

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 24, 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, we have concluded that one of the seven recommendations remain open.

In its update to recommendation 6, the Medical Examiner reported that while training has been completed for the new billing system for referral autopsies, additional items remain to be resolved prior to use of it. 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 recommendation 4 remains in closed status, we continue monitor it. The Medical Examiner’s Office again confirmed in the current status report 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 facilitate the submission of the Medical Examiner’s next status report at the completion of the recommendations or the December 2022 committee meeting cycle, whichever is earliest.

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
Brian Peterson, M.D., Medical Examiner
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
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, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Audit Committee, Office of the County Clerk