

# ANOKA COUNTY

## AGENDA

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL & COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE and Meeting of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners\*\* Commissioners Braastad (Chair), Reinert (Vice Chair), and West

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022 MEETING

10:30 A.M.

Anoka County Government Center, Conference Room #772

Public comments are welcome at this time. In consideration of others wishing to speak, please limit comments to two minutes. Questions directed to the committee may not be answered immediately; however, whenever possible, all appropriate questions will be responded to in a timely and effective manner by county staff.

#### Information Items

1. For informational purposes, Tim Kelly with the Coon Creek Watershed District will provide an update on the organization.
2. For informational purposes, Nick Tomczik with the Rice Creek Watershed District will provide an update on the organization.

#### Action Items

3. Consider recommending the county board approve entering into Contract #C0009247 with Invitae to perform genetic testing for the Medical Examiner's Office. **See attached** worksheet.
4. Consider recommending the county board approve recruiting a new forensic pathologist for the Medical Examiner's office. If approved, the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office would begin recruiting, and eventually increase the FTE's from 4.0 to 5.0, and the cost for the new position would initially be transferred from the reserve fund which would cover the cost in that calendar year. Ongoing costs could be potentially covered with a minor one-time per capita rate adjustment the following year. **See attached** worksheet.
5. Other.

*\*\* Actions taken by this Committee do not bind the County Board. In addition to the County Commissioners appointed to this committee, additional County Commissioners may attend. Non-committee Commissioners may choose to participate in the discussions and/or ask questions, but they will **not** vote on any item, nor will they agree to take a specific action on business conducted by the committee. If their attendance and limited participation in the committee meeting is considered a meeting of the County Board, this shall serve as notice of a County Board meeting. This shall also serve as notice of a County Board Meeting for any committee comprised of four or more members of the board.*



## Anoka County Action Item

### Intergovernmental Committee

ACTION REQUESTED	<p>Anoka County Contract #C0009247 Attorney Review</p> <p>Requesting permission from the Intergovernmental Committee to allow the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office to enter an agreement with Invitae to perform discounted genetic testing as part of their Laboratory Service Agreement (LSA) for medical examiner facilities.</p>
Background/Description	<p>The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office secures genetic testing via Mayo Clinic as part of grant-funded research. However, the grant program is considered temporary, and establishing an LSA will allow the organization to be proactive and have a backup laboratory set for similar testing in the future. The current cost at Mayo for genetic testing is \$300.00/sample. If approved, the LSA price at Invitae would be \$300/sample.</p>
Other	<p>Genetic testing is rarely used as part of routine forensic pathology services. This service is occasionally warranted if there is no observable cause/manner of death after an autopsy, toxicology, histology, neuropathology, and cardiac consultations. Genetic testing results will aid in finding the cause and manner of death when Forensic Pathologists have addressed all other possibilities.</p>



## Anoka County Action Item

### Intergovernmental Committee

ACTION REQUESTED	Requesting permission from the Intergovernmental Committee to begin the process of recruiting an additional forensic pathologist.
Background/Description	<p>The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office has experienced growth throughout its coverage area. Additionally, the number of autopsy-required cases has increased significantly over the past two years due to substance abuse, suicide, and accidental deaths. The organization's accrediting body, National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) limits the amount of autopsies a forensic pathologist can perform in a calendar year and must adhere to their standards or risk losing their accreditation. To ensure the organization is compliant and meets all professional standards, proactive measures should be put into place to begin the approval process so a new forensic pathologist can be recruited within the next 1 to 2 years. An early start to recruit is a necessity as the shortage of forensic pathologists is a nationwide concern. Recent studies show there are only 500 forensic pathologists in the United States.</p>
	<p>Link to Scientific Workgroup covering the Forensic Pathologist Shortage: <a href="https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2018/04/24/swgmdi_increasing_the_supply_of_forensic_pathologists_in_the_us.pdf">https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2018/04/24/swgmdi_increasing_the_supply_of_forensic_pathologists_in_the_us.pdf</a></p>
Other	<p>If approved, the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office would begin recruiting a new forensic pathologist, and eventually increase the FTEs from 4.0 to 5.0. The cost for the new position would initially be transferred from the reserve fund which would cover the cost in that calendar year with a minor one-time per capita rate adjustment the following year.</p>