



OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR

NEW MEXICO BOARD OF MEDICAL INVESTIGATORS MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING- February 9, 2023

NM Office of the Medical Investigator
The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

BOARD PRESENT:

Patrick Allen <i>Chair</i>	Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Dept. of Health
Patricia Finn, MD <i>Vice Chair</i>	Dean, UNM School of Medicine
Tim Johnson <i>Board Secretary</i>	Chief, New Mexico State Police
Kent House <i>Board Member</i>	Chair, New Mexico Board of Funeral Services

BOARD ABSENT:

James Mountain <i>Board Member</i>	Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Dept. of Indian Affairs
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ATTENDEES:

Amy Atiano	HR Administrator 2, OMI
Janice Blevins	Senior Deputy Medical Investigator, OMI
Garon Bodor	Research Scientist II, OMI
La Vonda Bowens Woodard	Director of Operations, OMI
Greg Brachle	Supv, Technical Services/OMI
Anthony Cervantes	Unit Administrator I, OMI
Lauren Decker, MD	Medical Investigator, OMI
Lauren Dvorscak, MD	Assistant Chief Medical Investigator, OMI
Elizabeth Gonzales	Supv, Technical Services/OMI
Heather Jarrell, MD	Chief Medical Investigator, OMI
Nancy Joste, MD	Professor, Chair, UNM Dept. of Pathology
Audra Kerwin, MD	Medical Investigator, OMI
Clarissa Krinsky, MD	Medical Investigator, OMI
Sara Navarrette	Associate University Counsel, UNM HSC
Scot Sauder	Deputy University Counsel, UNM HSC
Kyla Sorensen	Accountant 3, OMI
John Thies	Supv, Technical Services/OMI
Jessica Vasquez	Deputy Medical Investigator, OMI

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Dr. Finn called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and confirmed a quorum.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (action item)**

Chief Johnson **MOVED** to adopt the agenda. Mr. House **SECONDED**. All were in favor.
Motion **CARRIED**.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR (action item)

Chief Johnson **MOVED** to nominate Secretary Allen. Mr. House **SECONDED**. Dr. Finn asked all present board members to raise their hand if they were in favor of this appointment. There were no objections and all board members present were in favor. Motion **CARRIED**.

