



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 27, 2017

**DATE:** June 7, 2017

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Justin Norton, Regional Medical Examiner's Office  
(775) 785-6114, [jnorton@washoecounty.us](mailto:jnorton@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner

**SUBJECT:** Approve agreements between Washoe County and the following counties and agencies: Douglas County, Churchill County, and Modoc County for forensic pathology services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office for a period of up to three years effective July 1, 2017 (All Commission Districts.)

### SUMMARY

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office requests that the Board approve agreements between Washoe County and the following counties and agencies: Douglas County, Churchill County, and Modoc County for forensic pathology services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office for a period of up to three years effective July 1, 2017.

### **Washoe County Strategic Objectives supported by this item:**

Safe, secure and healthy communities  
Regional and community leadership  
Proactive economic development and diversification

### PREVIOUS ACTION

March 14, 2017 – Board approval of updated fee schedule for forensic pathology services  
April 8, 2014 – Board approval of agreements for forensic pathology services  
March 11, 2014 – Board approval of agreement with NV Dept. of Corrections for forensic pathology services  
July 2008 – Board approval of agreements for forensic pathology services

AGENDA ITEM # 5.D

## **BACKGROUND**

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office provides forensic autopsies, medical examinations, and medicolegal consultations to nineteen agencies outside of Washoe County. In 2008, formal Interlocal Agreements were created between Washoe County and each of these counties/agencies. The agreements were renewed in 2014 and are due for renewal this year. In March 2017, the Board approved a new fee schedule for the services covered by these agreements.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office anticipates revenues generated by all Interlocal Agreements to exceed \$940,000 in Fiscal Year 2018. Revenues received from the participating agencies will be deposited to C153010-460341|Medical Examiner Fees and C153010-460318|Toxicology Fees.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve agreements between Washoe County and the following counties and agencies: Douglas County, Churchill County, and Modoc County for forensic pathology services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office for a period of up to three years effective July 1, 2017.

## **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve agreements between Washoe County and the following counties and agencies: Douglas County, Churchill County, and Modoc County for forensic pathology services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office for a period of up to three years effective July 1, 2017."

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT  
FOR FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES**

THIS AGREEMENT is made the 1st day of July, 2017, by and between Douglas County on behalf of its Sheriff/Coroner (hereinafter "County") and Washoe County, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada on behalf of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (hereinafter "WCRMEO").

WHEREAS the Interlocal Cooperation Act authorizes public agencies to enter into cooperative agreements allowing the joint exercise of any power, privilege or authority capable of exercise by one of them, see, NRS 277.080, et.seq.; and

WHEREAS County and WCRMEO are public agencies with the meaning of the Interlocal Cooperation Act, and

WHEREAS County desires that WCRMEO provide forensic autopsies, medical examinations and medicolegal consultations to County as needed; and

WHEREAS WCRMEO is willing and able to provide such services for County;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows:

1. Services:

A medical examiner or forensic pathologist with WCRMEO will perform forensic autopsies, medical examinations and medicolegal consultations deemed necessary by County in consultation with WCRMEO.

Traumatic or suspicious death cases occurring in County which County determines require a forensic autopsy or medical examination or medicolegal consultation may be referred to WCRMEO. County shall notify WCRMEO and provide necessary records as soon as possible after County determines that the referral is necessary and in any event before the body is transported to the WCRMEO facility.

Autopsies, medical examinations and medicolegal consultations shall be conducted by WCRMEO in accordance with WCRMEO policies.

WCRMEO will complete a written report on all autopsy and medical examination cases conducted for County and will provide that report to County in a timely manner.

2. Storage and Release of Bodies:

Bodies sent to WCRMEO for examination shall be returned to County through the funeral home that brought them, or if otherwise requested pursuant to the desire of next-of-kin or responsible entity, may be released to a local funeral home.

3. Compensation:

County shall pay WCRMEO for services rendered pursuant to this Agreement at rates to be set periodically by formal resolution approved and authorized by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. WCRMEO shall issue an invoice for services rendered. The established rates shall include x-ray examinations deemed necessary by WCRMEO in consultation with County, but do not include microscopic slide preparation, anthropologic examinations, dental examinations, toxicology studies, other laboratory tests (metabolic studies, fluid chemistry studies, bacterial and viral cultures, etc.), subspecialty pathology examinations, or transportation of decedents.

4. Term:

This Agreement will commence on the 1st day of July, 2017, and become effective once approved by appropriate official action of the governing body of each party. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of up to three years from its effective date, unless terminated sooner pursuant to Section 6 (below) under the discretion of the parties. The Agreement may be renewed by addendum at the discretion of the parties and upon appropriate official action of the governing body of each party.

