

**Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee Meeting
June 19, 2025 - DRAFT**

1. **Call to Order** – The Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, 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
Leslie Campione, Lake County Board of County Commissioners
Holly Davis, Chair, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Amy Lockhart, Seminole 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
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
Allison Thall, Community Services Director, 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
Amanda Tart, Assistant County Administrator, Marion County Board of County Commissioners
James Banta, Fire Chief, Marion County Fire Rescue
Robert Kruger, Deputy Chief, Marion County Fire Rescue
Audrey Fowler, Budget Director, Marion County Clerk of the Court
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

3. **Proof of Publications** – Legal advertisements were published on June 6, 2025 in the Hernando Sun Ad #C9E154AE0019 and the Citrus County Chronicle Ad #50113380; and June 8, 2025 in the Ocala Star Banner Ad #11360969, Orlando Sentinel Ad #7822382, Lake Sentinel Ad #7822458, and The Villages Daily Sun Ad #01253928.

Motion: Commissioner Stone 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 May 14, 2025 Minutes** – The minutes from the May 14, 2025 Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting were submitted for approval.

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

5. Old Business

5.1 Update from Lake and Seminole regarding Marion County's reimbursement.

Mounir Bouyounes, County Administrator, Marion County Board of County Commissioners, gave an update regarding the Marion County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) reimbursement. Lake County BCC approved the reimbursement to Marion County in the amount of \$25,044.93. Mr. Bouyounes advised that there has been no further communication from Seminole County BCC regarding the reimbursement. Commissioner Lockhart stated that Seminole County's position remains unchanged and they will entertain submitting any reimbursement once there is support for Lake County separating from District 5. Commissioner Campbell asked Commissioner Lockhart for clarification of her statement to know if it is full support from all members of or specific members of the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lockhart stated the support is from each representative County, and not necessarily from this Committee. Commissioner Davis asked if this is contingent upon Seminole County releasing their funds to Marion County BCC. Commissioner Lockhart stated that this was the position at the last meeting and it remains unchanged.

5.2 Feedback and proposed counter options related to the separation of Lake and Seminole counties.

Mr. Bouyounes advised that this discussion is to bring the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee up to date since the last meeting on May 14, 2025, regarding the two options provided by Lake and Seminole Counties for the reassignment of Lake County to join District 24. The 3-page letter from Lake and Seminole Counties, included in the agenda packet, outlines their two options.

After reviewing the letter, Marion County proposed the following two different options:

Marion County Option One: This is the preferred option if Lake County BCC will change their position.

- Seminole County exits the District 5 partnership and builds its own facility by the end of the agreement.
- Lake County reconsiders reassignment and remains in District 5.
- District 5 reexamines the cost allocation methodology to address all counties' concerns.
- District 5 evaluates capacity needs and considers using the Leesburg facility while building a satellite office in Summerfield, if needed.
- Seminole County provides a defined timeline to exit the current facility that would be acceptable to District 5 counties.
- District 5 counties clarify the ownership of the Leesburg facility and adjust the title accordingly.

Marion County Option Two:

- Lake County is reassigned to District 24, and Lake and Seminole Counties jointly build and operate a new facility by the end of the agreement.
- District 5 continues operating from the current Leesburg location.
- District 5 obtains clear title to the Leesburg facility via an arrangement with Lake County.

- District 5 reassesses the new workload due to both counties leaving and plans accordingly.
- Lake and Seminole counties must provide a timeline to exit the current facility that would be acceptable to the remaining District 5 counties.

Emails from Hernando County and Sumter County were presented regarding their positions in regard to which option they prefer. Commissioner Campbell stated Hernando County is in support of Marion County's Option One or Option Two. Commissioner Bogue noted that Sumter County's first choice is to keep District 5 together, but if Lake County is not willing to reconsider and work through this with District 5, then they are also in support of Marion County's Option Two.

The following is Hernando County's position per the email included in the agenda:

- Make Marion County whole in past finances that have been spent on the new building design.
- The Medical Examiner would continue to occupy the existing building, in the current agreement, until the building is outgrown, and then build a new building in the future at the Advisory Committee's discretion.
- There is a deadline for when Lake and Seminole Counties have to complete transition to their own district and exit current facility.

