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A CITIZEN—CENTRIC REPORT

AURELIO A. ESPINOLA, M. D., Chief Medical Examiner of Guam
 PHILIP A. DAUTERMAN, M. D., Locum Medical Examiner of Guam

"The Medical Examiner's office will strive to provide a reasonable explanation to the cause and manner of death for a deceased person based on the evidence obtained during a postmortem examination. We maintain that all interpretations of the evidence uncovered by medicolegal investigation are neutral by its nature."

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER'S STATUTE

The office was formed in 1971 under the guidance of the 11th Guam Legislature and approved by the people of Guam and then Governor Carlos G. Camacho. It was established to provide a scientific investigative system for the island of Guam on deaths which occurred suddenly without cause or from unnatural circumstances.

The office is controlled by the *Commission on Postmortem Examinations* which is made up of the Attorney General of Guam, the Guam Police Department Chief, Public Health & Social Services Director, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Administrator, the Guam Medical Society President, and the current Chief Medical Examiner. OCME is guided by the Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations (GARR) Title 26 Division 3 Chapter 20 Commission on Postmortem Examinations and the Guam Code Annotated Title 10 Division 4 Chapter 81.

MISSION

Charged with determining the cause and manner of death in any violent, suspicious manner, or caused by an unrecognizable disease that may pose a threat to public health including deaths that occur unexpectedly, without medical attention, in custody, less than 24 hours after admission and whose remain is to be cremated, removed from state, or buried at sea.

SERVICES

OCME provides forensic services to citizens of Guam, local & federal government agencies, health care providers, insurance agencies, and institutions of higher learning. Services include such as but not limited to: medicolegal death investigations such as postmortem examinations, toxicology & specimen analysis; certification & notification of deaths and non-communicable diseases; grief counseling; and annual postmortem statistical reports.

INITIATIVES & COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Efficiently perform medicolegal death investigations on deaths occurring within Guam.

Accurately establish a factual explanation of the evidence for deaths investigated.

Timely Output statistical reports and medicolegal investigation results to the public through local news outlets.

Provide neutral and nonbiased interpretations of the evidence found during a medicolegal investigation.

DEFINITIONS:

Postmortem Examination: An examination of an individual after death for the purpose to determine a true cause and manner of death.

Medicolegal Death Investigation: The investigative process utilizing protocols & techniques to determine the cause and manner of death of a deceased individual by skilled practitioners' e.g. medical examiner, death investigator, police officer.

Autopsy: A surgical procedure performed by a licensed physician on a deceased person.

Non-Autopsy: A non-surgical external examination performed by a licensed physician on a deceased person.

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Fiscal Year 2017

OUTPUT: Postmortem examination results, certification of death reports, & exam reports is completed in a timely manner. Annual statistical reports are prepared and submitted to Guam's Bureau of Statistics & Planning for their annual publication. In addition, monthly reports on Suicide cases are compiled and submitted to Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center for their Suicide Prevention Program. Statistical reports on other types of death cases are prepared as requested by individual or entity. Academic presentations are conducted to high school & post-secondary students, law enforcement, physicians, attorneys, and so forth by the Medical Examiner upon request.

OCME has an active **Student Internship and Job Shadowing Program** for current post-secondary students studying in the fields of Criminal Justice, Law, Public Administration, Biology, Medicine, & Nursing. In 2017, OCME had two continuing (02) student interns and three (03) job shadowing students from colleges on & off island. Student interns are tasked with an array of duties along with upfront exposure to postmortem examinations and medicolegal death investigation procedures. Under the job shadow program, students observe the Medical Examiner conduct postmortem examinations and any other duties he may perform.

COMPLETED MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

| AUTOPSY PERFORMED (Two Year Report) | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Manner of Deaths | 2016 | 2017 |
| HOMICIDE | 3 | 7 |
| ACCIDENT—Drowning | 7 | 14 |
| ACCIDENT—Motor Vehicle Crash | 9 | 16 |
| ACCIDENT—Aircraft or Industrial | 0 | 1 |
| ACCIDENT— All other types | 8 | 3 |
| COULD NOT BE DETERMINED | 2 | 1 |
| NATURAL | 34 | 28 |
| SUICIDE | 16 | 2 |
| TOTAL CASES | 79 | 72 |
| Average yearly cases | 75.5 | |

STATISTICAL FACTS

In 2017, OCME conducted 651 medicolegal postmortem investigations.

432 were of male gender and 219 female gender.

