

**Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee Meeting
May 14, 2025 - DRAFT**

- 1. Call to Order** – The Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at the Sumter County Service Center, 7375 Powell Road, Room 102, Wildwood, FL.
- 2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum** – Roll call was taken and a quorum was met.

Members Present

Jeff Bogue, Sumter County Board of County Commissioners
Jerry Campbell, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Holly Davis, Chair, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Amy Lockhart, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners
Sean Parks, Lake County Board of County Commissioners
Michelle Stone, Marion County Board of County Commissioners

In Attendance

Barbara Wolf, M.D., Medical Examiner, Districts 5 & 24 Medical Examiner's Office
Lindsey Bayer, Director of Operations, Districts 5 & 24 Medical Examiner's Office
Steve Howard, County Administrator, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Denise Lyn, County Attorney, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Jennifer Barker, County Manager, Lake County Board of County Commissioners
Melanie Marsh, County Attorney, Lake County Board of County Commissioners
Kristian Swenson, Assistant County Manager, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners
Cassidy Perdue, Assistant County Attorney, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners
Mounir Bouyounes, County Administrator, Marion County Board of County Commissioners
Matthew Minter, County Attorney, Marion County Board of County Commissioners
Audrey Fowler, Budget Director, Marion County Clerk of the Court
Jennifer Cole, Finance Director, Marion County Clerk of the Court
Robert Kruger, Deputy Chief, Marion County Fire Rescue
Cassandra Li, Administrative and Financial Services Manager, Marion County Fire Rescue
Beth Jones, Budget and Administrative Coordinator, Marion County Fire Rescue
Deann Broyles, Budget and Administrative Coordinator, Marion County Fire Rescue
Pam Doherty, Administrative Staff Assistant, Marion County Fire Rescue

- 3. Proof of Publications** – Legal advertisements were published on April 25, 2025 in the Hernando Sun #C9E154AE0018 and the Citrus County Chronicle Ad #50110947; and April 27, 2025 in the Ocala Star Banner Ad #11231477, Orlando Sentinel Ad #7799841, Lake Sentinel Ad #7799835, and The Villages Daily Sun Ad #01247297.

Motion: Commissioner Parks made a motion to approve the proof of publications and Commissioner Bogue seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

- 4. Review and Approval of February 12, 2025 Minutes** – The minutes from the February 12, 2025 Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting were submitted for approval.

Motion: Commissioner Bogue made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Stone seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

5. Old Business

5.1 FY 24/25 2nd Quarter Budget Report

Robert Kruger, Deputy Chief, Marion County Fire Rescue, presented an overview of the 2nd Quarter FY 24/25 Budget Report that covered January 1 through March 31, 2025. This quarter brought in \$1,948,170 in revenues. The Total Expenditures were \$1,718,430, which does not include the money that was moved to Operating Supplies in anticipation of purchasing the ten autopsy tables which will reflect in the 3rd quarter report. This quarter contained the following budget amendments: \$20,000 moved from Capital Improvement Funding to Claims Legal Settlement for payment of a court case; \$45,980 moved from Capital Improvement Funding to Operating Supplies for the purchase of 10 autopsy tables; \$2,964 recognized for the Coverdell Award in Operating Supplies and Computer Hardware; and \$2,022 moved from Office Supplies and Contractual Services to Communications Services and Other Current Charges for shortages in the phone service bills and issuing checks for overpayments to two funeral homes.

Commissioner Lockhart asked if moving funds from the Capital Improvement Funding to Operating Supplies is something that has been done historically and asked how capital was being backfilled to support building improvements. Mounir Bouyounes, County Administrator, Marion County Board of County Commissioners, explained that the capital line item is not dedicated for any specific product. Any extra money that is in the fund goes into the Capital Improvement Funding line item. If projects come up during the year, it comes out of this line. Commissioner Lockhart asked why the \$50,000 for Reserves for Contingencies was not being used for Operating Expenses. Mr. Bouyounes explained that it could be taken from that line item. The money can come out of a specific line item if it is the preference of this District 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee in the future for unforeseen expenses.