The following is Sumter County's position per the email included in the agenda:

- Sumter County BCC provided direction to Commissioner Bogue supporting the submitted Option Two from Lake and Seminole Counties, understanding that the discussion regarding modifications to Options Two will be expected at the June meeting.

Commissioner Davis advised that Citrus County is in support of the options presented by Marion County.

Commissioner Campione clarified Lake County BCC's position. She stated their BCC is unanimous with Lake and Seminole Counties Option One and they would like to work with Seminole County and break away from District 5. Lake County is hoping to get this Advisory Committee's support. Commissioner Campione noted that Lake County's BCC is adamant they are not willing to financially support construction of the new facility. They would like to continue with the other Counties in the present location until District 5 is able to move forward with the new building construction. Thereafter, District 24 would like to stay and work out of the current building. If the Advisory Committee cannot come to an agreement and support this, then District 24 will look for a different location.

Commissioner Campbell noted it was his understanding that District 24 would like to relocate to another building but he hears Commissioner Campione saying District 24 wants to stay until District 5 moves out. Commissioner Campbell advised that this is not what District 5 is doing. With two parties leaving, District 5 may not have to leave the current location right away. The timeline is part of his concern because this will impede the issue of overcapacity. This issue will force District 5 to build a new building sooner than they want to. Commissioner Campione stated the assumption is that District 5 is building a new building. Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Davis noted that it was not the assumption anymore. Commissioner Campione stated if this is not the case, then Lake County is prepared to find a new space with Seminole County. Her thought was to be practical and everyone keep working in the current building for now. Commissioner Campbell noted that it could not be assumed that it was what was going to happen. He stated as soon as District 24 says they are leaving,

they need to create a plan to leave so District 5 can create a plan for what they are doing. Commissioner Campione noted District 24 can turn that around and say if District 5 is leaving and needs more space, then District 24 needs to know what District 5's plan is to create additional space. Commissioner Campbell advised that it is none of District 24's business since they are leaving.

Commissioner Campione noted from everything she understood, it was District 5's plan to move forward with a new building. This is why they paid the \$25,044.93 towards the design of the new building. Commissioner Campbell stated this was the plan for the six counties. Now with 2 counties leaving, District 5 does not have to do this. Commissioner Campione advised that if District 5 wants to stay in the current building, then her request is for the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee to support this request to leave. Commissioner Davis noted Citrus County will not support that request. Speaking for Hernando County, Commissioner Campbell stated he would entertain that request, but there would be a lot of things that need to happen before that. The business of changing the rules of the current deal needs to be iron clad with the agreement of the current facility, and Marion County needs to be made whole, before Hernando County signs off on anything to support this. If those two things happen, then Hernando County will consider giving support.

Commissioner Bogue clarified his understanding with the six Commissioners on this Advisory Committee, and working with the Medical Examiner, was the volumes of this current group could not sufficiently be serviced in the current building. There were no options to viably increase the capacity of the current building so a new facility was part of the equation. All counties were on board with moving forward with the new facility and the location. Commissioner Bogue does not recall Commissioner Blake saying Lake County does not want to be part of the new facility or reevaluate the financial allocation. Sumter County's position is that Marion County needs to be made whole and they do not want to see Lake County leave District 5. Once the departure occurs, the volumes need to be reevaluated to see if District 5 needs to move out of the current facility or see if District 5 can wait for five years before reaching a capacity point to move. The Sumter County BCC is not in support of Lake County leaving, and the Sumter County Sheriff is not in support of this. Once Marion County is made whole, Commissioner Bogue will go back to his BCC and ask for a letter of support. The general consensus outside of Lake and Seminole Counties is this is a bad move.

Commissioner Campione clarified that Lake County BCC never voted on the location or to contribute financially. Commissioner Bogue advised that Commissioner Blake voted for it as a representative of Lake County BCC. If the Commissioner fails to go back to his BCC after voting yes to an item, that is an error on that Commissioner. He does not recall any Commissioner saying they need to abstain from the vote before speaking with their BCC. Commissioner Campione noted Lake County cannot make a financial commitment without consent from their full BCC and this vote does not bound her BCC.

