

**Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee Meeting  
August 14, 2024**

- 1. Call to Order** – The Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at the Marion County McPherson Governmental Campus, Green Clover Hall, 319 SE 26 Terrace, Ocala, FL.
- 2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum** – Roll call was taken and a quorum was met.

Members Present

Josh Blake, Lake County Board of County Commissioners  
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  
Michelle Stone, Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Members Absent

Jay Zembower, Vice-Chair, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners

In Attendance

Meloney Koontz, Assistant County Manager, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners  
Allison Thall, Community Services Director, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners  
Matthew Minter, County Attorney, Marion County Board of County Commissioners  
Dana Olesky, Chief Assistant County Attorney, Marion County Board of County Commissioners  
Amanda Tart, Assistant County Administrator, Marion County Board of County Commissioners  
Matthew Cretul, Legislative Manager, Marion County Board of County Commissioners  
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  
Jared Goodspeed, Director, Marion County Facilities Management  
Mike Bates, Assistant Director, Marion County Facilities Management  
David Feger, Assistant Director, Marion County Facilities Management  
Jim Huber, Construction Manager, Marion County Facilities Management  
Samantha Ritcher, Fiscal Manager, Marion County Facilities Management  
Audrey Fowler, Budget 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 July 26, 2024 in the Hernando Sun #C9E154AE0015 and the Citrus County Chronicle Ad #50094421; and July 28, 2024 in the Ocala Star Banner Ad #10375891, Orlando Sentinel Ad #7665006, Lake Sentinel Ad #7664937, and The Villages Daily Sun Ad #01200382.

*Motion:* Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve the proof of publications and Commissioner Bogue seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5–0.

- 4. Review and Approval of May 8, 2024 Minutes** – The minutes from the May 8, 2024 Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting were submitted for approval.

*Motion:* Commissioner Bogue made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2024 Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting and Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5–0.

## **5. Old Business**

### 5.1 Medical Examiner’s Facility Update

Jared Goodspeed, Facilities Director, provided the Medical Examiner’s facility update. Several repairs have been made on the current building in the last quarter which include repair of a roof leak, pressure washing, repair and replacement of garbage disposals, tree trimming around the property, renovation of an office, and updates on the access control of the front door for security purposes.

Marion County is working with the architect on the project design on the future building and expect an updated concept in approximately two weeks. The budget is on track and once the updated concept is received, the timeline will be updated.

### 5.2 Legislative Priority for the Medical Examiner Facility

Matthew Cretul, Legislative Manager, Marion County, passed out a one-page copy of Marion County’s 2025 State Legislative Priorities for the Support the Districts 5 & 24 Medical Examiner Office’s Appropriations Request. He is having conversations with his counterparts at each County, making sure the language is consistent. This has been formally approved by Marion County Board of County Commissioners as a County priority to support the Districts 5 & 24 Medical Examiner request. Mr. Cretul requested what information the committee would like to see on the forms and direction for filling out the forms. The 2025 Appropriations form has not been released. Pam Doherty will make sure Commissioner Zembower receives a copy of this Appropriations Request.

### 5.3 FY 23/24 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Report

Cassandra Li gave an overview of the FY 23/24 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget covering April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024. This quarter contains a budget amendment moving \$2,075 from Capital Improvement Funding to Rental & Leases–Equipment for an additional printer requested for the morgue office covering the lease expense and color copies. The final quarter will show budget amendments for repairs of autopsy saws. Pam Doherty will send the tentative final budget to each County’s budget office showing the cost allocations broken down for each County.

### 5.4 Future Interlocal Agreement

Dana Olesky, Chief Assistant County Attorney, has been working on the update to the future Interlocal Agreement. This should be distributed to all the Counties by the end of the week.

## **6. New Business**

### 6.1 Defense of Litigation Related to Cedric McFadden/Ruthel Forbes Lawsuit

The Medical Examiner’s Office received a Notice of Intent to File Suit from Morgan and Morgan, P.A. pertaining to a criminal homicide case dating back to 2005 prior to hiring Dr. Wolf. The County Attorney’s Office for Marion County is working with the Medical Examiner’s Office on handling this case. Matthew Minter, the County Attorney for Marion County Board of County Commissioners, discussed the defense of litigation related to the Cedric McFadden/Ruthel Forbes lawsuit. This case does not involve District 24. With this not being a complicated case, the County Attorney’s Office for Marion County would like to recommend representing the Medical Examiner’s Office on behalf of District 5. There is a possibility to get the case dismissed, but no guarantee. If there is a settlement or judgment, there would be an order to go to mediation. If there was a monetary

settlement or judgement, that would be apportioned amongst the District 5 counties including court costs, deposition costs and attorney fees.

Commissioner Zembower was not able to attend this meeting because he was serving on the Canvassing Board this day in Seminole County.

This will be Commissioner Blake’s last meeting. Another representative from Lake County will be appointed to serve and will attend the November 2024 meeting.

- 7. **Next Meeting Date** – The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024 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 2:16 p.m.

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Holly Davis, Chair

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Date