Gmail

Benjamin J.F. Cruz <senator@senatorbjcruz.com>

FY2016 Citizen Centric Report

2 messages

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner <cme.guam@gmail.com> Wed, Oct 11, 2017 at 11:25 AM
To: senator@senatorbjcruz.com

Hafa Adai Honorable Speaker Cruz,

Pursuant to Title 1 GCA Ch. 19 §1922 relative to the Citizen Centric Report (CCR), the Medical Examiner's office hereby submits its FY 2016 CCR electronic format for your review.

Respectfully,

Johanna Bamba

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

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Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

OCT 11 2017

Time: 11:38 AM PM File No. _____

Received By: _____

GL# 34-17-1066

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OCME FY 2016 Citizen Centric Report.final.pdf
1107K

Benjamin J.F. Cruz <senator@senatorbjcruz.com> Wed, Oct 11, 2017 at 11:36 AM
To: Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: "<rennae@guamlegislature.org>" <rennae@guamlegislature.org>

10/11/2017	10/11/2017	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	FY2016 Citizen Centric Report	34-17-1066

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Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz
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OCME FY 2016 Citizen Centric Report.final.pdf
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Doc. No. 34GL-17-1066.*

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

PHILIP A. DAUTERMAN, M. D.
Acting Medical Examiner of Guam



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Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) 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 Post-mortem 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 Medial Society President, and the current Chief Medical Examiner. (Guam Code Annotated Title 10 Part 2 Division 4 Chapter 81)

In addition, OCME is guided by the Rules and Regulations formulated by the Commission on Post-mortem Examinations, Guam Code Annotated Title 10 §81102 & 81109 which were filed with the Guam Legislative Secretary on May 18, 1981 and for uniformity purpose a new numbering system was adopted and now known as 26 Guam Administrative Rules & Regulation (GAR) Division 3 Chapter 20.

To view the law in its entirety, please visit: www.guamcourts.org/CompilerofLaws

MISSION

Our purpose is to determine a true cause and manner of death by conducting medico-legal death investigations, autopsies, toxicology & specimen analysis on all unnatural & unusual deaths, such as but not limited to homicides, suicides, accidents, sudden unexpected deaths that occurred in a suspicious manner or caused by an unrecognizable disease. In addition, postmortem examinations must also be done on individuals who expire outside of a hospital facility or less than 24 hours after admission to a hospital facility and whose body is to be shipped off island, cremated, or buried at sea. OCME provides support to Guam's public health and safety.

Initiatives & Community Benefits

- **Efficiently** perform Medico-Legal Death Investigations.
- **Accurately** establish a factual explanation of the evidence for every death investigation.
- **Increase** public awareness of the importance of a medico-legal death investigation.
- **Output** statistical reports and Medico-legal investigation results to the public through the local Medias.
- **Maintain** a Neutral and Non-biased interpretation of the evidence found during a medico-legal death investigation.

> ***"The Chief Medical Examiner's office works 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 the medico-legal death investigations are neutral by its nature."***

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

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Our Performance (*What We Have Been Doing*)
Fiscal Year 2016

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(s) or entity. Academic presentations are conducted to high school & post-secondary students, law enforcement, physicians, attorneys, etc. 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 2016, OCME had three (03) student interns and two (02) 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 medico-legal death investigation procedures. Under the job shadowing program, students observe the Medical Examiner conduct postmortem examinations and any other duties he may perform.

Medico-legal Death Investigations

Distribution by "Manner of Death" (Autopsy Cases)			Average of years
MANNER OF DEATH	2015	2016	
Natural	29	34	31.5
Suicide	5	16	10.5
Homicide	8	3	5.5
Accident - Drowning	13	7	10
Accident - Motor Vehicle	8	9	8.5
Accident - Aircraft or Industrial	0	0	0
Other Types of Accidents	10	8	9
Could Not Be Determined	3	2	2.5
TOTAL AUTOPSIED CASES:	76	79	77.5

Distribution by "Manner of Death" (Non-Autopsy Cases)			Average of years
MANNER OF DEATH	2015	2016	
Natural	563	556	559.5
Suicide	29	34	31.5
Accident - Drowning	1	0	0.5
Accident – Motor Vehicle	1	3	2
Other Types of Accidents	3	2	2.5
TOTAL NON-AUTOPSIED CASES:	597	595	596

In 2016, OCME conducted a total of **674** postmortem examinations. Of the 674 postmortem examinations conducted, **409** were of ***MALE*** gender and **265** ***FEMALE*** gender. There were **590** postmortem examinations performed on deaths resulting from ***NATURAL*** causes . The top natural cause of death examined in 2016 was that of ***HEART DISEASE*** at **306** deaths of which **181** were of the male gender. The number two natural cause of death examined was **CANCER** at **92** deaths followed by lung, brain, liver, & kidney diseases, sepsis (bacterial infection), and so forth.