Commissioner Lockhart stated there is an agreement in place and that is the agreement Seminole County intends to abide by. She is not sure what was meant by the conversation about Seminole County getting out as they intend to abide by the terms of the current Interlocal Agreement which gives, what should be, an ample notification period to the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee. If the Advisory Committee is asking for an additional timeline, that is not going to come from the existing agreement. Commissioner Lockhart noted if this Committee is suggesting to renegotiate, then this will be a different conversation.

Commissioner Campbell stated he does not want this to go on for two to four years from now and District 24 is still in the facility. Commissioner Bogue noted the term of the current Interlocal Agreement is until 2029 so technically District 24 can have it until then. Commissioner Davis asked at what point was the Committee planning on moving to the new facility, before this was put on hold. Mr. Bouyounes clarified that after everyone agreed on the conceptual plan, the obstacle was not being able to put together an agreement for every county to agree to commit to the finances. The plan was for the building to be constructed within two years. The Advisory Committee was hoping to have an agreement to finance the building in 2024 and the building would be constructed in 2026. Commissioner Davis asked if we were hoping to have sufficient space until 2026. Mr. Bouyounes stated it could have been early 2027, but the Advisory Committee was dealing with so many unknowns. He noted the commitment was not made to start construction. Marion County worked under the direction from this Committee to expend money to develop a conceptual plan. There were hours of discussion on selecting the site. Marion County fronted the money, understanding that all six Counties consented to the agreement. He explained that the decision Lake County's BCC made to reimburse Marion County for the \$25,044.93 has made Marion County whole from Lake County. This reimbursement was for the soft costs Marion County incurred to develop the conceptual plan. Mr. Bouyounes advised that, moving forward, the counties need to work out the details of which building the Districts stay in, and whether the Districts will split or stay together. At that point, this Advisory Committee can decide if it objects or not, to Lake County leaving District 5. Lake County and Seminole County's Option Two is for these two counties to leave and build a new building and was an approved option from Lake County and Seminole County. If this option is proposed by Lake County and Seminole County, the remaining counties in District 5 will continue to operate and use the existing facility.

Commissioner Lockhart thinks it is important to ask Dr. Wolf to put on the record what she shared with Seminole County about capacity. From what Seminole County was told, regardless of Lake and Seminole County's participation at the current facility, the remaining counties would still need a larger facility moving forward within a certain number of years.

Dr. Wolf stated with Seminole County leaving the facility, that would not make a huge difference in the workload. Lake County leaving the facility would make a big difference in the workload. Dr. Wolf noted it is a lot more than just capacity, which is an issue. The building is old and outdated, and currently the doctors are working out of closets that were turned into offices. A new building is needed, but they will carry on with whatever is decided.

Commissioner Davis asked Commissioner Bogue about the Sumter County Sheriff being against Lake County moving to District 24. Commissioner Bogue stated the Sheriff is not in support of any movement, but he does not have a position unless it affects District 5 leaving the current building. If District 5 is forced to move, it would affect us and he would be willing to chime in. If District 5 needs a letter from the Sumter County Sheriff, he will provide that.

Commissioner Davis presented for the record a one-page letter to the Advisory Board from David Vincent, Sheriff of Citrus County, as additional backup. Other letters were also presented to the Commissioners in their respective meeting packets from the following individuals: William Gladson, State Attorney; Michael Graves, Public Defender, Fifth Circuit; and Sheriff Billy Woods, Marion County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Bouyounes has talked to the remaining District 5 County Administrators and emails from them are also included in the packets.

Commissioner Lockhart would like the record to reflect that there is not a letter from the Seminole County Sheriff because the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee did not ask for one, probably because the Seminole County Sheriff is in support of the separation of Lake

County. Mr. Bouyounes stated he did not ask for a letter or communicate with Seminole County's Administrator because he was focused on District 5 and what their position will be. Commissioner Campione asked if Lake County was requested to get a letter from the Lake County Sheriff. Mr. Bouyounes advised that he did not request a letter.