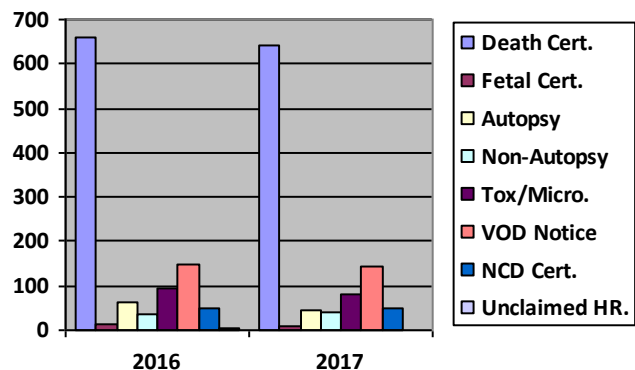
Mortality rate resulting from natural ailments were 569. The top natural cause of death was that of **Heart disease** at 294 deaths of which 193 were of male gender. A total of 25 cases were those of fetal or infant deaths under 1 year of age.

| NON-AUTOPSY PERFORMED (Two Year Report) | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Manner of Deaths | 2016 | 2017 |
| ACCIDENT—Motor Vehicle Crash (Passenger Occupants) | 3 | 3 |
| ACCIDENT— All other types | 2 | 1 |
| NATURAL | 556 | 541 |
| SUICIDE | 34 | 34 |
| TOTAL CASES | 595 | 579 |
| Average yearly cases | 587 | |

ADDITIONAL OUTPUT

Include: Daily issuance of documents which vary from certificate of death or fetal death reports, medicolegal autopsy or non-autopsy reports; toxicology and/or microscopic examination reports; verification of death notices; non-communicable disease certification letters upon request by legal next-of-kin at no cost to the recipients. (Breakdown below)

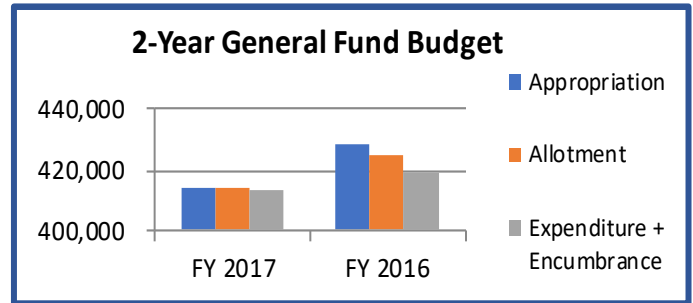
| ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| CERTIFICATE OF DEATH REPORTS | 660 | 640 |
| FETAL DEATH REPORTS | 14 | 11 |
| MEDICOLEGAL AUTOPSY REPORTS | 65 | 47 |
| MEDICOLEGAL NON-AUTOPSY REPORTS | 35 | 41 |
| TOXICOLOGY/MICROSCOPIC ANALYSIS | 95 | 83 |
| VERIFICATION OF DEATH NOTICES | 150 | 142 |
| NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CERTIFICATIONS | 49 | 50 |
| UNCLAIMED REMAIN DISPOSITION REQUEST | 6 | 2 |
| TOTALS: | 1074 | 1016 |



AGENCY FINANCIAL STATUS

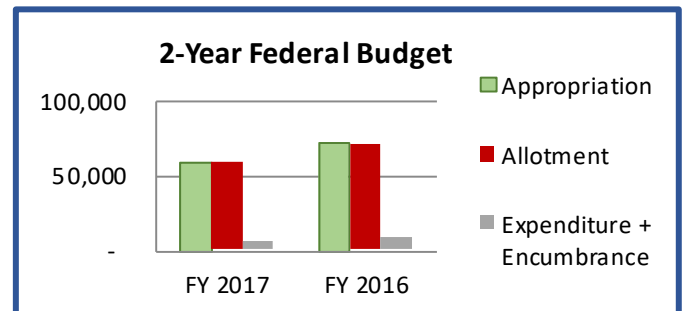
Fiscal Year 2017

| BUDGET STATEMENT (2 Year Comparison) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | |
| Fiscal Year | Appropriation | Allotment | Expenditure + Encumbrance |
| FY 2017 | 413,822.00 | 413,705.00 | 413,175.71 |
| FY 2016 | 428,250.00 | 424,586.00 | 418,580.08 |



Budget approvals are appropriated as a “lump sum” to allow for allocation funding to be made throughout the fiscal year under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Management & Research (BBMR) and the approval of the Governor of Guam. Each fiscal year, there is a 15% reserve on the total approved budget appropriation to aide in reducing the government’s current deficit.

| BUDGET (2 Year Comparison) | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 100% FEDERAL FUND | | | |
| Fiscal Year | Appropriation | Allotment | Expenditure + Encumbrance |
| FY 2017 | 58,511.00 | 58,511.00 | 5,320.06 |
| FY 2016 | 71,471.00 | 71,471.00 | 8,671.12 |



***Federal Funding** was originally awarded during fiscal year 2015 under a four year grant project. Any funds not utilized during the previous year are carried over to the following fiscal year until the grant expiration in September 2018.

