



Medical Examiners Commission Meeting

October 27, 2026

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D. • Kenneth T. Jones • Brian Fernandes, J.D. • Charlie Cofer, J.D.
Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D. • Sheriff Robert “Bob” Johnson
Joshua Stephany, M.D. • Amira Fox, J.D.

MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION (MEC) MEETING

World Equestrian Center
1750 NW 80th Ave.
Ocala, Florida 34482
October 27, 2026, 10:00 AM EDT

Opening Remarks

Introduction of Commission Members and Staff

Approval of Meeting Agenda and Minutes from previous Commission Meeting of August 4, 2026

• Sunshine Law	Natalie Bielby
<u>ISSUE NUMBER</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
1. Introduction of new CJPSTS Director – Keith D. Wilmer	
2. Informational Items:	
• Status Update: MEC Appointments and Reappointments	Ashley Bullard
• Status Update: DME Appointments and Reappointments	Ashley Bullard
• 2025 Annual Drugs in Deceased Persons Report	Megan Neel
• 2025 Annual Workload Report/Dashboard	Megan Neel
• 2026 Interim Drugs in Deceased Persons Report	Megan Neel
• 2025 Coverdell Status Update	Ashley Williams
3. S. 406.075, Florida Statute	Ashley Bullard
4. Unidentified Deceased Initiative	Ashley Bullard
5. FDLE Forensic Update	Leigh Clark
6. Emerging Drugs	Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.
7. Other Business	Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.
• Mass Fatality MOU, District 7	Karla Orozco
• Florida Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Optimization Initiative	Shana Geary

The next MEC Meeting will be February 16th at the Orlando Marriot Lake Mary, FL.

MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D. **Chairman**

District 5/24 Medical Examiner
809 Pine Street
Leesburg, Florida 34748
(352) 326-5961
E: barbara.wolf@marionfl.org
Initial Appointment: 8/2015
Last Appointment: 2/2023, Governor DeSantis
Term of Office End Date: 06/30/2027

Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D.

Funeral Director/Vice President
Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes
4801 San Jose Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
(904) 737-7171
E: Robin.Sheppard@dignitymemorial.com
Initial Appointment: 8/2013
Last Appointment: 2/2023, Governor DeSantis
Term of Office End Date: 06/30/2027

Mr. Kenneth T. Jones

State Registrar
Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Vital Statistics
Post Office Box 210
Jacksonville, Florida 32231
(904) 359-6900 ext. 1001
E: Ken.Jones@flhealth.gov
Term: Not Applicable

Honorable Amira Fox, J.D.

State Attorney
20th Judicial Circuit
PO Box 399
Fort Myers, Florida 33902
(239) 533-1100
E: afox@sao20.org
Initial Appointment: 2/2023
Appointed by: Governor DeSantis
Term of Office End Date: 06/30/2027

Joshua Stephany, M.D.

District 9/25 Medical Examiner
2350 East Michigan Street
Orlando, Florida 32806
(407) 836-9400
E: joshua.stephany@ocfl.net
Initial Appointment: 2/2023
Appointed by: Governor DeSantis
Term of Office End Date: 06/30/2028

Honorable Charlie Cofer, J.D.

Public Defender
4th Judicial Circuit
407 N. Laura Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
(904) 255-4673
E: ccofer@pd4.coj.net
Initial Appointment: 8/2018
Last Appointment: 2/2023, Governor DeSantis
Term of Office End Date: 06/30/2029

Brian Fernandes, J.D.

Chief Assistant Statewide Prosecutor
Office of the Attorney General
107 West Gaines Street, Suite 531
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850-414-3300
E: Brian.Fernandes@myfloridalegal.com
Term: Not Applicable

VACANT

County Commissioner
Term of Office End Date: 06/30/2029

Honorable Robert "Bob" Johnson

Sheriff
Santa Rosa County
5755 East Milton Road
Milton, Florida 32583
(850) 983-1100
E: rjohnson@srso.net
Initial Appointment: 2/2023
Appointed by: Governor DeSantis
Term of Office End Date: 06/30/2028

STAFF

Medical Examiners Commission
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
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Attorney Supervisor Natalie Bielby
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*When a term ends and the incumbent has already been submitted to the Florida Executive Office of the Governor for consideration and approval for reappointment, the position is not considered vacant, nor is there a lapse in office. A vacancy only exists when it meets the criteria defined in Section 3, Article X of the Florida Constitution.

