



LASSEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1415 Sheriff Cady Lane Susanville, CA 96130

Administration
Phone: (530) 251-8013
Fax: (530) 251-2884

Dispatch
Phone: (530) 257-6121
Fax: (530) 257-9363

Civil
Phone: (530) 251-8014
Fax: (530) 251-2884

Adult Detention Facility
Phone: (530) 251-5245
Fax: (530) 251-5243

Dean F. Growdon
Sheriff - Coroner

To: Lassen County Board of Supervisors

From: Kevin Jones, Captain

Date: June 16, 2017

Agenda Date: June 27, 2017

Discussion:

The Lassen County Sheriff/Coroner's Office is responsible for determining the cause, manner and circumstance of any death within our jurisdiction. We utilize the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO) for our pathological services. This contract was last approved in 2014 for three years. We are presenting this contract to the Board of Supervisors for renewal.

The Sheriff/Coroner's Office averages 70-100 Coroners cases per year, which typically require some type of Postmortem service. Fees vary dependent on the service that is provided. These costs are the responsibility of the Sheriff/Coroner. Fees subject to Deaths that occur while in custody of the Federal Board of Prisons and California Department of Corrections, are submitted for reimbursement to each agency respectively.

Fiscal Impact: Based on a historic average for forensic and autopsy services, we estimate the yearly cost of this contract will range between \$90-\$110,000.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Supervisors authorizes the CAO to sign the contract with Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT is made the 1st day of July, 2017, by and between Lassen 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: _____

By: _____

Bob Lucey, Chair
Washoe County Commission

DATED: _____

DATED: _____

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

By: _____

County Clerk
Lassen County

By: _____

County Clerk
Washoe County