Commissioner Campione advised if Lake County goes to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission and asks for the separation and was denied, then Lake County will be made to stay in District 5 and everyone will have to work together. Lake County is asking for District 5 to let Lake County do what they are requesting, and hopefully Lake County will get the support from the Florida Medical Examiners Commission. If District 5 is not willing to give their support to Lake County, then Lake County will roll the dice and see what happens. Lake County will engage in letter writing and what is needed to get the support. If District 5 wins, then Lake County will remain in District 5. Commissioner Campione said this is not how it should work.

Commissioner Davis stated it is up to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission. If Lake County remains in District 5, everything will be done for District 5 to remain a good partner with Lake County. She explained that she cannot be in favor to support this with the Florida Medical Examiners Commission. Commissioners come and go, but the people that run the criminal justice system are there, day in and day out, spending their entire career bringing people to justice. These are the people that have weighed in, and said a quality facility will help Dr. Wolf compete in the very small pool of available Medical Examiners. Commissioner Davis noted this professional facility will help keep all interactions together in District 5 between the State Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Police Chiefs. District 5 would never want to keep Lake County in something they do not want to be in and it is certainly not retribution. She advised if these factors were not in place, Citrus County would absolutely support Lake County leaving. Commissioner Davis stated she has to look out for the career staff and not the politicians.

Commissioner Lockhart noted all the elected officials that Commissioner Davis named are politicians and understands Commissioner Davis is trying to make a good case. She stated District 24 is split between Brevard and Seminole Counties, with two different locations and two different Medical Examiners; there does not seem to be much of a problem. Commissioner Lockhart reiterated that Commissioner Davis just noted the Medical Examiner needs a new high-tech facility to operate, but also stated District 5 was going to stay where they are because they do not need one. Commissioner Lockhart stated the logic is not there for her. Commissioner Lockhart advised that Dr. Wolf said she will continue to operate out of both facilities. The stakeholders are getting the same service from the same Medical Examiner, just at a different location for the one county. She also noted the letters in the agenda packet were interesting to her, because they all said they did not fully understand the issue, but they were pretty much told to be against it. She stated Seminole County is not interested in continuing in the political drama. Seminole County has made their position clear and would be happy to have Lake County as a partner. They are happy to stay in the current building or build a new building with or without a partner. Commissioner Lockhart believes Seminole County's checkbook is more desired than their participation. She stated suddenly the new facility does not plan to be built, as the Advisory Committee was excited to build the building until there was one less partner to fund it. Seminole County is really not affecting capacity. She noted they cannot talk about the terms of the deal until there is an agreement. Mr. Bouyounes advised that is not true. Commissioner Lockhart asked how does a choice become selected to work towards a deal, and then, if all parties cannot come to an agreement, it is changed and modified. She advised that Seminole County cannot start working out the points of a deal that is being worked on, but not to which has been agreed.

Commissioner Stone stated Marion County BCC will not object to Lake County leaving provided all the details are worked out for the remaining counties in District 5 to be able to operate in the current facility and have a clear title to that property. Marion County is not going to write a letter of support, and they will not object, provided there is a timeline on when District 24 will exit the current building and have their plan in place. She would not expect it to run past the 2029 timeline of the current Interlocal Agreement. Marion County's first preference is for Lake County to remain as part of District 5. Marion County has already reconciled the fact, and is looking forward to District 24 leaving the current arrangement. Commissioner Stone noted that rushing to do this is more desirable than extending the exit. She asked for District 24 to please put their plan together. Commissioner Lockhart stated District 24 cannot decide on a plan until they know if they have a partner. Commissioner Stone advised that would be determined at the Florida Medical Examiners Commission meeting and they would review the request of Lake County partnering with Seminole County.

Dr. Wolf clarified that the Florida Medical Examiners Commission is not saying yes or no to Lake County joining District 24, but rather were blindsided by a lack of information and would like to have negotiations and an agreement. They advised that it was suitable to have a plan and agreement between all parties. Commissioner Lockhart asked how will this would be delivered if the other members of District 5 are not willing to negotiate a plan. Commissioner Bogue stated Sumter County will not oppose it, as they will just not support it. Mr. Bouyounes noted everyone today supports Marion County's Option One and Marion County's Option Two with Option One being the preferred option. If Lake County does not change their mind, then Option Two is the option. He suggested working out the details, to include the status of the building and the financial implications on all the counties. If the Committee starts putting these details in place before going back to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission, there will be a plan to present to them.