OPERATIONS:

Off-Island Travel & Professional Development : Coverage for the Medical Examiner with a yearly continuing education course and professional membership fees as prescribed in the current employment Agreement.

Locum Tenens Contract: “Acting Medical Examiner Professional Services” contract to cover the Medical Examiner during absence of more than three (03) days which is renewed every fiscal year averaging \$4,500 per year.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Intra-department work order between Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) & OCME for services such as but not limited to power, water, laboratory, housekeeping, etc. renewed annually at \$38,000. Contract amount may change when cost of services increase by GMHA.

FY2015 FEDERAL GRANT AWARD: Federal grant awarded on March 19, 2015 from the U. S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs’ (OIA) through their Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) a federal grant of \$71,808.00 to acquire an agency specialized vehicle and for the upgrade of office & autopsy equipment. Federal Grant award will commence on September 30, 2018.

*The last awarded federal grant was back in FY2004 for office and autopsy equipment funded by the U. S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs’ (OIA) through the Compact of Free Association (COFA) funds. Any remaining office & autopsy equipment during this period have deteriorated & no longer in use.

An independent audit of the Government of Guam Wide Financial Statements for fiscal year ending 09/30/2017 was conducted, resulting in an unmodified, “Clean” audit opinion. You may locate the audited financial report at the Office of Public Accountability website “www.opaguam.org”.

The **Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Aurelio Espinola** will be retiring after 25 years of service to the people and visitors of Guam. He plans to relocate closer to family after his contract expires on January 31, 2019. Securing a successor as the next Chief Medical Examiner for Guam continues to be announced and advertised. So far, applicants who have submitted applications for the position do not meet all the required credentials.

HOURS OF OPERATIONS

Monday – Friday

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

CLOSED ON

Lunch Hour (**One Hour**)

Weekends

Government of Guam
Holidays

Location

*We are located within the
Guam Memorial Hospital
Compound at the back side
pass the Emergency Room
area
(Morgue Area- 2nd Floor)*

Exciting News....

The federal grant awarded by the U. S. Dept. of Interior – Office of the Insular Affairs' for the purchase of a government official vehicle to facilitate with daily business commutes as well as acquire upgraded office & morgue equipment and supplies will be commencing on September 30, 2018. This coming fiscal year 2018, the Medical Examiner's office is looking forward to acquiring the remaining equipment as well as the new vehicle to complete the grant project. We are also looking into applying for additional federal grants to replace other essential equipment not funding under the current grant as well as improvements to the agency's facility.

Our ***Student Internship and Job Shadowing*** program continues to prosper with highly intrigued students in the field of Forensic, Anatomical, & Clinical Pathology, Medicine, and death investigation. The program continues to academically progress and improve.

Moving Forward....

Although, the Chief Medical Examiner is retiring, our office will continue to strive in making improvements to our office and services we provide to the people of Guam during their time of grief and loss of their loved one. In addition, a plan to implement administrative fees for services provided at the Medical Examiner's office is in progress and awaits approval from the Commission on Post Mortem Examinations. This will only help with the improvements so needed with many issues such as inadequate staff, decreasing workspace due to accumulation of stored case files, and other administrative procedures.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you like this report?

What would you like to see in future reports?

Please let us know by contacting our office by telephone (671) 646-9363/647-2369, email to cme.guam@gmail.com, or write us at #325 Duenas Drive, Tamuning, Guam 96913.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME



Mariella Cruz <mcruz@guamopa.com>

Letter of Compliance Status for FY 2017-2020 CCR Submissions - OCME

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner GU <cme.guam@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 10:46 AM

To: Mariella Cruz <mcruz@guamopa.com>

Cc: Clariza Roque <croque@guamopa.com>

Hafa Adai Mr. Cruz,

Unfortunately, I will not be able to provide the CCR for 2018 - 2020 at this time. For the past couple of years, it has been only myself managing the operations of the Medical Examiner's office to include mortuary services. Are there any options I can utilize to obtain assistance from outside sources to help with completing this requirement?


I have attached fiscal year 2017 for your review and registration. In addition, I will not be able to post this report or any further reports on the Medical Examiner's website for I do not have access to complete the posting task.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,
Johanna Bamba
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
#325 Duenas Drive, Tamuning, GU 96913
Ph.: (671) 646-9363/647-2369
Fax: (671) 646-8860
Email: cme.guam@gmail.com

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 **FY 2017 CCR.Final.pdf**
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