



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 16, 2025

DATE: September 3, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Justin Norton, Operations Manager, Regional Medical Examiner's Office
(775) 785-6114, jnorton@washoecounty.gov

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

SUBJECT: Presentation by Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, on the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation process; and acceptance of a certificate in recognition of NAME Accreditation of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office, effective August 13, 2025. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Presentation by Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, on the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation process; and acceptance of a certificate in recognition of NAME Accreditation of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO), effective August 13, 2025, to be displayed at the WCRMEO.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

The National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) is the national professional organization of physician medical examiners, medicolegal death investigators and death investigation system administrators who perform the official duties of the medicolegal investigation of deaths of public interest in the United States. NAME was founded in 1966 with the dual purposes of fostering the professional growth of physician death investigators and disseminating the professional and technical information vital to the continuing improvement of the medical investigation of violent, suspicious and unusual deaths. NAME is now the national forum for the interchange of professional and technical information in this important segment of public administration. The organization promotes excellence in the day-to-day investigation of individual cases and

AGENDA ITEM # _____

seeks to improve the interaction of death investigation systems with other agencies and political entities in each jurisdiction in the country.

As part of its mission to improve the quality of death investigation nationally and to recognize excellence in death investigation systems, the NAME offers a voluntary inspection and accreditation program for medicolegal death investigative offices. This program is designed to offer expert evaluation and offer recommendations for improvement of functioning offices. Accreditation by NAME is an honor and significant achievement for an office. It signifies to the public that the office is performing at a high level of competence and public service.

Following a rigorous application process, and submission of hundreds of pieces of documentation and policy, the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office was inspected in July 2025. The office was granted full accreditation, with no deficiencies and was described as "one of the best medical examiner offices in the country."

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept the presentation by Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, on the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation process; and accept a certificate in recognition of NAME Accreditation of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office, effective August 13, 2025.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be "Move to accept the presentation by Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, on the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation process; and accept a certificate in recognition of NAME Accreditation of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office, effective August 13, 2025."