

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

**Date:** November 12, 2021

**To:** Chairwoman Marcella Nicholson  
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor, 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 fifth status report communicating its progress toward implementation of the audit report recommendations. Based on information provided by the Office of the Medical Examiner in the status report, we have concluded that one of the seven recommendations remain open.

In its update to recommendation 6, the Medical Examiner reported that training has been completed for the November 1, 2021 start of the new billing system for referral autopsies. We will confer with the Medical Examiner’s Office in the coming months for an assessment of the functionality of the new billing process.

Further, while we have closed out recommendation 4 for now, we will continue to check on the status of this recommendation regarding the execution of contracts or letters of engagement with referring counties. The Medical Examiner’s Office noted that due to its ever-increasing caseload of Milwaukee County cases, it has stopped doing referral autopsies for any county it does not currently have a contract with. We will continue to review the status of this for our next follow-up report due to the evolving nature of autopsy workload.

This status report is informational and we will facilitate the submission of the Medical Examiner’s next status report at the sooner of the completion of the recommendations or the June 2022 committee meeting cycle.

Chairwoman Marcella Nicholson  
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor, 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  
Brian Peterson, M.D., Medical Examiner  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board Staff  
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller  
Janelle Jensen, Manager, Legislative Services Division  
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Audit Committee