3. **REPORT FROM OMI LEADERSHIP (information item)**

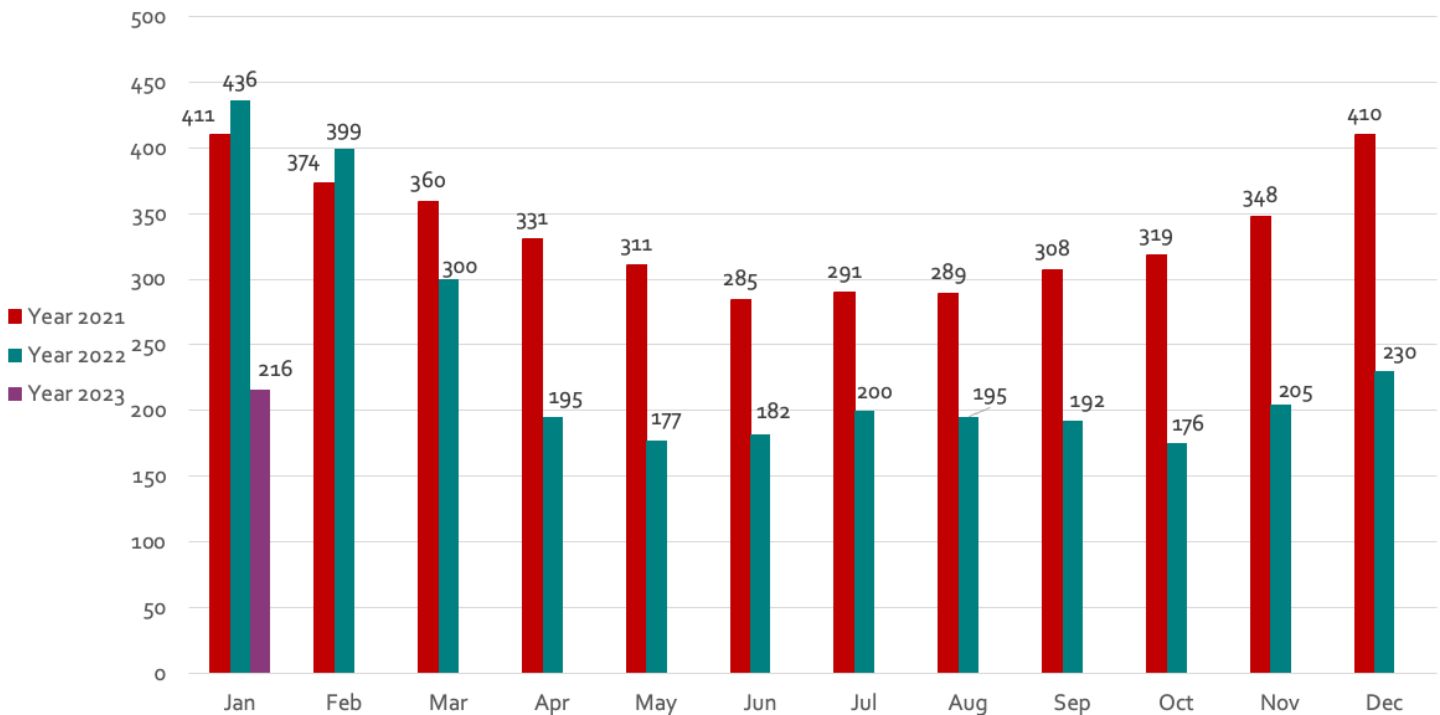
Dr. Jarrell opened the information item with a slide of OMI 2022 accomplishments, which was initially scheduled to be discussed during a December board meeting. Unfortunately, that meeting coincided with the legislative session causing inconvenience and therefore had to be postponed.

OMI 2022 Accomplishments:

- Removal of 9 refrigerated trucks from OMI – used to hold decedents during the pandemic.
- Forensic Anthropologist hired
- Three forensic pathologists hired
- Full Accreditation, NAME inspection
- NAME Workshop Teaching, Dallas, TX October 2022
- Two OMI pathologists were promoted to Associate Professor, Assistant Chief, Dr. Lauren Dvorscak and Dr. Clarissa Krinsky.

Decedent Storage Trends:

Dr. Jarrell introduced La Vonda Bowens Woodard, who will be taking over as the new OMI Operations Director. Ms. Bowens Woodard continued with the presentation and reviewed a slide illustrating Decedent Storage.



Focus Areas:

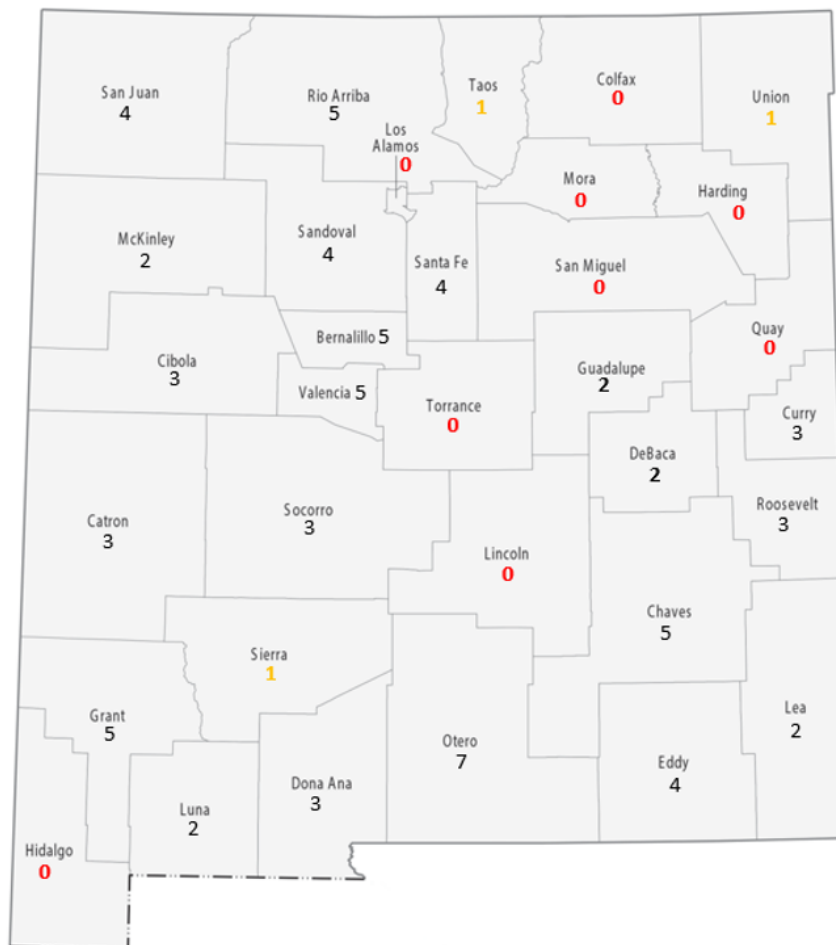
- Unidentified Decedents
 - 2021 Monthly Average – 43
 - 2022 Monthly Average – 72
- Jurisdiction Termination