Audrey Fowler, Budget Director, Marion County Clerk of Court, explained that the Capital Improvement Funding line item is where money is accumulated over time when the budget is underspent and is not necessarily restricted. Commissioner Lockhart said if money is accumulating in Capital because money has not been spent in Operating Supplies, and this is a regular occurrence, then a possibility would be to true up the actuals to the Operating budget. Ms. Fowler stated one option is to split the funding by having up to 20% in Reserves for Cash Carry Forward and up to 10% in Reserves for Contingencies, with the balance going into the Capital Improvement Funding line item. She noted the direction, at that point, would be to use Reserves rather than Capital Improvement Funding. The outcome would be the same but it would better define the expenditures. Commissioner Davis advised that it may be best to leave the budget the way it is, in order to look at the budget historically, but either way is okay. It was the general consensus of the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee to leave it the way it is.

5.2 Notation for Record

Effective January 1, 2025, Commissioner Sean Parks will serve as the liaison representative for the Lake County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to the Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee. An email dated January 6, 2025 from Andrea Kennard, Commissioner's Aide, Lake County BCC, was presented to the Commissioners as Notation for Record.

5.3 Notation for Record

A one-page letter dated April 29, 2025 was sent to Commissioner Jay Zembower, Chairman, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners, providing written acknowledgment of the vote

the Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee took on the subject of alternate members at the February 12, 2025 meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Presentation of Seminole County's Exit Plan to Separate from District 5

Seminole County expressed their intent to exit the current Interlocal Agreement, dated October 1, 2024, during the February 12, 2025 meeting and no longer participate in the new Medical Examiner facility planned for Summerfield, Florida. Concerns cited include proportional funding methodology, geographic location, and alignment of operational use with financial burden. Although the Florida Medical Examiners Commission denied the initial realignment request by Lake County and Seminole County due to lack of stakeholder coordination, the Committee granted Seminole County time to return with a formal separation proposal. Item 6.1 provides Seminole County the opportunity to present that exit plan for review and further discussion among member counties.

Commissioner Lockhart advised the Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee there was discussion at the Lake County BCC and the Seminole County BCC meetings regarding the three-page letter discussing the plan for the reassignment of Lake County from District 5 to District 24. This letter was sent to Commissioner Davis and copied to the other members of the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lockhart also provided copies of the letter at the Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting.

Seminole County is presenting the following 2 different options:

Option One (1):

- Lake County (LAKE) and Seminole County (SEMINOLE) operate as District 24 in the current location at 809 Pine Street, Leesburg, FL 32748.
- District 5 builds a new building and transfers to the facility by the end of the term of the current operating agreement.
- District 5 fully supports the reassignment of LAKE to District 24 and writes a letter of support to the State's Medical Examiners Commission supporting this.
- All parties agree that if District 5 is working diligently in good faith to complete the construction of the new facility, and a delay should occur, the current operating agreement will be extended by all parties to mitigate the impact of this delay without changing any other terms of the agreement.
- LAKE and SEMINOLE agree to pay some reasonable portion of the cost incurred by Marion County (MARION) after a review of the documents requested by SEMINOLE in their March 31, 2025, letter to MARION.

Option Two (2):

- LAKE and SEMINOLE operate as District 24 in a new location within the newly formed District 24 boundary by the end of the term of the current operating agreement.
- District 5 operates in the current location at 809 Pine Street, Leesburg, FL 32748.
- District 5 fully supports the reassignment of LAKE to District 24 and writes a letter of support to the State's Medical Examiners Commission supporting this.
- All parties agree that if District 24 is working diligently in good faith to complete the construction of the new facility, and a delay should occur, the current operating agreement will be extended by all parties to mitigate the impact of this delay without changing any other terms in the agreement.