FLORIDA DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINERS

District 1

Deanna Oleske, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner
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District 2

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Interim Medical Examiner
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District 3

Dixie Co.

ME Services Provided by District 3
Lafayette, Madison & Suwannee Co.

ME Services Provided by District 2
Columbia & Hamilton Co.

ME Services Provided by District 4

District 4

B. Robert Pietak, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner
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Jacksonville, Florida 32206
Director of Operations Tim Crutchfield
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District 5

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.

809 Pine Street
Leesburg, Florida 34748
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District 6

Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.

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Largo, Florida 33778
Chief Investigator Damon Breton
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FAX: (727) 582-6820
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District 7 (Home Rule)

James W. Fulcher, M.D.

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Director of Operations Karla Orozco
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District 8

Milad Webb, M.D.

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Director of Operations Lauren Newbanks
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District 10

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District 11 (Home Rule)

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District 12

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Manager of Operations Harrison Cowan
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District 15 (Home Rule)

Catherine R. Miller, M.D.

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District 16

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District 17 (Home Rule)

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Chief of Investigative Services Thomas Steinkamp
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District 18

Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D.

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Operations Manager Rhode Jean-Philippe
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District 20

Marta U. Coburn, M.D.

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District 22

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District 23

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e-mail: kboulos@sjcfl.us

District 24

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.

ME Services Provided by District 5

District 25 (Home Rule)

Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.

ME Services Provided by District 9

FLORIDA ASSOCIATE MEDICAL EXAMINERS

District 1

Danielle R. Armstrong, D.O.
Lorraine Lopez-Morell, M.D.
Michael Pagacz, M.D.
(Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.)
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Jennifer Dierksen, M.D.)
(Emily R. Duncanson, M.D.)
(Lisa Flannagan, M.D.)
(James W. Fulcher, M.D.)
(Ami Murphy, D.O.)
(Maneesha Pandey, M.D.)
(Jay M. Radtke, M.D.)
(Brandy L. Shattuck, M.D.)
(Tiffany Sheganoski, D.O.)

District 2

(Lisa M. Flannagan, M.D.)
(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)
(Natalia Belova, M.D.)
(Kailee Imperatore, M.D.)
(Andrew Koopmeiners, M.D.)
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)
(Heidi Reinhard, M.D.)
(Sarah C. Thomas, M.D.)
(Jason R. Van Roo, M.D.)

District 3

Dixie Co.
ME Services Provided by District 8
Lafayette, Madison, & Suwannee Co.
ME Services Provided by District 2
Columbia & Hamilton Co.
ME Services Provided by District 4

District 4

Robert Buchsbaum, M.D., J.D.
Peter Gillespie, M.D.
Brittany L. Glad, D.O.
Sherry L. Jilinski, M.D.
Aurelian Nicolaescu, M.D.
Robert R. Pfalzgraf, M.D.
Jason R. Van Roo, M.D.
(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)
(Danielle R. Armstrong, D.O.)
(Michael Bell, M.D.)
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)
(Iana Lesnikova, M.D.)
(Brandon M. Maveal, M.D.)
(Deanna A. Oleske, M.D.)
(Valerie J. Rao, M.D.)
(Sandra A. Siller, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

District 5

Tracey S. Corey, M.D.
Rachel A. Lange, M.D.
Chantel Njiwaji, M.D.
Tracy L. Shipe, D.O.
(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)
(Michael Bell, M.D.)
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D.)
(James W. Fulcher, M.D.)
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(Jason R. Van Roo, M.D.)

District 6

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(Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.)
(Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Chantel Njiwaji, M.D.)
(Shanedelle S. Norford, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)
(Phouthasone Thirakul, M.D.)
(Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.)
(Russell S. Vega, M.D.)
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

District 7

Ruth Kohlmeier, M.D.
Mary G. Ripple, M.D.
(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)
(Marcela Chiste, M.D.)
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)
(Kailee Imperatore, M.D.)
(Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)
(Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.)
(Shanedelle S. Norford, M.D.)
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)
(Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)
(Lee Tormos, M.D.)