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- 2021 Monthly Average – 158
- 2022 Monthly Average – 140
- Indigent Burial
 - 2021 Monthly Average – 13
 - 2022 Monthly Average – 17

Field Deputy Coverage:

Ms. Bowens posted a slide illustrating current field deputy medical investigator coverage. Currently the OMI employs 74 field investigators across the state of New Mexico. 9 of the 33 counties are lacking coverage consistently impacting OMI's ability to fulfill statutory responsibility. Contributing factors include nature of position and wage which have direct impact on the ability to attract and retain candidates. In an ideal state OMI would increase field investigator count from 74 to 193. 4 Field investigators in slow counties which would be defined as a population of 20,000 or less, 6-7 in medium size counties defined as populations of 20,000 to 100,000 and 8-9 in highly populated counties defined as a population of 100,000 or more.



Dr. Jarrell reviewed OMI's future plans.

Future Plans:

- Education
 - American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) presentations, Orlando, FL
 - International Society of Forensic Radiology and Imaging (ISFRI), Toulouse, France
 - Wellness Workshop Proposal, National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Annual Meeting 2023
 - Postmortem CT Textbook

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- Administrative and Clinical
 - Update state statutes with regard to unclaimed decedents. Bill drafted and sponsors identified for this legislative session
 - Case management system for death certification processing efficiency improvement
 - Grief Services Outreach and workshops
 - Funding opportunities for unidentified decedent identification (\$1.7 million)
 - OMI reorganization (pending funding, \$813k)
 - Standard operating procedure updates
 - Strategic Plan Development and Implementation
 - Transition from manual processes to computerized processes. (timekeeping/payroll, inventory, decedent storage, medical records requests)
 - Reduction of cremation permit fees pending additional funding availability

FY24 Research and Public Service Program (RPSP) Legislative Request Update:

- OMI Funding Request Total request: \$3,065,400
 - Faculty and staff needs (to meet minimum staffing requirements based on population base)
 - Decedent Transportation Cost increase
 - Reinstatement of Non-recurring FY23 Appropriation (\$500k)
- Specials Request
 - 16 Autopsy tables (\$434,010)
 - 2 OMI Response vehicles (\$70,000)
 - Two -80 degree freezers (\$81,400)
- Update
 - LFC recommended OMI's full request, which was upheld by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees last week
 - Specials request not recommended for funding

4. **BUDGET (information item)**

Dr. Jarrell opened the budget presentation with a PowerPoint slide illustrating OMI FY23 Income Statement Projections 7/1/22 to 6/30/23. Dr. Jarrell noted the following:

