



# WASHOE COUNTY

*Integrity    Communication    Service*

[www.washoecounty.us](http://www.washoecounty.us)

## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** January 26, 2021

**DATE:** January 3, 2021

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Justin Norton, Operations Manager, Regional Medical Examiner's Office  
(775) 785-6114, [jnorton@washoecounty.us](mailto:jnorton@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve agreements between Washoe County and Plumas County and the Nevada Department of Corrections for forensic pathology services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office for a period of up to three years effective retroactively on July 1, 2020 (All Commission Districts.)

---

### **SUMMARY**

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office requests that the Board approve the agreement between Washoe County and Plumas County and the Nevada Department of Corrections for forensic pathology services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office for a period of up to three years effective retroactively on July 1, 2020.

### **Washoe County Strategic Objectives supported by this item:**

Safe, secure and healthy communities

Regional and community leadership

Proactive economic development and diversification

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

December 8, 2020 – Board approval of agreements for forensic pathology services with multiple Nevada and California counties

January 8, 2019 – Board approval of agreement for forensic pathology services with Carson City

November 27, 2018 – Board approval of agreement for forensic pathology services with Tehama County

December 12, 2017 – Board approval of agreement for forensic pathology services with Sierra County

September 12, 2017 – Board approval of agreements for forensic pathology services with multiple Nevada and California counties

**AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_**

June 27, 2017 – Board approval of agreements for forensic pathology services with multiple Nevada and California counties  
March 14, 2017 – Board approval of updated fee schedule for forensic pathology services  
April 8, 2014 – Board approval of agreements for forensic pathology services  
March 11, 2014 – Board approval of agreement with Nevada Department of Corrections for forensic pathology services  
July 2008 – Board approval of agreements for forensic pathology services

## **BACKGROUND**

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office provides forensic autopsies, medical examinations, and medicolegal consultations to nineteen agencies outside of Washoe County. Since 2008, formal interlocal agreements have been created between Washoe County and these counties/agencies. The agreements were renewed in 2014 and 2017 and are due for renewal in 2020. In December 2019, the Board approved a new fee schedule for the services covered by these agreements, which went into effect in January 2020. The agreements are retroactively effective on July 1, 2020 due to the time necessary for all parties to review the agreements and agree to terms, and delays in processing caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office anticipates revenues generated by all interlocal agreements to exceed \$1,200,000 in Fiscal Year 2021. It should be noted that this is not new revenue. This is continuing revenue that has already been budgeted in Fiscal Year 2021 and beyond. Revenues received from these agreements will be deposited to C153010-460341|Medical Examiner Fees and C153010-460318|Toxicology Fees.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the agreements between Washoe County and Plumas County and the Nevada Department of Corrections for forensic pathology services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office for a period of up to three years effective retroactively on July 1, 2020.

## **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve agreements between Washoe County and Plumas County and the Nevada Department of Corrections for forensic pathology services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office for a period of up to three years effective retroactively on July 1, 2020."