Commissioner Stone expressed that she is disappointed that the letter is not very detailed and it was received less than 24 hours before this meeting. She thanked Commissioner Lockhart for the plan, but she is not in agreement, as it does not provide a win-win solution for all parties involved without the additional details. Commissioner Lockhart asked if she was supposed to come back with something prior to this meeting. She thought she was coming to the meeting with a plan. Commissioner Stone's expectation was the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee would have something to bring back to their BCCs for their thoughts on the options. Marion County's BCC had not seen this, so Commissioner Stone can not speak towards the plan. Regarding the timeline, Commissioner Lockhart said the reassignment was requested on February 12, 2025. On February 14, 2025, Marion County sent a letter to Seminole County asking for reimbursement. Seminole County responded on March 31, 2025, asking Marion County for additional information in a public records request. On April 22, 2025, Lake County voted to move forward with District 24. Marion County responded on April 29, 2025 to the public records request from Seminole County. Commissioner Stone advised that Marion County would like to be made whole with the payment before considering any options presented today. Mr. Bouyounes advised that Marion County has received payment from Citrus County, and notifications for payments are approved from Hernando County and Sumter County with Lake County considering payment. Marion County can provide all available files for inspection to Seminole County, if anything is missing. Mr. Bouyounes clarified that the money Marion County is asking for reimbursement has nothing to do with the future options of how the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee will move forward. The money requested is money that Marion County incurred based on direction from this Advisory Committee for work that has been done and paid for in good faith. Mr. Bouyounes advised that Marion County's number one priority is to make Marion County whole before any other options are considered.

Commissioner Davis addressed the concern that the district that leaves the building will incur an enormous cost. She believes the plan is lacking depth. Commissioner Lockhart said if Lake County and Seminole County leave the building, what they decide is their decision to make and it doesn't need to be brought to this Committee. Commissioner Lockhart asked District 5 if they would support Lake County leaving and would District 5 want to stay in the current building. Commissioner Lockhart said regardless of the counties staying or going, the Medical Examiner's building needs to be expanded because of growth. The building is not a 50-year plan for the remaining counties.

Commissioner Bogue asked if the Medical Examiner can manage the volume of the remaining four counties from that facility. Dr. Wolf said she can manage anything with which they were obligated. Commissioner Bogue asked if District 5 should reinvest in that building by remodeling because there are only four counties in the District after Lake County and Seminole County leave. Commissioner Bogue's understanding is as long as District 5 is intact and using the Lake County facility, the building remains in District 5's control. Mr. Minter, County Attorney, Marion County BCC, advised that there may be disagreement over this issue by the other County Attorneys regarding the terms of the 2024 Interlocal Agreement that says when the facility would go back to Lake County, which is different than the actual deed itself. Commissioner Bogue said first we need to make Marion County whole and second, we need a legal position on a decision to be made on what will happen to this current building. He said it seems apparent that Lake County and Seminole County wish to separate from District 5 and want the Advisory Committee's support. Commissioner Bogue doesn't want to support this until he knows what is happening to the current building to be sure District 5 will not be forced to leave the building. Commissioner Davis said this is a real estate transaction – the building is deeded to Marion County but owned by this Medical Examiner Advisory Committee which is the six counties that utilize the building. Four counties would own 66.667% and two counties would own 33.3333%.

Commissioner Parks asked Lake County Attorney, Melanie Marsh, to discuss her findings on the building. Ms. Marsh had a discussion with other County Attorneys regarding the building. If Lake

County is going to part ways and the other counties will stay in the building, the value of the building would need to be determined. When Lake County transferred the building, Lake County received no compensation and no credit towards the operation of the Medical Examiner's facility. Lake County understands Marion County has done a lot of improvements to the property, so that would be factored into the value at the time of transfer. If Lake County and Seminole County separate and go to a new facility, Lake County would be looking for some reimbursement towards the current value of the building. District 5 could stay in the building, and essentially it would be a real estate buyout.

