

Coroner's Office Update

May 2, 2023

11:30 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Warren McLeod, Stephen Wilson, Becky Butler

Guest(s): None

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Public comment: None.

Agenda change: Commissioner Pollock made a motion to add correspondence as a topic agenda. Commissioner Brummer seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Year-to-date cases: Warren McLeod said the Coroner's Office has responded to 301 deaths year to date, including:

- 3 homicides
- 10 suicides
- 18 accidental deaths, including 14 that were drug-related deaths
- 1 undetermined case
- 6 pending
- 262 natural deaths

Warren discussed the prevalence of fentanyl and meth.

Reaccreditation: Warren said the accreditation audit for the Coroner's Office has been rescheduled for the end of May.

Legislative update: Warren said it appears the Legislature has approved a bill that provides \$400,000 in funding for forensic pathologist services.

Mock crash: Warren discussed the April 28 mock trial at Mossyrock during which various entities worked with Mossyrock High School students to simulate a distracted-driving accident in which teens were injured and one teen died.

Warren said the Coroner's Office is awaiting grant funding for a new pneumatic lift.

Correspondence: Commissioner Pollock discussed an email and voicemails from a New York Times reporter seeking comment regarding a Sheriff's Office program.

Meeting ended at 11:50 a.m.