Commissioner Stone stated it is not on this Advisory Committee to put a plan together; it is on District 24 to put the plan together to exit. Commissioner Lockhart noted the attempt to do this at the last meeting, but the Committee would not discuss it as it was not up for consideration. Commissioner Stone advised that would have been a miscommunication. Mr. Bouyounes stated the only option was from Lake County, and if they are going to join District 24. Commissioner Stone advised that Marion County will send a letter of objection, if they do not receive the funds from Seminole County. Commissioner Campione asked if Marion County receives the money, is it correct that they will not object. Commissioner Stone noted that is correct, but they will not support either way.

Commissioner Campione asked if the original plan was to move forward, build a new building and then sell the existing building. Mr. Bouyounes stated he understands the remaining counties in District 5 want to continue operating in the existing building, perhaps making modifications to the building until we need additional capacity. Marion County also discussed the possibility of building a small satellite office in Summerfield, Florida. All these things need to be evaluated in the future, based on the workload. The existing building could remain in operation for years under District 5.

Commissioner Campione asked if the new building was built, would the existing Medical Examiner's building be kept as a place to work out of. Mr. Bouyounes noted the new building is not currently being constructed. The concept for the new building was to accommodate all six of the counties for future years up to 2050 and possibly further. The Medical Examiner has stated in the past they can operate two locations, which could include building a satellite office.

Commissioner Campbell noted the element that changed is now the two counties are leaving. With just Seminole County leaving, District 5 would have to build another building. With two

counties leaving, District 5 can remain there or have the option of building a satellite office. Commissioner Campbell advised that no one is keeping Seminole County from leaving and Seminole County does not have to wait for an answer from Lake County. Commissioner Lockhart stated Seminole County does not know if they are building a building for just Seminole County or for Lake County included. She does not know what is happening with the current Medical Examiner's building in Leesburg, Florida. Commissioner Campbell advised that Seminole County is choosing to leave and that has nothing to do with District 5. Commissioner Lockhart stated if Lake and Seminole County are wanting to partner together, the consensus on how they will leave and build a building does have to do with District 5.

Commissioner Lockhart noted they will abide by the terms of the existing Interlocal Agreement and will leave by the time the contract ends, giving the Committee the notification that is required per the terms. She advised that District 24 will not leave any sooner than what is required; if they have the opportunity to partner with another County.

Commissioner Campbell stated there are questions regarding the 18-month notice by either party in the Interlocal Agreement for termination. Commissioner Lockhart would like to hear the legal opinion from counsel.

Matthew Minter, County Attorney, Marion County Board of County Commissioners, stated he did not research that issue before coming to the meeting, but his thought is with the current agreement that runs to 2029, an 18-month notice does not have to be given if the parties are going to play out the agreement. If the parties want to terminate sooner, an 18-month notice could be given to terminate earlier than 2029.

Melanie Marsh, County Attorney, Lake County Board of County Commissioners, stated the Interlocal Agreement reads the 18-month notice is for early termination. If the parties want to stay to 2029, the 18-month notice is not necessary. If the parties want to terminate earlier than 2029, they would give the notice and leave at the end of the 18 months. This is a unilateral termination provision (examples: Citrus County can terminate for Citrus County, Lake County can terminate for Lake County, etc.) One county cannot terminate the agreement for another county. Unless the parties give the 18-month notice to leave before 2029, then the parties would stay until 2029.

Commissioner Campbell explained the remaining counties cannot terminate Lake County or District 24. District 5 cannot terminate District 24.

Denise Lyn, County Attorney, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, said that all four counties can terminate on their own, but not remain in the current facility. Commissioner Bogue advised that if the four counties terminate, it would release the function of the building. His thought was as long as District 5 remains as District 5, can they remain in that facility, until the facility is not being used for the District 5 Medical Examiner.