5. Amendment and Assignment:

This Agreement may be amended at any time there is a need, provided both parties agree to the amendment(s) in writing. Any amendment is subject to approval by the governing bodies of the parties as a condition precedent to its entry into force. Pursuant to NRS 332.095, neither party may assign this Agreement without the express written consent of the other party.

6. Termination:

This Agreement may be terminated at any time by either party upon 30 (thirty) days written notice, without cause or penalty. In addition, in the event that the governing body appropriating funds for WCRMEO fails to obligate the funds necessary to fund the office beyond the then-current fiscal period, this Agreement shall be terminated without penalty, charge or sanction.

7. Records and Confidentiality:

- a. Records Distribution – When completed, examination documents generated by WCRMEO (death narrative, record of death, postmortem examination report, and laboratory and toxicology studies) shall be delivered to County along with the invoices for services and testing. Any requests for copies of such documents that may be made to WCRMEO will be referred to County as the custodian of those records.
- b. Confidentiality – Except as set forth in this Agreement and pursuant to Nevada law and Washoe County Code, WCRMEO will not release any information on cases referred by County. There will be an exception for urgent media inquiries and press releases. In these instances WCRMEO will attempt to coordinate with County.

8. Reciprocal Indemnification:

County agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Washoe County and WCRMEO, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against, any and all claims demands, or actions, by any person or entity which arise or result from any act or omission to act on the part of any officers, employees, and agents of County in connection with the services provided to County by WCRMEO pursuant to this Agreement.

Washoe County and WCRMEO agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless County, its officers, employees, and agents, from, and against, any and all claims, demands, or actions by any person or entity which arise or result from any act or omission to act on the part of any officers, employees, and agents of Washoe County in connection with the services provided by WCRMEO to County pursuant to this Agreement.

The parties do not waive and intend to assert any liability limitations available under law, including but not limited to those defenses available under chapter 41 of Nevada Revised Statutes in all cases.

9. Interpretation:

The laws of the State of Nevada shall apply in interpreting this Agreement, and venue for any dispute arising from the interpretation of the Agreement shall be the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada in and for the County of Washoe.

10. Incorporation:

This Agreement and the Attachments hereto constitute the complete and final Agreement of the parties with regard to the subject matter herein, and supersedes all prior agreements, both written and oral, and all other written and oral communications between the parties.

11. Liaison:

The parties designate the following persons to serve as contacts for purposes of this Agreement:

Justin Norton \_\_\_\_\_  
Washoe County \_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Medical Examiner's Office \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. Box 11130 \_\_\_\_\_  
Reno, NV 89520 \_\_\_\_\_

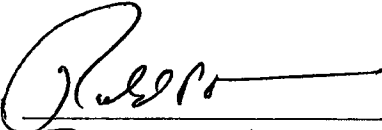
12. Authority to Enter Into Agreement:

Each of the persons signing below on behalf of any party hereby represents and warrants that s/he or it is signing with full and complete authority to bind the party on whose behalf of whom s/he or it is signing, to each and every term of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the representatives of the parties have set their hand:

COUNTY

WASHOE COUNTY

By:   
Ronald C. Proctor, Sheriff  
Douglas County Sheriff's Office

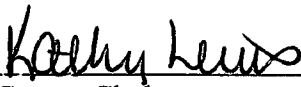
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Lucey, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

DATED: 5-26-17

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

By:   
County Clerk  
Douglas County

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk  
Washoe County

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT  
FOR FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES**

THIS AGREEMENT is made the 1st day of July, 2017, by and between Churchill County on behalf of its Sheriff/Coroner (hereinafter "County") and Washoe County, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada on behalf of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (hereinafter "WCRMEO").

WHEREAS the Interlocal Cooperation Act authorizes public agencies to enter into cooperative agreements allowing the joint exercise of any power, privilege or authority capable of exercise by one of them, see, NRS 277.080, et.seq.; and

WHEREAS County and WCRMEO are public agencies with the meaning of the Interlocal Cooperation Act, and

WHEREAS County desires that WCRMEO provide forensic autopsies, medical examinations and medicolegal consultations to County as needed; and

WHEREAS WCRMEO is willing and able to provide such services for County;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows:

1. Services:

A medical examiner or forensic pathologist with WCRMEO will perform forensic autopsies, medical examinations and medicolegal consultations deemed necessary by County in consultation with WCRMEO.

Traumatic or suspicious death cases occurring in County which County determines require a forensic autopsy or medical examination or medicolegal consultation may be referred to WCRMEO. County shall notify WCRMEO and provide necessary records as soon as possible after County determines that the referral is necessary and in any event before the body is transported to the WCRMEO facility.

Autopsies, medical examinations and medicolegal consultations shall be conducted by WCRMEO in accordance with WCRMEO policies.

