

Mortuary Science Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Date and Time: February 14, 2023, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chair: Daphne Ponds

Introductions and Welcome

Ad Hoc Attendees

- Robert Archbold
- Lindsey Ballard
- Brian Dingman, MFDA
- Shannon Gilbertson
- Carmella Hansen
- Marilaurice Hemlock
- Mike Kosloski
- Mike Mathews
- Jordan McReavy-Seitz
- Dominic Pierre
- Joe Sellwood
- Michael D Sharkey
- Miki Tufto, MFDA

- Kevin Waterston

MDH Staff Attendees

- Jane Danner
- Robert Dehler
- Bill Devine
- Alison Helm
- Ah Her
- Julianna Leintz
- Rick Michals
- Pete Meuwissen
- Daphne Ponds
- Marguerite Slonine
- Debbie Thao
- Carlena Weiland

Additions/Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda was adopted

Feedback

None offered.

Old business

National meeting is coming and MDH will be sending Debbie Thao and Carlena Weiland.

April 18 – Arrowhead Funeral Directors Association Con Ed in Proctor MN.

May 2-4 – MFDA Annual Convention in St Louis Park MN.

October 17 – Arrowhead Funeral Directors Association Con Ed in Proctor MN.

MortSci Exam Update

MDH is administering the exam virtually.

MDH is looking for input on updating the exam and that might involve some contracted help.

MDH is working on an attestation form for the examinees to acknowledge understanding of the exam process and what the exam is used for.

It was recommended that the Department of Health consider having practice questions or an old test available maybe even a study guide.

Licensing updates

Mortician intern and funeral director licensing renewal occurred at the end of 2022. We have 1130 currently licensed individuals between morticians, interns and funeral directors.

Funeral home and crematory renewals are coming up with notices going out in April or May. There are currently 545 funeral homes and 80 crematories. Communication will be going out through email rather than paper for these renewals.

Evaluator updates

Complaints, Investigations and Inspections reports were read.

Letters of noncontagious – MDH asks that you be conscientious about the documents that the department needs in order to be able to complete those records. If it's a ship out and it's a casketed body we need a medical letter indicating that the death was communicable or noncommunicable, a disposition permit, the application you fill out for the Department and an embalming report. MDH also has been receiving requests for the shipment of cremated remains. We ask that you please include a certificate of cremation because the ID number on the certificate goes right into the letter for identification purposes and the application for the Department and a letter from the physician of communicable or noncommunicable for the purposes of tracking.

New business

Joe Sellwood gave a legislative update. MFDA priorities are:

Transfer care specialist

- Successful 2022 session in getting this included in the final HHS Omnibus draft.
- Unfortunately, the HHS Omnibus Supplemental Budget did not pass due to other factors.
- This was MFDA's answer to HF1888 which would have permitted anyone to practice funeral service (unlicensed could arrange/direct/supervise and make removals).
- Made minor changes to the draft legislation from 2022 to 2023.
- Need to work on MDH fiscal note (the system to track registrations had significant cost).

- Permits a non-licensed individual to remove a body from a place of death, and transport to a licensed funeral establishment.
 - Requires:
 - Register with MDH, pay the appropriate fee.
 - Complete 7 hours of training (every 5 years).
 - Training includes: 1) ethical care and transportation procedures 2) health and safety concerns to the public and individual performing the transfer 3) all relevant state and federal laws and regulations related to the transfer and transportation of deceased persons
 - Supervising licensee: the supervising licensee is responsible for the work performed by the transfer care specialist.
 - A licensee may supervise up to 6 transfer care specialists.

Internship timeline reform (HF1036)

- Permits internship to begin while enrolled in accredited program.
- This will allow students to learn in the classroom and on the job.
- Allows an intern, currently enrolled in an accredited ABSFE program, to begin their internship program.
- An intern who has NOT completed coursework in embalming and restorative arts must be in the physical presence of their supervisor.
- The bill adds an “alternate supervisor” – this allows the intern to have a primary and alternate.

Reciprocal license reform (HF1039)

- Allows an individual with three years of work experience (performing duties of MN Mortician) in other state to be eligible for reciprocal license.
- Current law requires individuals practicing in other states to meet licensing standards that are essentially the same as Minnesota licensing standards.
- Requires:
 - Pass the Minnesota Exam
 - Pass National Board Exam
 - Submit documentation:
 - Either licensed or credentialed in another jurisdiction for at least 3 years, performing the duties of a licensed mortician.
 - Affidavit declaring not under investigation, or under restricted license.
 - Affidavit declaring performance of at least 25 services, 25 arrangements, 25 embalmings
 - Documentation showing completion of MN continuing education requirements within two years of reciprocal license application

Cremation of a limb clarification

- Allows the cremation of a limb (ex. Amputation) to be returned to the individual.

Other Funeral Related Issues

- Natural Organic Reduction: No bill introduced yet but keep hearing from members about this issue.
- Removals: Not sure yet if there will be other removal proposals.

Employment Issues

- Paid Family and Medical Leave (HF2 / SF2)
 - New .7% payroll tax on employers to fund unemployment-insurance-style system.
 - Allows 12 weeks of Family Leave, and 12 weeks of Medical Leave.
 - The two separate leaves can be stacked and renew each year.
- Earned Sick and Safe Time (HF19 / SF34)
 - Requires employers provide employees 1 hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked.
 - This has to be separate bucket of time (separate from PTO).
- **Non-competes** (HF295 / SF405)
 - Makes all covenants to not compete void and unenforceable.

Minnesota Department of Health

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