Ms. Marsh stated the reversionary clause in the deed is tied to the Interlocal Agreement. There is some debate amongst the attorneys regarding if the Interlocal Agreement terminates, would the reverter take over. That is Lake County's position, but Ms. Marsh is not sure of Marion or Citrus County's position. Ultimately, this is what Lake County hopes to resolve in a mutually, agreeable separation. In Marion County's Option Two, there would be a resolution that Marion County would get a clear title.

Mr. Minter advised that this is a situation that falls under the Declaratory Judgment Act, where two parties come before the court and say they are endowed to their rights under the terms of an agreement. A legitimate case can be made for either one of the positions. The deed has the reversionary clause and the Interlocal Agreement says Marion County would convey the

building back to Lake County when Marion County has built a new facility. These two things do not sync. He does not believe the counties want to spend the time and money getting into a lawsuit over this. There is a dispute resolution provision that might be useful to negotiate these things.

Commissioner Campbell advised that Hernando County will not object if Seminole County makes Marion County whole. If they do not make Marion County whole, then Hernando County will object. Hernando County would like to see Lake County stay with District 5, but if the Florida Medical Examiners Commission approves the separation, then Hernando County and Lake County will continue to be good neighbors.

Commissioner Davis advised that Citrus County has the same opinion as Hernando County. She will recommend to her BCC to pay a portion of Seminole County's reimbursement to Marion County, if Seminole County does not make Marion County whole. This issue will go before the Florida Medical Examiners Commission again, and the Committee needs to present Option Two, once it is ironed out.

Dr. Wolf advised that the next Florida Medical Examiners Commission meeting is in August 2025. There is no point going before the Commission unless there is an agreement.

Mr. Bouyounes asked if Lake County has submitted a request to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission for reassignment. Commissioner Campione does not believe a request has been submitted again. She advised that Lake County BCC has indicated that is the plan, and from a timing standpoint, Lake County would need to submit this.

The Medical Examiner Advisory Committee clarified the option for their consideration is Marion County's Option Two and it was read into the record. Commissioner Stone stated Marion County's Option Two is the presented option, but Marion County will not provide a letter of support for Lake County to leave and join District 24.

Commissioner Davis will add the following bullet point to Marion County's Option Two:

- No support, but no objection as long as Seminole County makes Marion County whole and all the details are worked out between District 5 and District 24.

Mr. Bouyounes does not know if all the details can be worked out in this meeting pertaining to the status of the building and the financial impact of who is paying for what. The Committee needs the County Attorneys to start drafting an agreement, which would be in the best interest of all the counties involved. Commissioner Davis asked what is needed from this Committee for the County Attorneys.

Mr. Minter asked if this goes to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission in August, and they grant the request for Lake County to join District 24, is there a timeline for Lake and Seminole Counties to join together and exit District 5. Commissioner Lockhart advised that District 24 will commit today to leave by the end of the existing agreement; if they find they will be leaving sooner, they will provide the 18-month notification. Mr. Minter questioned the purposes of the various Counties asking their attorneys to come up with an agreement to take to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission. He noted the timeline is important for District 5 to plan for their future. Commissioner Lockhart stated the timeline will be significantly impacted by whether Seminole County has a partner or they will move forward on their own. Mr. Minter advised that the hypothetical question was, if both counties receive the approval to leave together, is there an idea of when this will happen. Commissioner Lockhart stated it will take some time to figure out if District 24 will stay in the existing building or build a new building.

Commissioner Davis noted the agreement in discussion now is for both Lake County and Seminole County to leave. The agreement District 24 presents to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission assumes for Seminole County to have a partner, if granted.

Commissioner Lockhart stated they will leave by the end of the existing term of the existing agreement. If Seminole County finds they can leave sooner, they will give the 18-month notice.

Commissioner Davis noted to be fair to Dr. Wolf's team, she would prefer that Districts 5 and 24 separate by early 2027; two different buildings would be needed for the six counties by early 2027.

Commissioner Stone asked for Lake County to continue to listen to these conversations with the representative from District 24, as this is what they are looking to join.