WCRMEO will complete a written report on all autopsy and medical examination cases conducted for County and will provide that report to County in a timely manner.

2. Storage and Release of Bodies:

Bodies sent to WCRMEO for examination shall be returned to County through the funeral home that brought them, or if otherwise requested pursuant to the desire of next-of-kin or responsible entity, may be released to a local funeral home.

3. Compensation:

County shall pay WCRMEO for services rendered pursuant to this Agreement at rates to be set periodically by formal resolution approved and authorized by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. WCRMEO shall issue an invoice for services rendered. The established rates shall include x-ray examinations deemed necessary by WCRMEO in consultation with County, but do not include microscopic slide preparation, anthropologic examinations, dental examinations, toxicology studies, other laboratory tests (metabolic studies, fluid chemistry studies, bacterial and viral cultures, etc.), subspecialty pathology examinations, or transportation of decedents.

4. Term:

This Agreement will commence on the 1st day of July, 2017, and become effective once approved by appropriate official action of the governing body of each party. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of up to three years from its effective date, unless terminated sooner pursuant to Section 6 (below) under the discretion of the parties. The Agreement may be renewed by addendum at the discretion of the parties and upon appropriate official action of the governing body of each party.

5. Amendment and Assignment:

This Agreement may be amended at any time there is a need, provided both parties agree to the amendment(s) in writing. Any amendment is subject to approval by the governing bodies of the parties as a condition precedent to its entry into force. Pursuant to NRS 332.095, neither party may assign this Agreement without the express written consent of the other party.

6. Termination:

This Agreement may be terminated at any time by either party upon 30 (thirty) days written notice, without cause or penalty. In addition, in the event that the governing body appropriating funds for WCRMEO fails to obligate the funds necessary to fund the office beyond the then-current fiscal period, this Agreement shall be terminated without penalty, charge or sanction.

7. Records and Confidentiality:

- a. Records Distribution – When completed, examination documents generated by WCRMEO (death narrative, record of death, postmortem examination report, and laboratory and toxicology studies) shall be delivered to County along with the invoices for services and testing. Any requests for copies of such documents that may be made to WCRMEO will be referred to County as the custodian of those records.
- b. Confidentiality – Except as set forth in this Agreement and pursuant to Nevada law and Washoe County Code, WCRMEO will not release any information on cases referred by County. There will be an exception for urgent media inquiries and press releases. In these instances WCRMEO will attempt to coordinate with County.



8. Reciprocal Indemnification:

County agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Washoe County and WCRMEO, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against, any and all claims demands, or actions, by any person or entity which arise or result from any act or omission to act on the part of any officers, employees, and agents of County in connection with the services provided to County by WCRMEO pursuant to this Agreement.

Washoe County and WCRMEO agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless County, its officers, employees, and agents, from, and against, any and all claims, demands, or actions by any person or entity which arise or result from any act or omission to act on the part of any officers, employees, and agents of Washoe County in connection with the services provided by WCRMEO to County pursuant to this Agreement.

The parties do not waive and intend to assert any liability limitations available under law, including but not limited to those defenses available under chapter 41 of Nevada Revised Statutes in all cases.

9. Interpretation:

The laws of the State of Nevada shall apply in interpreting this Agreement, and venue for any dispute arising from the interpretation of the Agreement shall be the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada in and for the County of Washoe.

10. Incorporation:

This Agreement and the Attachments hereto constitute the complete and final Agreement of the parties with regard to the subject matter herein, and supersedes all prior agreements, both written and oral, and all other written and oral communications between the parties.

11. Liaison:

The parties designate the following persons to serve as contacts for purposes of this Agreement:

Justin Norton  
Washoe County  
Regional Medical Examiner's Office  
P.O. Box 11130  
Reno, NV 89520

Richard Hickox  
Churchill County Sheriff's Office  
73 N. Maine St.  
Fallon, NV 89406

12. Authority to Enter Into Agreement:

Each of the persons signing below on behalf of any party hereby represents and warrants that s/he or it is signing with full and complete authority to bind the party on whose behalf of whom s/he or it is signing, to each and every term of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the representatives of the parties have set their hand:

COUNTY

WASHOE COUNTY

By: Benjamin D. Trotter  
Benjamin D. Trotter  
Churchill County Sheriff

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Lucey, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

DATED: May 24, 2017

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk  
Churchill County

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk  
Washoe County

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT  
FOR FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES**

THIS AGREEMENT is made the 1st day of July, 2017, by and between Modoc County on behalf of its Sheriff/Coroner (hereinafter "County") and Washoe County, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada on behalf of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (hereinafter "WCRMEO").

