



## Idaho State Association of County Coroners Board Meeting Minutes

Hampton Inn Spectrum, Boise, Idaho | September 26, 2018

### Members Present

Dotti Owens, Ada County, President  
Lucky Bourn, Minidoka County, Vice President  
Tara Parsons, Butte County, Secretary/Treasurer  
Warren Keene, Kootenai County, District 1 Rep

Perry Larson, Lewis County, District 2 Rep  
Sue Warner, Adams County, District 3 Rep  
Craig Rinehart, Cassia County, District 4 Rep  
John Buck, Gem County, At Large

### Members Absent

Districts 5 and 6 Vacant

### Others Present

Kristin Cundiff, IAC Director of Operations  
Debra Wright, Bingham County Deputy Coroner  
Pam Garlock, Boise County Coroner  
Jennifer Crawford, Canyon County Coroner  
Lori LaRoche, Canyon County Deputy Coroner  
Chad Workman, Custer County Coroner  
Ronnie Geer, Gooding County Coroner

Cody Funke, Idaho County Coroner  
Mike Ernest, Lemhi County Coroner  
Mark Rose, Power County Coroner  
Tim Melcher, Teton County Coroner  
Gene Turley, Twin Falls Coroner  
Will Carson, Twin Falls Deputy Coroner

### I. Call to Order

President Owens called the meeting to order at 7:31 am on Thursday, February 7, 2019.

### II. Education Committee

Owens skipped the recap of the Education Committee Meeting since the entire group was present.

### III. Coroner Challenge Coins

Owens announced that the board and membership voted to purchase challenge coins in September. The board did not talk about where the money would come from and it is not included in the FY19 budget. Cundiff noted that we should talk with IAC's Financial Officer about any tax implications for selling the coins to the counties. The board thought it would be best to take pre-orders and then purchase the coins based on the pre-order amounts.

***Keene moved to poll the coroners to see how many they want from each county to meet the minimum amount of 500. ISACC will ask for payment from the counties before we purchase the coins. Warner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

### IV. Idaho Child Fatality Grant

Owens worked to write a grant for the association to receive a \$5700 grant for the Midwinter Conference. This covered a recreation doll for each attendee and covered the speaking fees and travel. ISACC paid for the training materials out of the training fund which included books and copies for the participants. The two-day training was approved for ABMDI credits.

## **V. State Suicide Review Team**

In 2018 legislation was passed to create a suicide team. The team is made up of about 40 people and is response to a 33% increase in suicides and that Idaho is 2nd in the nation for suicide rates. Owens will keep the group updated with information on the team at future meetings.

## **VI. Opioid Grant**

Owens rewrote the opioid grant so that Ada can come to the counties for two days instead of people traveling to Ada for the training. About 10 counties have used the tax grant. It does not replace your funding but supplements your budget in the county. This grant will end on 9-1-19 so everyone must turn in their requests as soon as they get them.

## **VII. National Violent Death Reporting System**

Owens reported that NVDRS is handled through vital stats. If you are on MDI log, it will track violent deaths.

## **VIII. Coroner Wage Comparisons and Funding for Coroners**

Owens is currently working on a salary analysis for the coroners across Idaho.

## **IX. Coroner Inquest Process v. Formal Review Board**

Ada has received a lot of calls for coroner inquests. Owens would like to know if the board would like to revisit our Coroner Inquest Manual from 2007 or should we look at a formal review board. We currently have no formal review board. We would need to draft legislation to create a formal review board. The board could look at Tri-County Investigations to see how they are set up. Is it through legislation or through the organization?

## **X. Treasurer/Indigent/Coroner Funding Discussion**

Owens noted that there have been a lot of issues in Ada with families not picking up the cremains of their family members. Owens has talked with her treasurer and it is something the treasurer would be willing to help out on. Owens suggested that we put together a questionnaire to see what the counties are doing. We'll need to monitor Medicaid Expansion to see what happens with indigent burial. Should we put together a workgroup to look at this issue? Buck and LaRoche agreed to participate in a workgroup on this issue.

## **XI. Legislative Committee Report**

Bourn reported that S1033 is a bill that requires all first responders to report organ donations and then the family would be contacted by the organ donation organization. The biggest concern with this legislation is that a first responder could do the notice on the organ donation and the family members might not have been formally contacted about the death. Bourn suggested that the board get in touch with their house members to stop this bill. Bourn also reported that S1028 is legislation to support PTSI (Post Traumatic Stress Injury) would be considered for worker's compensation. Bourn's issue with this piece of legislation is that it leaves off coroners. ISACC will look at trying to get an amendment to add coroners to this bill.

## **XII. Additional Business**

***Bourn moved to accept the recommendation from the Education Committee to ISACC pay for 20 coroners and 10 deputy coroners to attend a training approved by ISACC; this includes payment/reimbursement for registration up to \$500, hotel stay during the conference, airfare or mileage (whichever is less), and per diem for meals not included in the conference registration. Training requests will only be honored for members current on their dues. Parsons seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

Owens adjourned the meeting at 8:30 am.