Commissioner Campione said Lake County has asked and presented their request. Lake County does not have any problem with joining District 24. The Interlocal Agreement goes through 2029 and Lake County is presenting to stay through 2029. Lake County is requesting the Committee's support to make this change, but they will live with whatever decision is made by this Committee. To put the best case forward, Lake County will need something to take to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission to explain how it all works. Lake County thinks they would be in it through 2029, but they are in the process of working out the details of what would happen the day the Interlocal Agreement ends.

Commissioner Stone stated Lake and Seminole Counties need to determine the plan, take it to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission and get approval. They have heard from this Committee that we are not going to send a letter of support. This Committee is requesting the agreement, put together by Lake and Seminole Counties, to include details that encompass the bullet points of Marion County's Option Two. The County Attorneys and staff need to help finalize and know that we are getting what was requested out of the options for this Committee.

Commissioner Campbell suggested to make a few other edits to Marion County's Option Two.

- In bullet point 1, instead of saying "jointly build and operate," say "jointly secure and operate."
- Add final bullet point to say, "No support, but no objection as long as Seminole County makes Marion County whole and works out all the details of the separation between Districts 5 and 24, and the status of the building."

Commissioner Bogue noted what he is hearing is that Lake and Seminole County intend to live out the Interlocal Agreement to 2029. If they decide otherwise at some point in the future, they will let us know they will leave sooner. Commissioner Lockhart clarified that yes, this is in compliance with the existing agreement. Commissioner Bogue advised that of the four counties that remain, his desire is for the two counties that secede the union, to do so sooner, but they do not have to. If the two counties left sooner, then the four counties could come together with their needs sooner.

Commissioner Bogue asked how can he believe future discussions are valid, when he cannot trust that a payment would be made from a previous commitment. Commissioner Lockhart noted the Seminole County BCC never authorized a payment to this Committee. Commissioner Bogue stated the Seminole County representative said Seminole County would partner in this agreement. Commissioner Lockhart stated that is not the case and the minutes do not reflect this.

Commissioner Davis suggested adding a bullet point that says District 5 will support District 24 leaving if Seminole County makes Marion County whole. There will be no support unless

this happens. Commissioner Lockhart advised that Seminole County does not need support to leave; Seminole County is their own district. Commissioner Davis stated that is a good point. District 5 can say, as long as Seminole County makes Marion County whole, District 5 will abstain from comment in regards to Lake County.

Commissioner Campbell noted his comments are along the same lines. If the Florida Medical Examiners Commission does not approve Lake County leaving, what is Seminole County's position. Commissioner Lockhart clarified that District 24 is leaving. Commissioner Campbell understands this much clearer and asked Commissioner Lockhart if there was anything else on this list with Marion County's Option Two that we need to discuss. Commissioner Lockhart stated she is not bound by Marion County's bullet points.

Commissioner Davis noted the members are trying to hash out the agreement. Commissioner Campbell is trying to be a good partner by asking if there is anything in the agreement that should be discussed.

Commissioner Campione brought up the current final bullet in Marion County's Option Two that discusses Lake and Seminole Counties providing a timeline to exit the current facility. She believes it should be removed or fixed because the timeline is following the agreement. Commissioner Campbell noted it was a fair point and District 24 has to abide by the contract. Commissioner Lockhart stated for the record, that is the point she has been making since she got here. All the counties agree on this.

It was the general consensus to direct the following for Marion County's Option Two:

- Remove or fix bullet point 5 because the timeline is following the agreement.

Mr. Bouyounes asked if Lake County's separation is going to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission in August, are the remaining counties in District 5 going to or not object to that proposal. If we have an agreement in place organizing the separation and resolving the outstanding issues, Marion County will not object. He advised the other counties should not object either and possibly provide a letter of support. This Committee needs to work out an agreement and resolve these issues and then Seminole County can do whatever they wish to accomplish. Mr. Bouyounes suggested this should go to the County Attorneys.

Ms. Lyn stated her main concern at the last Florida Medical Examiners Commission meeting was that the stakeholders (State Attorney, Public Defender and Sheriffs) appeared that they had not been engaged. Now there was engagement by these stakeholders (State Attorney, Public Defender and 4 of the 5 Sheriffs). She noted that she does not see the Florida Medical Examiners Commission allowing Lake County to leave, if all the stakeholders are on record saying they do not want to split up District 5. Unless Lake County gets permission from the Commission to leave, it is for naught. She does not see the Commission granting permission for Lake County to leave.

