# Mortuary Science Ad-Hoc Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2017

Hiway Federal Credit Union

840 Westminster Street, St. Paul, MN 55130

## IN ATTENDANCE:

**Present Members**: Joe Sellwood, Dr. Michael LuBrant, Jody Bystrom, Robert Ryan, Mark Arnold.

**MDH Staff Members**: Susan Winkelmann, Catherine Lloyd, Carlena Weiland, Laurie Studer, Marie Schaff-VR.

**Absent Members**: Marguerite Slonine, Erika Fulgern, Michael Matthews, Peter Lind, Alexa Goetsch, Mark Ballard, Tim Hoff, Jeff Hartquist, Carrie McGhee.

## AGENDA:

1. **Convene and introductions**. Done by those in attendance
2. **Announcements**.
   1. **Staff Update.** Anne Kukowski has accepted another position within the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Committee member(s) and practitioners have frustration with the Mortuary Science Section as the manager turnover has been high. The committee feels information is repeated and do not see solutions or results.
3. **Staff Reports**
   1. **Staff Reports – Credentialing Report.** Studer reported that 1,223 licenses have been renewed.79 licensees have not renewed.
4. **Current Topics**
   1. **Current Topics – Preceptor.** Preceptors have no direction from MDH. Preceptors would like more guidelines. What are some criteria they should follow? Define what the preceptor’s job is and what interns are expected to have completed. Possibly at the next meeting discuss specific guidelines.

Interns feel they do not get proper training and would like more structure. Interns need to know MDH is approachable and helpful. What are specific outcomes that would be measured for one to get a license?

* Mortuary Science is one of 30 regulated sections.
* The University of Minnesota has had panel discussion and invited practitioners. A suggestion was made to use more data to come up with solutions for certain topics.

Sub groups could be formed for specific topics. We may consider going to an Advisory Council instead of an Ad Hoc Committee. Is cost an issue? Would the people of the State of Minnesota benefit?

Ad Hoc committee feels they can speak but do not have a vote. Question is what happens after we have a topic and try to find a solution, How does the topic move forward? Mortuary Science section could prepare data and present it to the committee, also come up with a procedure on what to do with topics.

Funeral home feedback: Funeral directors feel like inspectors come in looking for violations. Possibly have an industry update sent out on a regular basis, provide more data to practitioners so they can see what the current trends are. Suggestion to survey practitioners to collect more data. Another goal is to get more practitioners to attend meetings.

Moving forward the Department will be trying to fill Anne’s position. Mortuary Science will identify the top four priorities and come up with procedures. We will come up with an interactive agenda.

* 1. **Current Topics – Fetal Remains Update.**  Vital records has held four information webinars on the stillbirth tax credit. This will be recorded and posted on their website.

Requesting this certificate is still a manual process. An application must be submitted to our state office for a birth resulting in a fetal death. Must be over 20 weeks. Funeral homes cannot obtain this certificate; only people listed on the certificate are allowed to obtain it. A commemorative certificate for those under 20 weeks can be requested by the hospital.

Cemeteries should be holding or keeping the document.

1. **New Topic Requests**
   1. **New Topic Requests.** Investigation process so practitioners know the process and do not fear to ask questions.
2. **Adjourn – Meeting adjourned.**

**Next Meeting:**

April 6, 2017

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