Commissioner Campbell apologized for not attending the last meeting. Addressing the comments from the Lake County Attorney, he respects the intent of the comments, however, in his opinion, it is important to remember that you can't give the property to the District and then expect to be reimbursed when you leave. He supports the sentiments of Sumter County, Marion County and Citrus County, and needs to know that all parties involved are operating in good faith. If we don't know that all parties are operating in good faith, his opinion is this will come off the tracks quickly and there are other options that can be taken. This is not the direction he wants to go in, nor is it his intent. His opinion is that no good deed goes unpunished. District 24 came to District 5 asking for a favor – a partnership. Commissioner Campbell believes District 24 has evidently had difficulties with partnerships in the past. District 5 takes on District 24 in good faith. In his opinion, District 24 has gone behind District 5's back, making side arm deals with the Medical Examiner and other counties within our District and not communicating with District 5. A lot of time and energy was spent talking about the plan moving forward with Districts 5 and 24 and everyone was moving in that direction. Commissioner Campbell thanked Marion County who burdened this plan and agreed to hold the property. He said making Marion County whole is the first step forward. Commissioner Campbell believes this is an adversarial relationship and does not support Lake County leaving District 5. These are Commissioner Campbell's feelings and he knows the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee will get through this. If Commissioner Campbell knew that District 24 would have come in and hijacked District 5, then District 5 would not have taken them on. He does not support the two options.

Commissioner Davis said her BCC gave her the authority to speak on their behalf, other than about monetary issues. Citrus County thanks Marion County and agrees they need to be made whole. They also appreciate the relationship with Hernando and Sumter County. A lot of the same arguments were made at last meeting regarding Lake County leaving. Commissioner Davis also thinks it's a bad idea for Lake County to leave, and has left the door open to try and convince them to stay.

Commissioner Lockhart senses a lot of emotions on this Committee. Her investigations of facts don't line up with the feelings. She believes it was expressed by Seminole County multiple times that there could be no commitment on the part of Seminole County for a new facility because it had to be brought back to Seminole County's BCC. She has that in the minutes repeatedly and her County Attorney has gone through the minutes and reviewed them. While she wants to acknowledge and respect the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee's feelings, the facts don't show this. Commissioner Lockhart is not sure where the rumor or idea is stemming from about Seminole County having a hard time with partnerships and not being accepted by others. She advised this is not the case. Seminole County separated from Volusia County due to a lot of variables that led into the decision to separate. There was a comment made at the last meeting about Orange County not taking them because they are hard to work with. Commissioner Lockhart doesn't believe that's the case and believes it was a capacity issue. She said there were some pretty inflammatory comments accusing people of back room deals. She believes maybe the words weren't properly chosen and recommends they are thought through, especially against the person the contract is with for providing services, as well as partners in this agreement. The intent is still

for Seminole County to be a good partner through the agreement to 2029 with an 18-month termination notification that will be abided by District 24. Part of separating amicably would be having the support of District 5. If District 5 isn't willing to support this, the Committee will have to see what happens next. Nothing has changed concerning Seminole County.

Commissioner Campbell advised that he appreciates what Commissioner Lockhart is saying. His description of the back room deals is not saying anything nefarious or illegal has been done. He believes things were done outside of this Advisory Committee. The plan should have been made here first and not in individual BCC meetings. The Medical Examiner has done a great job. Both parties should have had this conversation at this table months prior. There is no allegation that anything illegal has been done.

Commissioner Lockhart stated they cannot sit and talk at this table about what other counties may do and talk about collaboration until the individual counties who are talking about collaborating start talking about whether or not there is an opportunity to collaborate. Staff did have conversations of what this would look like at some point. Commissioner Lockhart said during the Florida Association of Counties meeting, she made a comment to a Marion County Commissioner that she understood that respective staff members were talking about a partnership. Marion County Commissioners and staff knew about these conversations taking place in September, 2024. She cannot speak about what was said or not said at this table in this room. It is not personal or emotional, it is a business decision about what works best for Seminole County. She advised that the partnership did not work anymore for Seminole County financially or geographically to continue down this path to a building in Summerfield, Florida.

Commissioner Davis noted that she heard Commissioner Lockhart was telling people that she seemed to have taken this personally. Commissioner Lockhart noted that Commissioner Davis said this is very personal at the last committee meeting. Commissioner Davis advised that she did not recall saying that and said she is a logical efficiency nerd. What she does take to heart is, it is not good when Commissioners fight. The Commissioners have worked very hard putting these plans together. This was not a good use of taxpayers' money. Commissioner Davis stated that she understands with the distance, this plan may be difficult for Seminole County and she agrees with Commissioner Campbell for Seminole County to exit.