WHEREAS the Interlocal Cooperation Act authorizes public agencies to enter into cooperative agreements allowing the joint exercise of any power, privilege or authority capable of exercise by one of them, see, NRS 277.080, et.seq.; and

WHEREAS County and WCRMEO are public agencies with the meaning of the Interlocal Cooperation Act, and

WHEREAS County desires that WCRMEO provide forensic autopsies, medical examinations and medicolegal consultations to County as needed; and

WHEREAS WCRMEO is willing and able to provide such services for County;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows:

1. Services:

A medical examiner or forensic pathologist with WCRMEO will perform forensic autopsies, medical examinations and medicolegal consultations deemed necessary by County in consultation with WCRMEO.

Traumatic or suspicious death cases occurring in County which County determines require a forensic autopsy or medical examination or medicolegal consultation may be referred to WCRMEO. County shall notify WCRMEO and provide necessary records as soon as possible after County determines that the referral is necessary and in any event before the body is transported to the WCRMEO facility.

Autopsies, medical examinations and medicolegal consultations shall be conducted by WCRMEO in accordance with WCRMEO policies.

WCRMEO will complete a written report on all autopsy and medical examination cases conducted for County and will provide that report to County in a timely manner.

2. Storage and Release of Bodies:

Bodies sent to WCRMEO for examination shall be returned to County through the funeral home that brought them, or if otherwise requested pursuant to the desire of next-of-kin or responsible entity, may be released to a local funeral home.

3. Compensation:

County shall pay WCRMEO for services rendered pursuant to this Agreement at rates to be set periodically by formal resolution approved and authorized by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. WCRMEO shall issue an invoice for services rendered. The established rates shall include x-ray examinations deemed necessary by WCRMEO in consultation with County, but do not include microscopic slide preparation, anthropologic examinations, dental examinations, toxicology studies, other laboratory tests (metabolic studies, fluid chemistry studies, bacterial and viral cultures, etc.), subspecialty pathology examinations, or transportation of decedents.

4. Term:

This Agreement will commence on the 1st day of July, 2017, and become effective once approved by appropriate official action of the governing body of each party. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of up to three years from its effective date, unless terminated sooner pursuant to Section 6 (below) under the discretion of the parties. The Agreement may be renewed by addendum at the discretion of the parties and upon appropriate official action of the governing body of each party.

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- a. Records Distribution – When completed, examination documents generated by WCRMEO (death narrative, record of death, postmortem examination report, and laboratory and toxicology studies) shall be delivered to County along with the invoices for services and testing. Any requests for copies of such documents that may be made to WCRMEO will be referred to County as the custodian of those records.
- b. Confidentiality – Except as set forth in this Agreement and pursuant to Nevada law and Washoe County Code, WCRMEO will not release any information on cases referred by County. There will be an exception for urgent media inquiries and press releases. In these instances WCRMEO will attempt to coordinate with County.

8. Reciprocal Indemnification:

County agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Washoe County and WCRMEO, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against, any and all claims demands, or actions, by any person or entity which arise or result from any act or omission to act on the part of any officers, employees, and agents of County in connection with the services provided to County by WCRMEO pursuant to this Agreement.

Washoe County and WCRMEO agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless County, its officers, employees, and agents, from, and against, any and all claims, demands, or actions by any person or entity which arise or result from any act or omission to act on the part of any officers, employees, and agents of Washoe County in connection with the services provided by WCRMEO to County pursuant to this Agreement.

The parties do not waive and intend to assert any liability limitations available under law, including but not limited to those defenses available under chapter 41 of Nevada Revised Statutes in all cases.

9. Interpretation:

The laws of the State of Nevada shall apply in interpreting this Agreement, and venue for any dispute arising from the interpretation of the Agreement shall be the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada in and for the County of Washoe.

10. Incorporation:

This Agreement and the Attachments hereto constitute the complete and final Agreement of the parties with regard to the subject matter herein, and supersedes all prior agreements, both written and oral, and all other written and oral communications between the parties.

11. Liaison:

The parties designate the following persons to serve as contacts for purposes of this Agreement:

Justin Norton  
Washoe County  
Regional Medical Examiner's Office  
P.O. Box 11130  
Reno, NV 89520

TEX DOWDY  
MOHAVE COUNTY  
UNDER-SHERIFF ASSISTANT CORNER  
211 E 1<sup>ST</sup> ST  
ALTURA, CA. 96101

12. Authority to Enter Into Agreement:

Each of the persons signing below on behalf of any party hereby represents and warrants that s/he or it is signing with full and complete authority to bind the party on whose behalf of whom s/he or it is signing, to each and every term of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the representatives of the parties have set their hand:

COUNTY

WASHOE COUNTY

By: *Mark P. ...*  
*Modoc County Sheriff/Coroner*

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Lucey, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

DATED: *May 24, 2017*

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk  
Modoc County

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk  
Washoe County