



515-725-1400

Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner Newsletter

Issue Number 3

10/31/07

IOSME at the National Association of Medical Examiners Conference

Drs. Julia Goodin and Jerri McLemore attended the annual National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) conference that was held in Savannah, Georgia during October. NAME is the organization that provides education and oversight to coroner and medical examiner systems across the nation. Many coroners and medical examiners from across the United States and from various countries around the world meet at this conference to share ideas and present research on topics related to the field of death investigation. Attendance at this conference enables Iowa's medical examiners to learn about new emerging concepts and standards of practice related to their work.

Iowa was in the spotlight at this year's conference. Dr. McLemore gave a presentation entitled "Impact of Identity Theft and False Identities on Primary Identification Methods." The presentation discussed the difficulties in making an absolute positive identification of a decedent when the decedent has assumed someone else's identity. The presentation was well-received and provided the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner with national recognition among our peers.

Another Successful ME 101 Class!

The Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner again provided an "ME 101" class on the road on August 30th and 31st, 2007 in Spencer, Iowa. We would like to give special thanks to the Spencer Fire Department, specifically Fire Chief Douglas Duncan and Special Agent David Schipper of the State Fire Marshal's Office for being generous with their assistance and for providing what was a fun and enjoyable atmosphere to hold class.

During this session of ME 101, participants learned how Iowa's medicolegal system is structured and how it compares with those of surrounding states. Participants also learned how to conduct basic death scene investigations, in particular, deaths involving homicide and infants. Lastly, participants learned how to complete required forms and learned tips on how to reduce transportation costs and to share resources. Infant/child death reenactment dolls were distributed to counties in attendance as well. ME 101 is recommended for new and experienced medical examiners and investigators.

We will again be offering the ME 101 class just prior to the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners (IACME) Fall Conference at the State Medical Examiners Office in Ankeny, Iowa beginning at 8:30 am on November 2, 2007. The remaining lectures for the IACME conference will be held on November 2nd and 3rd, 2007 at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club in West Des Moines, Iowa. We hope everyone will be available to attend the conference.

The IOSME will take ME 101 on the road again early next year. The next stop will be in southeastern Iowa. We will provide advance notice of the dates, times, and locations, so stay tuned!

John C. Kraemer, PA, F-ABMDI
Director, Forensic Operations
Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner

The Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner has applied for Continuing Education credits for this course through the entities listed below.

"This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Iowa Medical Society (IMS), through hipoint sponsorship of Iowa Health-Des Moines (Methodist & Lutheran/Blank Children's) and the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. Iowa Health-Des Moines (Methodist & Lutheran/Blank Children's) is accredited by the IMS to provide continuing medical education for physicians."

IMS

IOWA MEDICAL SOCIETY
Ensuring quality education for Iowa physicians

"Iowa Health-Des Moines (Methodist & Lutheran/Blank Children's) designates this educational activity for a maximum of 3.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity."

Iowa Nurses Foundation is Nursing Continuing Education Provider #25. Approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing, Iowa Nurses Foundation is the program co sponsor. Cosponsored by Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner's Office Nurses will receive 4.1 contact hours. Physicians will receive 4 contact hours.

2007 IOSME Statistics

Through October, 2007

Cases Performed.....493
Cremation Permits Signed209
Death Certificates Signed.....336
Homicides Autopsied26

New Full-Time Employees at IOSME



Our office is very pleased to announce the hiring of seven new full-time employees (FTEs) this past summer and fall. The hiring of these employees was made possible by the Iowa Legislature's approval of the Omnibus bill in the spring of 2007. Of the seven new FTEs, five are filling recently created positions. Please join us in welcoming them!

The new staff members are listed below (alphabetically by position held):

Forensic Autopsy Technicians, started 9/21/07



Matthew and Mark

Mark Boswell

Education: BS with a double major in Biology and Chemistry, Graceland University

Matthew Lunn

Education: BS in Kinesiology and Health, Psychology, Iowa State University

Duties: Duties include setting up and preparing for autopsies, assisting Forensic Pathologist with autopsy (including evisceration and collection of toxicology specimens).

Medicolegal Death Investigators, started 10/5/07



Natalie and Steve

Natalie Thomas

Education: BA in Biology and Sociology, Grandview College in Des Moines

Steve Tvrdik

Education: BS in Anthropology, Iowa State University

Duties: Providing and gathering information to help determine cause and manner of death for sudden, unexpected, violent, and suspicious deaths through medical records/documentation, testimonials, and scene investigations. Collecting and preserving evidence and preparing biological specimens for consultation and

analysis. Assisting in photographic documentation and development.

Radiological Technologist/Morgue Team Leader, started 8/17/07



Aaron Hallengren

Education: Adel-Desoto HS; United States Army; IA Methodist School of Radiologic Technology; DMACC

Duties: Oversees the morgue/main autopsy staff and makes sure autopsies run as smoothly as possible. Takes x-rays, orders supplies and keeps a current inventory. Fills in when and where needed during autopsies. Assists in scheduling for morgue staff. Responsible for morgue quality control and keeping maintenance contracts current.

Secretaries, started 9/7/2007



Cheryl and LaDana

LaDana Clark

Education: AAS Medical Administrative Assistant, certificate as office specialist, certificate as medical transcriptionist, DMACC

Cheryl Heinzman

Education: AAS Medical Secretary, SECC; two years of American Sign Language, FRCC and DMACC.

Duties: Duties include answering phones, clerical work, and transcription. In addition, LaDana is responsible for organizing travel for all IOSME staff and handling IOSME contracts.

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/do/medical_examiner.asp



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