karen Tomky; Robert Fowler; Rick Fellabaum; Jim Jacobs; Zane Laubhan; Harriet Hamilton; Andy Lorensen; Michael Barnes; Kendra Wilkinson; Christina Mestas; Forrestte Brinkerhoff; Deborah Johnson; Sandy Graeff; Randy Gorton; George Crocket; Don Heer; Colleen Hollenbeck; Emil Sante; Dave Tennant; Regan Wood; Chris Hegmann

**Secretary's Report:**

Brian Cotter, Secretary

Review minutes from June 9, 2021 General Membership Meeting in Colorado Springs

Randy Keller reviewed the minutes from 2021.

**Legislative Update:**

Steve Balcerovich and Kathy Oatis

SB065 – Status of category 2, 3, and 4 Salaries. This Bill did not start with CCA.

Categories below 4 will not be approved/recognized as full time. Sponsors will only support the Bill through level 4. Category 2 will be brought to full time. Category 3 and 4 need to speak to commissioners for full time approval. Categories 5 and 6 are not included.

Mountain States Employers Council has a very poor description for the position of Chief Deputy Coroner and Deputy Coroner.

HB1221 Concerning Coroner and Mortuary Mental Health Program. This was initiated by CCA, and would have been funded by adding a small additional fee to death certificates. Mortuary personnel heard about this and decided they wanted to be a part of this benefit as well. The problem with this is that the mortuary side is private sector, whereas the Coroner side are public employees. Randy Keller thinks the veto was a blessing per se, so that we can start again and write it differently/correctly and include some better details.

HB1251 Creation of the office of Cardiac Arrest Management. Randy still does not have a description of this office.

HB1326 Concerning Fentanyl Use Reduction  
This is a tracking/mapping program.

HB21-1317 Marijuana Working Group Deadlines. This was pertaining to testing all non-natural deaths, not including homicides - 25 years or younger. We don't know what the process is for reimbursement.

Sealing of minor autopsy reports was brought up again at the June Board meeting. Our Lobbyists think this may not make it through again because the media is so set on not having them sealed. Perhaps the plan is to ask to seal ALL autopsy reports and then bargain down to just minors.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Victor Yahn

**Education** \$116,333.14

**Checking** \$55,163.49

**Savings** \$76,738.40

**Ike Miller** \$9,121.77

### **Speeches, Voting and Election of Board Members**

Every year there are 6 positions open for election. Unfortunately, we are not getting the interest that we once had. We have been one Board member short for the past year because we were unable to fill the position last year.

This year, we have 7 positions open, including the vacancy from last year.

This idea has been discussed and approved by the CCA Board.

Board may consist of up to 25% Deputies. We currently have 2 on the Board, and have 2 more who are interested. If we stick with traditional rules, we would lose one of our deputies. We would like to add Tawyna Bailey and Matt Canaga.

The thoughts are this – Tawyna Bailey will be the Grand County Coroner since she is

unopposed at this time. It was brought to our attention that “unaffiliated” candidates have until July 15 to announce.

Candidates introduced themselves to the General Membership:

Randy Keller; Matt Reid; Vonnie Valdez; Elizabeth Ortiz; Lance Boren; Matt Canaga; Tawnya Bailey.

Motion to approve the Board Election by acclamation – Randy Gorton. Second by Robert Fowler.

Motion that the people that are running for the Board as it sits right now gets voted in as proposed. Matt Canaga will fill the 1-year position and Tawyna Bailey will fill the two-year position. Motioned carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None

### **Education**

Randy Keller and Matt Reid

27 online viewers

We have appx 160 in person which brings us close to 200

Upcoming locations reviewed

New ideas coming

**Certification** – 158 Certified Investigators

### **Newsletter – Liz**

Would like to received articles and stories – maybe a case presentation. Anything that helps other counties to learn, but include some personal stuff, too. What makes each of us an individual person?

### **Old Business**

Nothing

### **New Business**

### **COMMENTS -**

**Next Meeting - Wednesday, June 7, 2023 - 5:30 p.m. Marriott Hotel, Colorado Springs**

**Adjourn – 7:07 p.m.**