Additional Output

Daily issuance of documents varies from certificate of death reports, fetal death reports, non-autopsy, autopsy, and/or toxicology reports, verification of death notices, and certification of a non-communicable disease letters, etc. upon request at no cost to the recipients.

The chart beside displays a breakdown of the total number of medico-legal death investigation related documents released per year.

Produced Documents	2015	2016
Certificate of Death Reports	663	660
Fetal Death Reports	10	14
Certificate of Death Reports (Military)	1	0
Toxicology/Microscopic Reports	78	95
Non-Autopsy Reports Request	10	35
Autopsy Reports Request	49	65
Verification of Deaths Notices	143	150
Non-Communicable Disease Certifications	44	49
Unclaimed Body Disposition Request	1	6
Totals:	**998**	**1074**

Statistical data are compiled by calendar year and are based on postmortem examination dates.

Financial Facts
Fiscal Year 2016

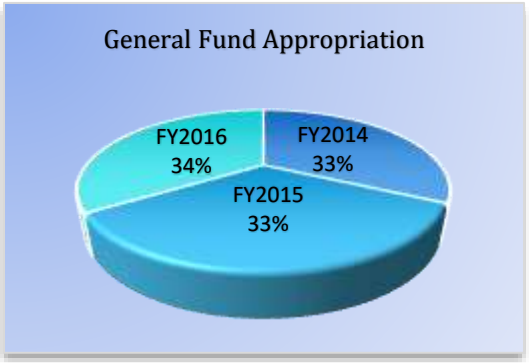
100% Funded by the General Funds Annually
Federal Grant Awarded

An independent audit of the Government of Guam Wide Financial Statements for fiscal year ending 09/30/2016 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".

Budget approvals are appropriated non-itemized allowing funding to be allocated throughout the year with direct supervision of the Bureau of Budget Management & Research (BBMR) and the approval of the Governor of Guam. In addition, there was a 15% Reserve (*Not allotted funding*) placed on the agency's budget by BBMR to reduce the government's current deficit.

BUDGET APPROPRIATION

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
FUND SOURCE	Appropriation	Appropriation	Appropriation
General Fund	$ 405,856	$ 413,822	$ 428,250
Federal Fund	$ -	$ 71,808	$ 71,471
Total	**$ 405,856**	**$ 485,630**	**$ 499,721**

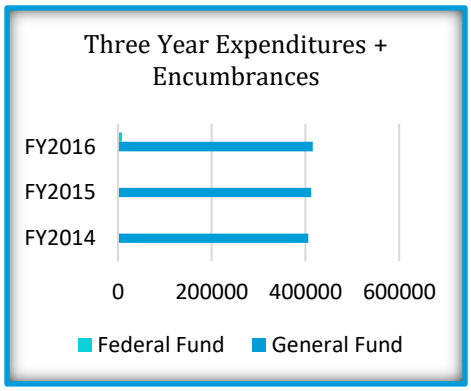


OCME's OPERATIONS:

- ***Off-Island Travel and Professional Development cost:*** Exclusively for the Medical Examiner for his yearly continuing education courses and membership fees as prescribed in his 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 $3,000 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 increases by GMHA.

EXPENDITURES + ENCUMBRANCES

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
FUND SOURCE	Expenditures + Encumbrances	Expenditures + Encumbrances	Expenditures + Encumbrances
General Fund	$ 405,853.68	$ 412,475.71	$ 418,580.08
Federal Fund	$ -	$ 336.70	$ 8,671.12
Total	**$ 405,853.68**	**$ 412,812.41**	**$ 427,251.20**



FEDERAL FUNDING

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 by FY2018.

*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.

Exciting News….

The agency's website is now available at http://ocme.guam.gov.

Securing a successor as the next **Chief Medical Examiner for Guam** are in the beginning stages.

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.

Moving Forward….

We continue to maintain the upmost professional and sympathetic services to the people of Guam during their time of grief and loss of their loved one.

We hope to address the following concerns and issues:

- Updating and management of agency's website.
- Inadequate Personnel / Staff; additional staff needed.
- Limited & Hazardous workplace; increased storage of case files exceeding office space.
- Replacement of Cadaver Lift and Morgue Refrigeration Units.
- Upgrade Morgue Facility and its entirety.

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)

