

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 21, 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 fourth status report communicating its progress toward implementation of the audit report recommendations. Based on information provided in the status report, we have concluded that two of the seven recommendations remain open.

In its update to recommendation 4, regarding the execution of contracts or letters of engagement with referring counties, the Medical Examiner’s Office indicated that it is working with Corporation Counsel and Risk Management to craft a letter of engagement to use with referring counties not covered by a contract.

In addition, the Medical Examiner noted that while it is awaiting guidance regarding inclusion of an autopsy invoicing function in the new ERP system, as suggested in recommendation 6, it is engaged with IMSD in the build-out of its current billing system to include referral revenue.

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 December 2021 committee meeting cycle.

Chairwoman Marcella Nicholson
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor, Chair, Committee on Audit
May 21, 2021
Page Two



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, Acting 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
Emily Petersen, Research Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Janelle Jensen, Manager, Legislative Services Division
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Audit Committee