

# Sedgwick County Forensic Science Center Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes of April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## **Board Members Present:**

Dr. Tim Rohrig – Director Regional Forensic Science Center:  
ex-officio member  
Dr. Ron Varner [Chair] – 13<sup>th</sup> District Coroner  
Andrea Maurer – Sedgwick County EMS (Vice Chair)  
Division Chief Robert Timmons – Sedgwick County Fire Department  
Ann Swegle – District Attorney’s Office  
Dr. Timothy Gorrill – District Coroner  
Jennifer Magana – Wichita City Attorney (City Manager Representative)  
Stuart Bevis – Wichita Fire Department - (WFD Representative)  
Janice Daugherty – (WSU Anthropology for Dr. Peer Moore-Jansen)

## **Board Members Absent:**

Deputy Chief – Jose Salcido - (WPD Representative)  
Jeffrey Easter – Sedgwick County Sheriff  
Dean of KU School of Medicine-Wichita or representative  
Darrell Atteberry – Bel Aire Chief of Police  
Rusty Leeds – Sedgwick County Director of Public Safety (County Manager)  
Dr. Melissa Walker - Hugo Wall – WSU

## **Attendees Present:**

Dawnte Corimanya – Sedgwick County Health Department

Jason Verbeckmoes – Kansas Eye Bank

Christy Schunn – KID & S

Tom Morris – D & L Mortuaries – President

## **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting are approved

## **RFSC Update**

*Dr. Rohrig – RFSC*

- Annual Survey: Will be sent out soon, please fill them out to help us help you.
- Pathology: Budget request for 2019 was accepted to fund the temporary P/T medical investigator to that of permanent P/T position.
- Budget: 2020 will be asking for another Lab Tech, we currently have only one. And change PT Medical Investigator to full-time.
- Finance Issues: Have a couple of funeral homes in arrears, we are in the process of trying to collect on these.
- Staffing changes: Drug ID Chemist, Jennifer Miller passed away after a tough battle with cancer. This opens a position, we are currently reviewing applications.
- Drug ID: Our newest chemist is still in process of training, we will be reaching out soon to schedule a moot court for him.
- Drug ID: Will have a chemist out for FMLA for a couple of months.
- Toxicology: Newest chemists are still training, and things are going good.

- Toxicology: Still issues with older equipment needing increased amount of repairs, thus slowing turnaround times.
- Firearms: Marah has one last practical to finish then Johnson County will test her expertise.
- Firearms: Justin Rankin is leaving RFSC on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. He will be joining the KBI. Join us for a reception to say goodbye and good luck to him on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 from 12:30 to 1:30 in our classroom.
- Arson: Two chemists are now qualified to perform fire debris analysis and currently have zero backlog.
- Seeing more benzodiazepines (designer) in drivers and first seen in postmortem cases.
- Seeing more Fentanyl intoxicated drivers.

### **Agency Reports**

#### *Dr. Gorrill*

- Nothing new to add, but did join in on discussion/question of Andrea Mauer and Dr. Rohrig regarding K.S.A.22a.

#### *Dr. Varner*

- It has been business as usual, and seeing a lot more suicides.

#### *Jennifer Magana*

- Turnaround times on blood tests are going great.

#### *Ann Swegle*

- Nothing new to report, keeping very busy.

### *Christy Schunn*

- Sleep related infant deaths are up. Still following up with families and working on more education with hospitals and families to continuing to try to reduce the amount of sleep related deaths. Helping with grief support and asking their needs.
- Memorial Walk May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 please try to attend.

### *Dante Corimanya*

- Currently seeing a decrease in influenza. Influenza activity (or flu-like) symptoms were at 2.8% in the United States and 1.9% in Kansas. Cases from the CDC matched to the H1N1 virus.
- Seeing some symptoms from A H3N2 now.

### *Andrea Maurer*

- They are in their new offices.
- Discussion/Question: Dr. Gallagher ran a call with a crew, patient was in the doorway, they loaded the patient into the truck and he died. They then placed the decedent back in the doorway (as originally found) of the house for WPD to continue with their processes. Would this of been a coroner's case?
- Discussion/Question: Dr. Rohrig stated that it would not be a coroner's case (unless under K.S.A.22a). He stated to follow up as a policy operational issue and contact legal if necessary.
- Discussion/Question: Dr. Gorrill also states the K.S.A.22a, has a list of what outlines a coroner's case.

### *Robert Timmons*

- Are expecting a new Sedgwick County Fire Chief to be named in the next week or two.
- Starting new recruiting academy.

*Tom Morris*

- New changes in stillborn criteria – from weight (350 grams) to weeks (20 weeks and under).
- Had been informed that stillborn parents at both hospitals were given the following options:
  - Comingle burial
  - Take home
  - Morgue to mortuary

*Janice Dougherty (for Dr. Peer Moore-Jansen)*

- Nothing new to add.

*Jason Verbeckmoes*

- New techs on staff now.
- No issues with red top/gray top samples.
- Medical standards review will be on site (have 3 years of accreditations).
- Dr. Rohrig stated that there are still some samples being submitted with Isopropanol in the vitreous samples.

*Chief Stuart Bevis*

- Appreciates that fire debris is moving great and staff have been very helpful.
- Had a fire case last weekend at a mortuary that was very unusual. The information obtained from this case has been sent to the Kansas Board of Mortuary Arts to review possible mishandling of decedents.

*Unfinished business*

None

*New business*

- From Tom Morris – regarding K-trax: please plea for continued use and state funding.

*Motion to adjourn*

- Motion passed

Next meeting is July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019