District 8

(Patricia Aronica, M.D.)
(Alexander Blank, M.D.)
(Brittany Glad, D.O.)
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)
(Kailee Imperatore, M.D.)
(Andrew Koopmeiners, M.D.)
(Ryan D. McCormick, M.D.)
(Noel Palma, M.D.)
(Noah D. Reilly, D.O.)

District 9

Brooke Blake, M.D.
Joy Edegbe, M.D.
Marie H. Hansen, M.D.
Soren L. Jensen, D.O.
Jenaye L. Mack, M.D.
Sandra A. Siller, M.D.
Tyson K. Sutherland, M.D.
Mariana Voudouri, M.D.
(Tracey S. Corey, M.D.)
(James Fulcher, M.D.)
(D. Fintan Garavan, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Julia V. Hegert, M.D.)
(Ruth Kohlmeier, M.D.)
(Rachel A. Lange, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Chantel Njiwaji, M.D.)
(Mary G. Ripple, M.D.)
(Tracy L. Shipe, D.O.)
(Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D.)
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

District 10

D. Fintan Garavan, M.D., Ph.D.
Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.
(Kelly G. Devers, M.D.)
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)
(Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)
(Wendy Lavezzi, M.D.)
(Ryan D. McCormick, M.D.)
(Daissy C. McEnnan, M.D.)
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)
(Ashley R. Perkins, D.O.)
(Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)
(Milad Webb, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

District 11

Nicholas Barna, M.D.
Katherine Kenerson, M.D.
Tyler Murray, D.O.
Tiffany Sheganoski, D.O.
Garrett Smith, M.D.
Abigail Woltering, M.D.
Tuyet Tran, D.O.
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)
(Iouri G. Boiko, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Manfred Borges, M.D.)
(Marcela Chiste, M.D.)
(Marta Coburn, M.D.)
(Erin Ely, M.D.)
(Gertrude M. Juste, M.D.)
(Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.)
(Mariana Voudouri, M.D.)
(Craig Mallak, M.D.)
(Catherine Miller, M.D.)
(Linda R. O'Neil, M.D.)
(Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.)
(Stephen Robinson, M.D.)
(Stacey A. Simons, M.D.)
(Terrill Tops, M.D.)
(Lee Marie Tormos, M.D.)
(Anthony Vinson, D.O.)

District 12

Omar Ansari, M.D.
Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.
Megan Schwietert, M.D.
Phouthasone Thirakul, M.D.
Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Robert R. Pfalzgraf, M.D.)
(Valerie J. Rao, M.D.)
(Wendolyn Sneed, M.D.)

District 13

Kelly G. Devers, M.D.
Ryan D. McCormick, M.D.
Ashley R. Perkins, D.O.
Noah D. Reilly, D.O.
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D.)
(D. Fintan Garavan, M.D., Ph.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Phouthasone Thirakul, M.D.)
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)
(Sara H. Zydowicz, D.O.)

District 14

(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)
(Katherine L. Kenerson, M.D.)
(Andrea N. Minyard, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)
(Phouthasone Thirakul, M.D.)

District 15

Natalia Belova, M.D.
Marcela Chiste, M.D.
Eric A. Eason, M.D.
Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.
Heidi Reinhard, M.D.
Terrill Tops, M.D.
Lee Marie Tormos, M.D.
Anthony Vinson, DO
(Michael Bell, M.D.)
(Nicholas Barna, M.D.)
(Kenneth D. Hutchins, M.D.)
(Alexis Jelinek, M.D.)
(Katherine L. Kenerson, M.D.)
(Benjamin Mathis, M.D.)
(Stacey A. Simons, M.D.)
(Tiffany Sheganoski, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)
(Michael Steckbauer, M.D.)
(Jon Thogmartin, M.D.)
(Tuyet Tran, M.D.)