Mr. Bouyounes stated the Florida Medical Examiners Commission said to go back to all the stakeholders, including the counties, to work out an agreement on how this will happen. Ms. Lyn noted the four counties are not going to support this.

Commissioner Campione advised that it sounds like it is all going back to the Medical Examiner's building. It is ultimately going to be in 2029 when the agreement is over and there is no Interlocal Agreement in place, unless one is put back in place. She said the question is, will the building revert back to Lake County or stay with District 5. Additionally, do we use this point as a key negotiating point that the legal team can work on. Commissioner Campione believes if the Committee can work this out, then this potentially could mean that we can reach

an agreement and Marion County BCC may give the support letter. She noted the counties are also stakeholders, not just the State Attorneys, Public Defenders and Sheriffs. It may be weighted against Lake County, and Lake County could ultimately lose. Commissioner Campione believes it does not make sense to stay in a marriage that you do not want to be in. Lake County works just fine together on other advisory boards. She advised that this Advisory Committee may be one that needs a different team. For this particular issue, Lake County would prefer to handle it the way they have requested. Lake County would like to see if the attorneys can look at what happens with the building, and see if this is something the counties can work out.

Mr. Minter stated on behalf of Marion County, he can put together a draft agreement and circulate it with all the County Attorneys. This could be a starting point to get feedback from the attorneys that will be acceptable to all the parties. Mr. Minter will use all the bullet points from Marion County's Option Two, including looking at Seminole County's bullet points. He will incorporate this into a draft agreement and address some of the particulars and details discussed by Mr. Bouyounes.

Commissioner Davis asked if this Committee should meet in July. Dr. Wolf advised that the next Florida Medical Examiners Commission meeting, after the August meeting, is October 28, 2025. Mr. Bouyounes noted this does not have to go to the Commission in August. Commissioner Lockhart asked if this plan has to come back to this Advisory Committee to go to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission. She does not believe it does and thinks it can be worked out with the individual counties. She does not think this Committee needs to meet before the August Commission meeting.

There was discussion that when the draft agreement is hashed out with the County Attorneys, it would then be sent to the individual BCCs to approve or not. Commissioner Campione said whatever comes out of the negotiations is what is presented to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission.

Commissioner Davis asked if there would need to be a consensus or vote on the bullets. It was agreed this is a consensus.

5.3 District 5 counties' position in the event Lake County submits a new request to the Florida Medical Examiner Commission for reassignment.

Marion County reached out to the State Attorney and the Public Defender of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida for their input regarding this matter. In addition, we solicited input from the Marion County Sheriff's Office in an effort to understand if there will be any impact on their operation.

The following letters were presented at this meeting: a one-page letter to Mr. Bouyounes from William Gladson, State Attorney; a one-page letter to Mr. Bouyounes from Michael Graves, Public Defender, Fifth Circuit; a two-page letter to Mr. Bouyounes from Billy Woods, Sheriff of Marion County; and a one-page letter to Commissioner Davis from David Vincent, Sheriff of Citrus County. Copies of the original letters from Mr. Bouyounes to the stakeholders were also included, requesting input on the Lake County reassignment.

6. New Business

6.1 Notation for Record

For the record, Andrea Kennard, Commissioner's Aide, Lake County BCC, submitted an email dated June 11, 2025, announcing that Commissioner Leslie Campione will serve as the Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee's representative for Lake County BCC effective immediately.

7. Next Meeting Date

Commissioner Lockhart asked if we need to meet on August 13, 2025 for our regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. Mr. Minter noted he can have the draft agreement within two weeks to send to all six County Attorneys. Commissioner Lockhart asked if there are any projected action items for the August 13, 2025 meeting. Mr. Bouyounes stated the financial statements are presented and there may be a discussion on replacing a software for the Medical Examiner.

The next Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 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 3:23 p.m.

Holly Davis, Chair

Date