

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**Inter-Office Communication**

**Date:** November 3, 2022

**To:** Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson  
Supervisor Felesia A. Martin, Chair, Committee on Audit

**From:** Jennifer L. Folliard, Director of Audits

**Subject:** Status Report – Medical Examiner’s Office Audit (File No. 19-348)

At their April 2019 meetings, the Committees on Finance & Audit and Judiciary, Safety and General Services reviewed our audit report “Milwaukee County Autopsies have Increased 7.8% Since 2013, Autopsies for Referral Counties Increased 111.7%. A lack of Contracts for Most of the Referral Counties is a Concern,” and adopted a resolution indicating County Board concurrence with the report recommendations.

Attached is a copy of the executive summary page from the audit report for your reference.

A copy of the complete audit report can be accessed on the Comptroller’s website via the following link:

<https://county.milwaukee.gov/files/county/comptroller/Audit/Audit-Reports1/2019/UpdatedMedicalExaminerReport01-16-20201.pdf>

Also attached is the Medical Examiner’s most recent status report communicating its progress toward implementation of the audit report recommendations. Based on information provided by the Office of the Medical Examiner, only recommendation 6 remains open.

In its update to recommendation 6, the Medical Examiner’s Office reported that invoices for referral autopsies were sent out using the new billing system. The Medical Examiner’s Office added that its next step is to test payment processing in the system. We will confer with the Medical Examiner’s Office in the coming months to assess the functionality of the payment processing aspect of the billing process.

Further, while recommendation 4 remains in closed status, we continue monitor it. The Medical Examiner’s Office again confirmed that due to its ever-increasing caseload of Milwaukee County cases, it has stopped doing referral autopsies for any county for which it does not currently have a contract in place.

This status report is informational and we will continue to follow-up with Medical Examiner’s Office to facilitate the submission of its next status report at the sooner of the completion of the outstanding recommendation or the June 2023 committee meeting cycle.

Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson  
Supervisor Felesia A. Martin, Chair, Committee on Audit  
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Jennifer L. Folliard

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Attachments

cc: Scott B. Manske, CPA, Milwaukee County Comptroller  
Audit Committee Members  
David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive  
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services  
Wieslawa Tlomak, M.D., Interim Chief Medical Examiner  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board Staff  
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller  
Ciara Miller, Research Analyst, Office of the Comptroller  
Janelle Jensen, Manager, Legislative Services Division  
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Audit Committee