

## **Idaho Criminal Justice Commission - Coroner Subcommittee Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** August 18, 2025,

**Location:** Idaho Association of Counties,  
700 W. Washington St., Boise, ID 83701

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Mountain Time

**Facilitators:** Kelli D. Brassfield (IAC) - Senator Melissa Wintrow not present

### **Subcommittee Members Present:**

- Kelli D. Brassfield, Idaho Association of Counties
- Ryan Langrill, Director, Office of Performance Evaluations
- Sheriff Bart Quayle, Fremont County
- Matthew Gamette, ISP Forensic Services
- Bernie LaSarte, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Joshua Hall, Nez Perce County Coroner
- Brett Harding, Ada County Chief Deputy Coroner
- Scott Carver, Valley County Coroner
- Torey Danner, Bannock County Coroner
- Will Carson, Twin Falls County Coroner

### **Subcommittee Members Absent:**

- Senator Melissa Wintrow, JLOC Co-chair
- Kirt Gaston, Bellevue Police Department
- Robert Beers, Bonner County Coroner
- Tara Beard Parsons, Butte County Coroner
- John Fudenberg, Executive Director, IACME
- Robert Bleazard, Ada County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

### **Others Present:**

- **Audrey Dutton**
- **James Dawson**

### **Action Item – Approval of the minutes from May 15<sup>th</sup>, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and June 17<sup>th</sup>.**

*Will Carson, Twin Falls County Coroner made a motion to approve the minutes from May 15<sup>th</sup>, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and June 17<sup>th</sup>; Joshua Hall, Nez Perce County Coroner seconded. Motion carried.*

### **Confidentiality Language – Current status, Senator Melissa Wintrow & Kelli D. Brassfield**

Senator Wintrow is going to continue to work on this issue. She has shared a draft with the press and is awaiting feedback from them.

### **Resources Update – Matthew Gamette**

The ISP lab can provide rapid tox and provide a panel within 48 hours. They have received ~200 samples from across the state. Other resources that could be provided. PPE, body bags (counties may not have them and ISP may be able to procure those items). ISP is willing to be the procurement for coroners.

## **Autopsies**

The discussion is that maybe specific case types need to be selected for automatic autopsies. The group wants to review the NAME best practices and standards for autopsies.

<https://www.thename.org/assets/docs/2016%20NAME%20Forensic%20Autopsy%20Standards%209-25-2020.pdf>

## **JFAC Presentation Discussion – Senator Melissa Wintrow**

- **Cost of autopsies:** ~\$2,300.00/autopsy
- **# of autopsies/forensic pathologist:** 250-325/year depending on the types of cases.
- **Deaths required for autopsies – see NAME recommendations:**
  - o the death is known or suspected to have been caused by apparent criminal violence.
  - o the death is unexpected and unexplained in an infant or child.
  - o the death is associated with police action.
  - o the death is apparently non-natural and in custody of a local, state, or federal institution.
  - o the death is due to acute workplace injury.
  - o the death is caused by apparent electrocution.
  - o the death is by apparent intoxication by alcohol, drugs, or poison, unless a significant interval has passed, and the medical findings and absence of trauma are well documented.
  - o the death is caused by unwitnessed or suspected drowning.
  - o the body is unidentified, and the autopsy may aid in identification.
  - o the body is skeletonized.
  - o the body is charred.
  - o the forensic pathologist deems a forensic autopsy is necessary to determine cause or manner of death, or document injuries/disease, or collect evidence.
  - o the deceased is involved in a motor vehicle incident and an autopsy is necessary to document injuries and/or determine the cause of death.
- **New facility possibility?**

Coroners need funding to have their facilities to become accredited. The facility needs to have 2 autopsy suits (one to be an isolation). Should have a facility big enough for two doctors. NAME standards for facility accreditation:

<https://www.thename.org/assets/docs/NAME%20Accreditation%20Autopsy%20Facilities%20Checklist%202024%20-%202029%207-25-2025.pdf>

Possible Facility locations:

- ISP: There are facilities in East Idaho and North Idaho.
- Bonneville: possibly big enough. Ada County sent staff to review facility. Just to get started it would need to be expanded to become accredited. HVAC would need to be redone. If they could get a doctor they could do autopsies. They would need to eventually need to expand. There are definite barriers that need to be addressed.
- Twin Falls: Need to take a field trip to determine if this facility would be able to be converted but probably not really a viable option.
- Portneuf medical center: possibly big enough. Barriers: ventilation, secure facility (chain of custody), document change of custody, need to be able to separate coroner descendants from hospital patients.

Subcommittee members are going to do facility field trips to determine which facilities might be viable options and what they would need to become accredited. East Idaho would need one forensic pathologist to meet the initial need. The ~salary for the forensic pathologist is \$300,000 plus benefits.

There is a doctor graduating from Fellowship that is interested in Idaho. Brett Harding will let him know that this is a possibility.