Commissioner Parks said he wants to acknowledge Commissioner Campbell's comments. Commissioner Parks does not have the history on the Advisory Committee. Lake County's concern was the way the cost share has been assessed. He always thought the "per body" basis was the best approach. Commissioner Parks advised that his BCC has limited him on what he can say, and he would not sign an agreement for a new facility and is asking for the support to redistrict. Lake County will address Marion County's concerns about the cost in a good faith effort and this can be added to their upcoming agenda.

Commissioner Bogue wants to know what it will take to get Lake County to stay with District 5. Commissioner Parks noted that he is limited with what he can say. Jennifer Barker, County Manager, Lake County BCC, said the BCC discussed this at the April 22, 2025 Lake County BCC meeting when the proposals were brought forward for discussion, approval and consideration. Ms. Barker said the BCC was pretty adamant that they made a commitment to Seminole County in previous votes.

Dr. Wolf noted that she has been with the District 5 Medical Examiner for 18 years and she is not planning to leave anytime soon, as she has made commitments to District 5 and District 24. These commitments are largely made to state attorneys, public defenders and law enforcement. Dr. Wolf stated she could not help but resent the statement that she has made back room deals. She noted

she will continue to support both Districts in whatever decision is made by this Medical Examiner Advisory Committee. She has not made any deals or been hijacked – she is willing to support whatever decision is made.

Commissioner Campbell apologized to Dr. Wolf and said that was not the intent of his words. The intent was that it appeared to him clearly there were negotiations and he apologized to Dr. Wolf if she was not a part of them. He asked how will District 24 move forward as District 24 in the same building, if they hadn't talked to the Medical Examiner to find out if they were interested in this. District 24 intended to move in as soon as District 5 moved out. They intended for the Medical Examiner to service both Districts because of the contract. He would have preferred for that conversation to take place here during the meetings. Commissioner Campbell said Dr. Wolf has done everything with great integrity and served the servants and both Districts tremendously. Commissioner Campbell's frustration was the way it was done. Dr. Wolf advised she was not a part of any plan that Seminole County was making. She was aware there were many options explored, including doing autopsies in funeral homes which she will not do. Dr. Wolf noted she did not know what decision was made and merely said she would support both District 5 and District 24 and it was not her place to bring it to this Advisory Committee. Commissioner Campbell stated he respects her willingness to continue to serve the contract and offered his sincere apology for the miscommunication.

Commissioner Campbell noted it is not personal until it is personal. He takes it personal, as a representative of his taxpayers (and not as Jerry Campbell), that there are two people representing their counties on this Committee, in his opinion, that clearly agreed to money being spent. If the Committee wants to move forward in good faith, the number one priority is for the bill to be paid. He wished Commissioner Zembower, who he has a lot of respect for, had been more vocal. Commissioner Campbell heard some reluctance from Commissioner Zembower, but he clearly said to move forward.

Commissioner Bogue noted he believes the personal feelings come in when you feel like a colleague wronged you.

6.2. Feedback from County Commissioners Regarding the Action Items Discussed at the February 12, 2025 Medical Examiner Meeting

1. Please be supportive of the invoice from Marion County. This is the number one priority and was previously addressed in the meeting.
2. Please report back at the next meeting other ways of apportioning the expenses which the Committee is open to looking at because the current Interlocal Agreement is going forward with the population share breakdown unless otherwise changed.
 - Citrus County is open to doing what the Committee decides, but is also open to leaving the population-based breakdown. If a decedent dies in another county from where they reside, the county the decedent resides in should be charged. For those traveling through the county and dying, she is open to other options.
 - Lake County's BCC made it clear they are leaving but Commissioner Parks will relay the information back to his BCC about apportioning the expenses.
 - Sumter County is open to doing what the Committee decides and what works best.
 - Hernando County is open to doing what the Committee decides and what works best.
 - Marion County is open to doing what the Committee decides and will look at whatever is brought forward for consideration. If there is reconciliation with Lake County, Marion County would look at the appropriation of expenses from Lake County to continue as District 5. The goal is to stay together.
 - Seminole County is out but will abide by the agreement.