District 16

(Iouri G. Boiko, M.D. Ph.D.)
(Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)

District 17

Iouri G. Boiko, M.D., Ph.D.
Alexander Blank, M.D.
Yanel De Los Santos, M.D.
Erin Ely, M.D.
Alexis Jelinek, M.D.
Gertrude M. Juste, M.D.
Brandon M. Maveal, M.D.
Stephen Robinson, M.D.
(Joseph Barna, M.D.)
(Natalia Belova, M.D.)
(Marcela Chiste, M.D.)
(Benjamin Mathis, M.D.)
(Heidi L. Reinhard, M.D.)
(Tuyet Tran, D.O.)

District 18

John S. Daniel, M.D.
Roshan Mahabir, M.D.
(Patricia A. Aronica, M.D.)
(Raman Baldizhar, M.D.)
(Barbara Bollinger, M.D.)
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D.)
(Brandon Maveal, M.D.)
(Adrienne Sauder, M.D.)

District 19

Raman Baldizhar, M.D.
Barbara Bollinger, M.D.
Stefanie J. Grewe, M.D.
Adrienne Sauder, M.D.
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)
(Joseph M. Curran, M.D.)
(Marie H. Hansen, M.D.)
(Gertrude M. Juste, M.D.)
(Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.)
(Rebecca M. MacDougall, M.D.)
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.)
(Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)
(Sara H. Zydowicz, D.O.)

District 20

Andrea N. Minyard, M.D.
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)
(Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D.)
(Emma O. Lew, M.D.)

District 21

Colin D. Appleford, D.O.
Noelia Alemar Hernandez, M.D.
Sarah C. Thomas, M.D.
(Wilson A. Broussard, Jr., M.D.)
(Emily R. Duncanson, M.D.)
(Katherine L. Kenerson, M.D.)
(Rachel A. Lange, M.D.)
(Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.)
(Shanedelle Norford, M.D.)
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)
(Phouthasone Thirakul, M.D.)
(Sara H. Zydowicz, D.O.)

District 22

Omar Ansari, M.D.
Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.
Valerie J. Rao, M.D.
(Wilson A. Broussard, Jr., M.D.)
(Phouthasone Thirakul, M.D.)
(Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.)

District 23

Iana Lesnikova, M.D.
(James W. Fulcher, M.D.)
(Ruth Kohlmeier, M.D.)
(Shanedelle Norford, M.D.)
(Robert Pfalzgraf, M.D.)

District 24

ME Services Provided by District 5

District 25

ME Services Provided by District 9

MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING

Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort
9300 Emerald Coast Parkway West
Miramar Beach, Florida 32550
August 4, 2026, 10:00 AM CDT

Commission Chairman Barbara C. Wolf, M.D., called the meeting of the Medical Examiners Commission (MEC) to order at **10:00 AM**. She advised those in the audience that the meetings of the MEC are open to the public and that members of the public will be allowed five minutes to speak. She then welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Commission members and staff members to introduce themselves.

Commission members present:

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D., Districts 5 & 24 Medical Examiner
Brian Fernandes, J.D., Chief Assistant Statewide Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General
Kenneth T. Jones, State Registrar, Department of Health
Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D., Funeral Director
Hon. Robert "Bob" Johnson, Santa Rosa County, Sheriff
Joshua Stephany, M.D., Districts 9 & 25 Medical Examiner (via phone)
Hon. Amira Fox, J.D., State Attorney, 20th Judicial Circuit (via phone)

Commission staff present:

Ashley Bullard
Megan Neel
Natalie Bielby, J.D.
Ashley Williams

District Medical Examiners present:

Deanna Oleske, M.D. (District 1)

Jay Radtke, M.D. (District 14)

Other District personnel present:

Lindsey Bayer (District 5 & 24)

John Copeland (District 1)

Guest present:

LWVI Representative (Illegible Signature)

LDSF Representative (Illegible Signature)

A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2026, MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING.

ISSUE NUMBER 1: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- Status Report: MEC Appointments and Reappointments: MEC Staff Manager Ashley Bullard informed the Commission that the MEC County Commissioner chair is still vacant.
- Status Report: DME Appointment and Reappointments: Ms. Bullard informed the Commission that a letter was sent to the Governor's Appointment Office recommending the reappointments of District

Medical Examiners by the Commission. Ms. Bullard also informed the Commission that we are still awaiting appointments and reappointments from the Governor's Appointments Office.