- OMI is the Hospital Autopsy service that signs all death certificates for UNMH. Hospital revenue is down compared to FY22.
- Other sales and services includes:
 - Cremation permit revenue. Cremation permits make up 75% of OMI revenue (non- state appropriations)
 - Consults for pueblos, Navajo Nation, FBI, BIA, Expert Witness Testimony and Civil litigations
- Non-operating revenue (state appropriations): \$7,587,900, with LFC recommendation this would increase to \$10,053,300
- Pending FEMA reimbursement payment \$382,887
- OMI spends \$32k per month on toxicology testing for cases that require toxicology in order to determine cause and manner of death. DOH funding for Non-Pending Toxicology testing \$679,493 is pending.
- Decedent transportation for FY22 was 1.656 million and for FY23 is \$1.8 million

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Revenue	
Operating Revenue	
	University Hospital Revenue \$689,044
	Sandoval Regional MC Revenue \$75,396
	Other Sales and Services \$4,227,002
	NYU RECOVER Cohort Autopsy Study \$108,726
Non-operating Revenue	
	State Appropriation \$6,987,900
	State Appropriation: Non-Recuring \$500,000
	Junior Bill Appropriation: Non-Recuring \$100,000
Intra University Activities	
	Gains from Sponsored Projects \$121,868
	Transfer & Allocation (\$48,138)
	FEMA Covid-Related Reimbursement \$599,640
Total Revenue	\$13,361,438
Expenses	
	Salary & Fringe \$9,102,893
	Body Transportation \$1,843,549
	Utilities & Plant Maintenance (SLD, Security, Kone Elevator, Pest Control, etc...) \$820,148
	Equipment Warranties (Phillips, Siemens, CT Scanner mis maintenance, etc...) \$137,760
	Services (CLEAR database, records storage, PACS, Grief Consult, TriCore, etc...) \$891,468
	Patient Care Expenses (PPEs, Body Bags, Formalin, etc...) \$297,330
	NMS \$431,416
	Other Expenses (Appr's Overhead, travel, FDMIs mileage reimb, Supplies, Banner tax, etc...) \$367,183
Total Expenses	\$13,891,747
FY23 Projected Net	(\$530,309)
FY22 Reserves	\$208,195
FY23 Overall Projected Net	\$ (322,114)

- ★ Dr. Jarrell notes a line item titled Intra University Activities and presents a slide highlighting active awards in FY23. Dr. Jarrell highlights COVID-19 Grants
 - Funding for decedent affairs salaries: (LNOK searchers), Death certificate entry
 - 5th fellow salary (fellow was hired as faculty)

Active Awards in FY23				
Number of Awards	Agency	Total Budget	F&A Rate	End Date
3	DOJ Expert Witness Agreements	37,995	0.00%	1 year term agreements
2	★ NMPSD - CESF	438,695	0.00%	12/31/2022
1	NMPSD - Paul Coverdell	62,363	5.50%	06/30/2023
1	DOH - NMVDRS	5,275	5.50%	08/31/2022
1	DOH - Opioid Mortality	26,902	5.50%	08/31/2022
1	★ DOH - Workforce Development	366,145	26.00%	06/30/2023
1	NMCVRC	99,441	5.50%	09/30/2023
1	CDC	60,505	26.00%	09/29/2023
1	NIH	404,467	26.00%	05/23/2023
1	US Consumer Product Safety	4,851	26.00%	07/31/2023
Total		1,506,639		
1	DOH Pending	679,493	5.50%	TBD

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

6. **VOTE TO CLOSE THE MEETING AND PROCEED IN CLOSED SESSION**

Dr. Finn asked for a motion to close the general meeting and proceed in executive session. Chief Johnson **MOVED**. Mr. House **SECONDED**.

Mr. Cervantes took roll call:

Sec. Allen - yea

Dean Finn - yea

Mr. House - yea

Chief Johnson – yea

All were in favor. General session closed at 1:40 PM

7. **RE-OPEN THE GENERAL MEETING**

The general meeting re-opened at 2:14 PM. Chairman Allen certified that only the matters described in the executive session agenda were discussed during closed session.

Chairman Allen asked for a **MOTION** to recommend Dr. Jarrell’s incentive compensation to the School of Medicine. Chief Johnson **MOVED**. Dean Finn **SECONDED**. All were in favor. Motion **CARRIED**.

Chairman Allen asked for a **MOTION** to adjourn. All were in favor.

The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 2:15 PM.