3. Please report back at the next meeting which counties are wanting to build the new Medical Examiner facility together and stay together past the current Interlocal Agreement.
 - Citrus County will remain on this Advisory Committee if this Committee vacates the Lake County facility, pending their BCC would have to approve the dollar change.
 - Lake County – no comment made.
 - Sumter County is committed to District 5, and not overly eager to spend taxpayer dollars to build a new facility; with volumes reduced by 30%, remodeling is an option and Sumter County is open to looking at what makes sense.
 - Hernando County appreciates their relationship with District 5 and will continue to remain in it. Commissioner Campbell advised this Committee looked extensively at upgrading the building, but was told that wasn't an option.
 - Marion County will stay with District 5 with hopes there would be five counties involved. Commissioner Stone will not sign a support letter for Lake County to go to District 24. She will consider an amicable parting with an agreement. There are good opportunities with new commercial properties for sale in the area of the current Medical Examiner's building and the Committee may find a way to expand the footprint of the current building. Marion County will hold the property and decide what will be done with it.
 - Seminole County – Commissioner Lockhart suggested the Committee to be careful when saying the new facility is too big. Her impression is if the Committee starts shrinking the footprint too much, the existing counties will be out of space. She believes the Committee is selling the Medical Examiner short.

4. Please bring back at the next meeting any other cost share options that your BCC may be willing to discuss, if your BCC is wanting to move forward with this option. The Medical Examiner Advisory Committee agreed this is a discussion for another meeting.

Commissioner Campbell mentioned that staff looked extensively at adding stories and expanding the existing building, but was told this was not an option. Commissioner Lockhart asked who told the Committee this was not an option. Mr. Bouyounes advised there were several meetings with the Medical Examiner to develop options and the option of expanding the existing location did not seem feasible based on the size that was needed. Lindsey Bayer, Director of Operations, District 5 and 24 Medical Examiner, said it was the architect, Rispoli & Associates Architecture, Inc., that advised it would be better to build a new building than pay the costs of adding another story, plus 2 elevators. She explained the expansion of the building was not feasible due to multiple factors, including being landlocked between a hospital parking lot and a residential area, as well as parking lot and storm water drainage issues. Commissioner Bogue said the expansion of the existing building could have meet the current volume needs, but not in five years with continued growth with the six counties. Commissioner Bogue also said at no point did Commissioner Zembower or Commissioner Blake mention that moving forward should be stopped.

Commissioner Davis said in support of Dr. Wolf and her team, this is about having a professional facility for autopsies for the family of the deceased. Commissioner Davis stated the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee is at a standstill until Marion County is paid. Commissioner Lockhart noted the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee will be waiting awhile because she did not believe Seminole County is interested in contributing to make Marion County whole on this property that their BCC did not vote to support.

Commissioner Campbell asked if Seminole County has explored other alternatives to temporarily relocate to another facility in the meantime. Commissioner Lockhart said they have a contract with the current Medical Examiner, so they would have to ask the person who they have a contract with. Commissioner Campbell asked why the Committee was wasting their time on this, if Seminole County is not going to participate in good faith. Commissioner Lockhart said there is no Interlocal

Agreement or cost share agreement with the capital costs associated with the new building. She said the minutes reflect this Committee asked for a variant to bring back an agreement, but to her knowledge this had not happened, unless she missed it. Commissioner Lockhart advised that there is no current agreement for a capital expenditure for a new building and said they are operating in good faith under the current agreement which is for operating in the capital of the current building. Seminole County will honor that agreement.

Mr. Minter noted regarding commitments or non-commitments, it is clear there was a new agreement in October, 2024, and that agreement expressly contemplated there would be a separate agreement regarding the new building. The expenses for which Marion County is seeking reimbursement were based on direction and vote of this body here that occurred before the October, 2024 agreement. Cassidy Perdue, Assistant County Attorney, Seminole County BCC, said she is not sure of the point Mr. Minter is making, but the prior agreement did not address cost share for this capital building. She advised that if discussions were about operating in good faith, Seminole County is operating in good faith based on the current agreement. Seminole County is still waiting on the cost share agreement from Marion County and discussions that it would be forthcoming have been going on for 7+ years.