- 2025 Interim Drugs in Deceased Persons Report: MEC Staff Megan Neel informed the Commission that the interim drugs in deceased persons report was published on May 13, 2026, to the website and sent out to everyone.
- 2025 Annual Drugs in Deceased Persons Report: Ms. Megan Neel informed the Commission that that the drug data has been completed and currently in the review process.
- 2025 Annual Workload Report: Ms. Megan Neel advised that the report is currently being compiled and should be published in the near future. Ms. Neel also reminded everyone that the 2026 interim drug report data is due to her no later than September 30, 2026.
- 2025 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program Status Update: Ms. Ashley Williams informed the Commission that the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has approved on funds. Ms. Williams advised that Emily Oriti with Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) grants department will be contacting districts directly with the award packages and MOUs.

ISSUE NUMBER 2: UNIDENTIFIED DECEASED INITIATIVE

Ms. Bullard reported the following success story from District 13.

District 13 closed another cold case ID on a 2021 case using Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy. The remains of highly decomposed male were found on 11/25/2021 in a wooded area in Hillsborough County. Partial prints were sent to law enforcement for potential ID with no success with obtaining a positive ID. In 2022, a femur wedge was sent to the Pinellas County Forensic Lab and an STR DNA profile was uploaded to CODIS / NDIS for searching. To date, there have been no hits. Between 2025 and 2026, the Hillsborough County Medical Examiner Department worked with FDLE and obtained Senate Bill 678 grant funding for FIGG (Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy) for UHR cases. A sample was sent to Othram and on 05/19/2026, a FIGG report was received with an investigative lead for the decedent with a possible identity. Hillsborough County ME Department staff contacted family who confirmed there had been no contact with decedent. A head CT from a medical facility in 2010 was obtained and compared to the postmortem imaging from the morgue. District 13 confirmed the identity and family was notified.

ISSUE NUMBER 3: EMERGING DRUGS UPDATE

MEC Staff, Megan Neel, provided the Commission with an update on new drug trends on behalf of Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D. The toxicology laboratory directors continue to meet bimonthly to discuss the prevalence and emergence of drugs, including novel psychoactive substances (NPS), in the state of Florida. Meeting participants also include representatives from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Medical Examiners Commission, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Florida Department of Health, the Florida Fusion Center, and the Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. The directors met on June 1, 2026, and August 3, 2026. Toxicology laboratory directors continue to report significant decreases in the prevalence of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) identified in decedents, including novel benzodiazepines, synthetic cathinones, illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF), fentanyl analogs, and nitazenes. Cocaine, fentanyl, and methamphetamine remain the predominant drugs detected in decedents. Notably, no -orphine derivatives have been identified in the state to date. Other NPS and emerging drugs identified in casework include

acetylfentanyl, α -PiHPP (iso-PV8), bromazolam, carfentanil, ethylbromazolam, fluorofentanyl, ketamine, 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), ortho-methylfentanyl, phenazolam, and synthetic cannabinoids. Adulterants identified in decedents include levamisole, medetomidine, and xylazine.

Of particular concern is the evolving role of mitragynine and its alkaloids—including 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), mitragynine pseudoindoxyl (MP), and dihydro-7-hydroxymitragynine (MGM-15)—in fatal drug overdoses in Florida. These alkaloids exhibit potent μ -opioid receptor agonist activity and are associated with an increased risk of fatal overdose. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Medical Examiners Commission immediately implement statewide surveillance of deaths involving mitragynine and its alkaloids.

Dr. Jay Radtke of District 14 inquired about which column to use when listing mitragynine and its alkaloids. Ms. Megan Neel advised that the drugs could be placed in the analytes column.

ISSUE NUMBER 4: OTHER BUSINESS

District 14 Medical Examiner Jay Radtke, M.D. raised concerns regarding the complaint process and the interpretation of F.S. 406.075(2), stating that medical examiners should receive the full complaint in writing and questioning how the substance of a complaint is determined. Ashley Williams explained that Commission staff reviews complaints to identify potential violations within MEC jurisdiction and provides the relevant substance of the complaint to the medical examiner while requesting the complete case record. Dr. Radtke noted he had received full complaints in previous proceedings, while MEC staff stated that current practice has been to provide only the substance of the complaint, consistent with statutory language. Natalie Bielby, FDLE Counsel, advised that the substance of a complaint is not the same as the entire complaint. The matter was tabled pending further review of historical records, policies, procedures, and applicable statutes.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 A.M.

