

Mortuary Science Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

DECEMBER 6, 2022

Date and time: December 6, 2022, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chair: Catherine Lloyd & Jane Danner

Attendees

Ad Hoc Attendees

- Robert Archbold
- Lindsey Ballard
- Brian Dingman
- Shannon Gilbertson
- Carmella Hansen
- Marilaurice Hemlock
- John Huot
- Tim Koch
- Mike Kosloski
- Paul Maher
- Mike Mathews
- Jordan McReavy-Sietz
- Dominic Pierre
- Joe Sellwood
- Michael D Sharkey

- Kevin Waterston
- Stephen B. Willwerscheid

MDH Staff Attendees

- Jane Danner
- Catherine Lloyd
- Daphne Ponds
- Julianna Leintz
- Rosa Mendoza
- Robert Dehler
- Debbie Thao
- Rick Michals
- Alison Helm
- Marguerite Slonine
- Carlana Weiland
- Erika Fulgern

Introductions and Welcome

Catherine Lloyd will be providing some context for these meetings pre-COVID and today.

Last meeting was 01-16-2020; we are happy to restart after the long hiatus. Commissioner's duties are laid out in Chapter 149 A specifically 149.03 to evaluate laws, rules, and procedures regulating the practice of mortuary science, to revise the standards for licensing, and to improve the regulatory and enforcement methods and to initiate proceedings to address and remedy inconsistencies in the laws, rules and procedures.

The ad hoc committee started when we were developing alkaline hydrolysis facility licensing standards and continued with other issues as they presented.

In 2019 HRD revised our purpose to provide our perspective on the industry.

1. Professional Licensing and regulation
2. Facility licensing
3. Scope of practice

4. Investigation and
5. Licensing administration by HRD

Voted on clinical standards, labor shortages, scope of practice, baccalaureate standards, internship, apprenticeship, dual licensure, crematory licensure, standards within industry, pre-need, green burials, community standards, refrigeration, cultural issues, direct burials.

- Do we need more info about death doulas?

Our goal then was to expand on statewide engagement activities. Find out what is happening in the industry and where the gaps are that need to be addressed.

We want to think about what we've learned and what the pandemic taught us.

- Who is missing from the conversation?
- Dealing with ambiguous loss. How did that affect your business?
- Multicultural groups are important too and we'd like to reach more of them.
- Words like trauma keep coming up.

Thank you for the service and the education you provide.

The Mortuary Science Section of the Minnesota Department of Health initiated an ad hoc committee in 2014 to strengthen communication with the industry and to discuss issues pertaining to regulation that affect practitioners, their clients, the public, and MDH as the regulatory body.

Feedback

None offered.

Future Meetings

- Tuesday February 14 - 2:00-4:00
- Tuesday May 9 - 2:00-4:00
- Tuesday August 8 - 2:00-4:00
- Tuesday November 14 - 2:00-4:00

Meetings will be open and are public – Request feedback on how to reach others the meeting was posted on our website. If we go down the path of including the public, we'll need to spend a lot of our time on education.

Meetings will be held over Teams; we are willing to consider a hybrid approach. If we hold meetings in person consider having the meetings out-state to bring in as many people and issues as possible.

Larger topics and breakout sessions were a nice format from our 2019 meetings.

When we meet, having 1 or 2 topics we can focus on ahead of time and bring feedback to the meetings is very helpful.

Industry Updates (investigators)

- Evaluator Updates: Complaints, Investigations, and Letters of Non-Contagious
- Erika Fulgern – Since Jan 2020 we have 40 active investigations

- Carlena Weiland – investigations
 - Letters of non-contagious require embalming reports and don't have all of the information required for statutory requirement.
- Legislative Update from Daphne Ponds – MDH asked to provide comments for HF 3466 Human Composting bill. MDH suggested some additional language regarding disposition. HUOT bill brought forward needs to be brought by a legislator. There is a lobby regarding this issue. Death certificates are getting to be a mess; waits are 6-9 months. 120 days to get a death certificate from funeral home directors. Some states have “shell issue laws” after a # of days the medical examiner is responsible.
- Lindsey Ballard included a link to Cremation Assoc of North America position statements: <https://www.cremationassociation.org/page/PositionStatements>

MortSci Exam Update

It is time to update the exam. Initial work has been done by Alison Helm and Rick Michals and MDH. Initial feedback is coming in on what is needed to update the exam. You will hear more from MDH soon. Please reach out with comments or if you've worked on the exam in the past.

Suggestion- Publish a past exam to see what we are walking into.

Frequency of exam – Ad hoc scheduled as needed when requested. Once form is submitted the exam is held within a few (2) weeks.

Additional Topics

MDH has been revamping our websites. [Mortuary Science - MN Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.state.mn.us/health/mortuary-science/)

Advisory Council will be determined by internal staff regarding whether members need to re-apply.

Legislation is handled in Jan and Feb.

Agenda topic the Federal Trade Commission funeral rule 148A National Meeting is happening right now @2:00 to discuss this.

National and local conferences: we are reaching out to attend and hope to have a greater presence.

Minnesota Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) U of M – there are no active funeral bills now.

Work with your associations and watch Representative Huot's announcements.

Promession freeze drying burial. Used in Scandinavian countries.

Sansa and Continuing Education (Alison Helm): Big change this year. We no longer approve providers or courses to meet the CE requirement. People can submit what they feel meets the requirements. If approved by the academy that would be recognized by MDH. We may question reasoning as to why the course fits into a CE category.

Here is the statute outlining the continuing education hours:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/149A.40#stat.149A.401>

U of M student enrollment for mortuary science enrollment has been steady. Total Jr and Sr

Did you see more complaints that were situational to families not being able to have the service they desired during the pandemic? Slight increase.

John Huot's contact information – 651-278-4487 – Rep.John.Huot@house.mn.gov

Thank you all. You will hear more from us.

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4200.