Mr. Bouyounes noted they operated under the previous agreement and under that previous agreement there were capital expenditures, and a multitude of other things as part of the budget. While this Committee was discussing the new building and asking for options and concepts of what this new building would look like, Mr. Bouyounes asked Seminole County if they are suggesting that Seminole County has no obligation in covering part of the cost. This is the cost that Marion County is requesting reimbursement. Mr. Bouyounes said in good faith, all the counties were participating in the discussion and in good faith, a construction agreement would be issued regarding how the building would be constructed, along with how the Committee would proportion the costs. Commissioner Lockhart mentioned Marion County moved forward with all that work and all those costs without an agreement in place. Mr. Bouyounes commented on not having moved forward based on the sole trust of the direction of the Committee. Commissioner Lockhart stated her Advisory Committee member representing Seminole County said he could not commit to anything from Seminole County without direction from his BCC. Seminole County BCC never gave direction to do that. Mr. Bouyounes noted he should have asked for direction from his BCC, since that Commissioner was representing Seminole County. Per Commissioner Lockhart, Seminole County made it clear to this Committee that they did not have the direction to move forward to participate, and others went ahead. Part of Option 1 and Option 2 includes giving a reasonable amount for a cost, that may be more than the apportionment that Marion County is asking for, but Seminole County needs additional information to do this. If Commissioner Lockhart is hearing loud and clear, that partners around this table will not support Lake County separating from the District, then this gives her the information she needs to move forward and that even further makes her realize there would be no need for Seminole County to want to make Marion County whole.

Commissioner Campbell noted he appreciates the comments, however did not agree with them. He would like to be presented the facts of the minutes and the vote as he clearly remembers this Committee voting to move forward with clear expenses and a unanimous vote, including Commissioner Zembower representing Seminole County and District 24. He would like to be presented with these facts and evidence sooner than later. He would like this to be presented to all the counties. Commissioner Campbell's hope is we can move together in a positive direction. Speaking for himself, Commissioner Campbell believes District 24 is putting the Committee in a very difficult situation and forcing the Committee to make decisions that the Committee did not want to do. With information he understands and remembers to be accurate, he has a hard time for District 24 not paying for what they agreed to pay. Commissioner Lockhart advised that she did not think District 24 agreed to pay. Commissioner Lockhart said if this Committee is waiting for

Seminole County to pay these expenses in order to move forward or make any decisions, then that will be on the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee. Seminole County will continue to intend to move together in good faith in the current operating agreement until 2029 or with an 18-month notification to do something different.

For the next Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting, Commissioner Davis hopes Seminole County and Marion County will come to an understanding of the finances that make Marion County whole. Commissioner Stone reiterated that Seminole County, as well as the other counties, can come and audit the files, to substantiate the request for reimbursement. Commissioner Parks said (not speaking for his BCC), there was a discussion and there was trust, so his personal opinion is that Lake County should help Marion County. Commissioner Campbell noted it is not about the ability to question itemized budgets, expenditures or auditing the books. Anyone representing District 5 and District 24 is not offended by that. Commissioner Campbell said the offense is the other items.

Denise Lynn, County Attorney, Citrus County BCC, said Citrus County is rooting for Lake County and hopes Commissioner Parks will go back to his BCC and fight to stay with District 5. She also mentioned there is a dispute resolution in the contract. Mr. Minter noted in regards to the dispute resolution, if the Committee gets to a final point as far as Lake and Seminole's position going forward, and if there is a question, the issues of the Medical Examiner operation moving forward are things mediators deal with regularly. These issues should all be mediated and resolved.

Commissioner Campbell asked if there is any interest in meeting sooner since each county has several BCC meetings before the August 13, 2025 meeting.