BCC Mtg. Date: September 27, 2022

REGION 5 MEDICAL EXAMINER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is entered into between the Medical Examiner Offices within the Regional Domestic Security Task Force Region 5 (Indian River, Lake, Martin, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, St. Lucie, and Volusia Counties).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the region's Medical Examiner Offices desire to enter into a mutually advantageous agreement to provide resources to each other in a mass fatality event;

WHEREAS, a mass fatality event can tax or even overwhelm individual Medical Examiner Offices quickly; and

WHEREAS, cooperation and support from Medical Examiner Offices from across the region can mitigate the impacts of mass fatality event.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:

- A. **Recitals.** The foregoing recitals are true and incorporated herein by reference.
- B. **Intent.** The parties entering into this MOU hereby agree to assist each other, to the extent possible, by providing available equipment, personnel, and space in the event of a mass fatality event.
- C. **Responsibilities of Parties.** The Region 5 Medical Examiner Offices will:
 - 1. Agree to provide equipment, personnel or space to a requesting Medical Examiner impacted by a mass fatality event, within the capabilities of the responding Medical Examiner Office(s). At no time will the responding Medical Examiner Office(s) be expected to place themselves into a resource shortage to comply with this provision. The definition of "resource shortage" will be determined by the individual Medical Examiner Office based on their internal decision-making process.
 - 2. The requesting Medical Examiner Office will track any resources provided by the responding Medical Examiner Office(s), and facilitate return of any durable resources, and seek reimbursement from the state for any consumable resources provided.
 - 3. The responding Medical Examiner Office will be responsible for continued pay to deployed personnel. The Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition will provide accident insurance and medical liability insurance to deployed personnel. The requesting Medical Examiner Office will be responsible for command of deployed personnel;

however, said deployed personnel shall not be deemed employees of the requesting Medical Examiner.

D. **Notices.** Any notice delivered with respect to this MOU must be in writing and will be deemed to be delivered (whether or not actually received) when (i) hand delivered to the persons designated below, or (ii) when deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the person at the address for the party as set forth below, or such other address or to such other person as the party may have specified by written notice to the other party delivered according to this section:

As to District 5/24 Medical Examiner (**Lake/Seminole Counties**):

Barbara Wolf, M.D.
District Medical Examiner
809 Pine Street
Leesburg, Florida 34748

As to District 7 Medical Examiner (**Volusia County**):

James Fulcher, M.D.
District Medical Examiner
1360 Indian Lake Road
Daytona Beach, FL 32124-1001

As to District 9/25 Medical Examiner (**Orange/Osceola Counties**):

Joshua Stephany, M.D.
District Medical Examiner
2350 East Michigan Street
Orlando, FL 32806

As to District 19 Medical Examiner (**Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie Counties**):

Patricia Aronica, M.D.
District Medical Examiner
2500 South 35th Street
Ft. Pierce, FL 34981

E. **Indemnification.** Each party agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the other Party, its officials and employees from all claims, actions, losses, suits, judgments, fines, liabilities, costs and expenses (including attorney's fees) attributable to its negligent acts or omissions, or those of its officials and employees acting within the scope of their employment or arising out of or resulting from the indemnifying party's negligent performance under this agreement. Nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity or the provisions of Section 768.28, Florida Statutes. The foregoing shall not constitute an agreement

by either party to assume any liability for the acts, omissions and/or negligence of the other party.

F. **Insurance.** Without waiving its right to sovereign immunity as provided in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, each party acknowledges to be self-insured for General Liability and Automobile Liability with coverage limits as set forth in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

Each party agrees to maintain commercial insurance or to be self-insured for Workers' Compensation & Employers' Liability in accordance with Florida Statute 440.