Commissioner Lockhart stated the fastest way to speed this decision up is for District 5 to give Lake County the ability to go to District 24 and then District 5 can move forward with four counties. From her understanding, regardless of what the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee decides to do in terms of giving letters of support for Lake County to leave District 5 and join District 24, Seminole County's intent is to resubmit to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission with or without the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee's support. The Committee can wait and see what the Florida Medical Examiners Commission opines this time around or be collaborative and work together and say Lake County can join District 24. She did not think there will be an answer until after the Florida Medical Examiners Commission meeting. Dr. Wolf said in theory, the Florida Medical Examiners Commission has no problem with the concept of Lake County joining Seminole County. They want to see an agreement between the parties and be sure it is not upsetting to the various parties' stakeholders. If there is an agreement, the split will not be a problem with the Florida Medical Examiners Commission. They have no vested interest in how the counties are divided. Commissioner Bogue asked if this Advisory Committee did not support this split, will the Florida Medical Examiners Commission look at this differently. Dr. Wolf said the Florida Medical Examiners Commission will look again and make sure there is no contention between the counties left behind. Mr. Bouyounes advised that Marion County will attend the next Florida Medical Examiners Commission meeting if this discussion is on the agenda. Commissioner Campbell asked if Marion County will present evidence of the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee's position of the unwillingness to work in good faith, if the facts support this. Mr. Bouyounes stated he will. Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Campbell will not support Lake County leaving the District. Commissioner Bogue will go back and talk to his BCC before making this decision. Commissioner Davis said for Citrus County, it is not good government to split up a district, and will discuss this with her BCC. She will provisionally speak for Citrus County and she will not support Lake County leaving District 5.

Commissioner Parks advised that it was very clear they are leaving the District, but he will relay the message that the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee is interested in talking about apportionment. Commissioner Bogue said before he moves forward with the position of support or non-support, Sumter County would like to know if Lake County's BCC is willing to reconsider the split, knowing what has transpired today. Commissioner Bogue would like to meet before the August meeting. Commissioner Davis said legally the Committee can talk to or email Commissioner Parks' colleagues, but not Commissioner Parks. Commissioner Campbell stated he is not supporting Lake County leaving, but he is supporting Seminole County leaving. Hernando County will continue to work together with Lake County and Seminole County for what is in the best interest of the taxpayers. He noted the relationship between District 5 and District 24 seems broken beyond repair.

Commissioner Lockhart asked who sets the agenda, what action items will be on the next agenda and what will have changed between now and then. Mr. Bouyounes advised that Marion County sets the agenda. Commissioner Bogue wants to give Lake County the opportunity to go back to their BCC and reconsider their options. Perhaps at that point, the Advisory Committee may need to have discussions about a dispute resolution.

Commissioner Davis noted there is also the matter of Lake County issuing a check to make Marion County whole. Commissioner Parks said based off what he knows, Lake County should issue the check, but he cannot promise his BCC will support this. Commissioner Parks will put this on his next BCC agenda. Mr. Bouyounes said an action item for the next meeting would be for this Advisory Committee to give some direction of its position in the event Lake County submits a request to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission. Commissioner Campbell asked how this will work with six voting members on this Advisory Committee. Commissioner Bogue stated that he thinks each County Commission needs to come back with a separate letter of support or non-support. Commissioner Stone stated she may remain neutral. She is not going to vote with her BCC to support Lake County leaving, but that did not mean she is going to oppose it either. Commissioner Stone noted her concerns with the other stakeholders, specifically the State Attorney. Per Denise Lyn, the decision on whether to support them leaving or not depends on if the Districts break up amicably. Commissioner Campbell asked for clarification on the request of letters. Mr. Bouyounes advised that the request, with the options presented, is to support Lake County leaving District 5. Commissioner Lockhart said she did not believe District 24 needs a letter to ask their support, because District 24 is just mooching on the facility and sharing costs.

Jennifer Barker, County Manager, Lake County BCC, advised that Lake County has already voted about the costs so the BCC will have to take a second vote. The vote was to delay reimbursement until a discussion about an amicable solution could be reached. Commissioner Lockhart said this vote falls in line with Option 1 and Option 2. Both options agree that the contributions towards cost is contingent on support from District 5 supporting Lake County leaving.

7. **Next Meeting Date** – The next Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sumter County Service Center, Room 102, 7375 Powell Road, Wildwood, FL.
8. **Adjournment** – There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Holly Davis, Chair

Date