Upon request each party shall provide an affidavit or Certificate of Insurance evidencing self-insurance or commercial insurance up to sovereign immunity limits, which both parties agree to find acceptable for the coverage mentioned above.

Either party's failure to request proof of insurance or to identify any deficiency in coverage or compliance with the foregoing requirements shall not relieve the other Party of its liability and obligations under this agreement.

The parties shall require all contractors performing work in support of this Agreement to procure and maintain workers' compensation, commercial general liability, business auto liability coverage. Each party shall be listed as an additional insured on all general liability policies.

G. **Employee Status.** Persons employed by one party in the performance of services and functions pursuant to this MOU are deemed not to be the employees or agents of any other party, nor do these employees have any claims to pensions, worker's compensation, unemployment compensation, civil service, or other employee rights or privileges granted to such other party's officers and employees either by operation of law or by such other party.

H. **Counterparts.** This MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

I. **Term.** This MOU is effective as of the date last signed below and shall remain in effect for two years thereafter ("initial term"). After the initial term, this MOU shall automatically renew for subsequent two-year terms unless terminated as set forth herein.

J. **Termination.** Any party may terminate this MOU for convenience upon at least thirty (30) days written notice to the other parties as set forth above.

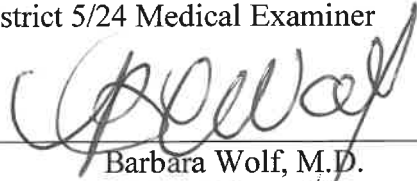
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this MOU to be executed on behalf of their respective entities, their successors and assigns, on the dates set forth below.

**LAKE AND SEMINOLE COUNTIES
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

By: District 5/24 Medical Examiner

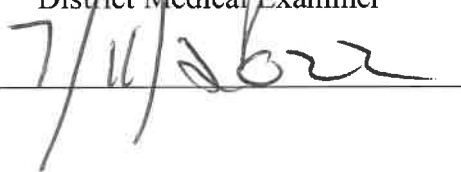
By: _____



Barbara Wolf, M.D.

District Medical Examiner

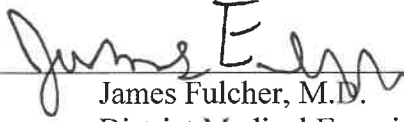
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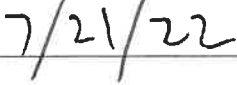


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**VOLUSIA COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

By: District 7 Medical Examiner

By: 
James Fulcher, M.D.
District Medical Examiner

Date: 

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ORANGE COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE



By: Orange County Board of County Commissioners

By: *Jerry L. Demings*
for Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

Date: September 27, 2022

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**OSCEOLA COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

By: Osceola County Board of County
Commissioners

By: 
Don Fisher
Osceola County Manager

Date: 3/12/22

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**INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, AND ST. LUCIE
COUNTIES MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

By: District 19 Medical Examiner

By: _____

Patricia Aronica, M.D.
District Medical Examiner

Date: _____

7-28-22

Florida Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Optimization Initiative (MDI-DOI) Updates

Toxicology Laboratory Survey

Assessment of Florida forensic toxicology laboratories to understand their capacity, challenges, and data sharing processes.

- Survey conducted Feb – Mar 2026
- Responses collected from:
 - ME district “in-house” labs
 - Axis Forensic Toxicology
 - NMS Labs
 - University of Florida Forensic Toxicology Laboratory

Florida
HEALTH



EDRS/CMS Integration

Building connections to securely share data.

- Coordinating with CMS vendors on requirements for building connections between EDRS and Case Management Systems
- EDRS/CMS integration will support:
 - Support bi-directional data sharing
 - Reduce or eliminate dual data entry across systems
 - Support more timely closure for families



Florida
HEALTH

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MDI-DOI Data Sharing Tool

Designing an analytics platform to support secure data sharing.



Florida
HEALTH

Goals

- Facilitate data sharing between ME Offices and DOH
- Support coordination with FDLE for required reporting
- Build on EDRS-CMS Integration

MDI-DOI Feasibility Study

- Outline requirements and next steps for building the platform
- ME input will be crucial to ensure the platform is useful and works across ME districts

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