

Department: Health Department **Program Contact:** Jennifer Vines
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The County Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) investigates and determines the cause and manner of deaths which occur under specific circumstances in Multnomah County. Approximately 3,200 of the County's 6,500 yearly deaths fall into this category. MEO activities are highly visible to the public when a questionable death occurs in the community. MEO staff are directly involved with the families, loved ones of deceased individuals, and the emergency response community, (police, fire, mortuary services, accident investigators) on a daily basis. The MEO operates 24/7/365.

Program Summary

The Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) is involved in all deaths, with the exception of natural deaths occurring directly under physician care greater than 24 hours in a hospital or hospice setting. As most deaths investigated by the ME are sudden and unexpected, the ME's Office is in a unique position to identify unusual and emerging causes of death and injury, and to contribute to preventive public health interventions. Medical Examiner staff work directly with community/family members to investigate deaths that fall under our jurisdiction to provide support and crucial information regarding the cause and manner of death. The Medical Examiner's Office strives to provide in-person investigations, to minimize the number of scenes in which law enforcement is the sole agency present. This provides increased public service, often to those most underserved. The MEO works diligently with the community and external partners to provide equitable services to the LGBTQ community and those facing mental health crisis and addiction. Investigations conducted by our office provide critical information to inform and shape programs for those experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health crisis.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Number of deaths requiring investigation	3,108	2750	2,700	3,700
Outcome	Deputy Medical Examiner arrives on-scene within one hour for 90% of calls	84%	75%	80%	85%
Outcome	Increase the number of in-person scene responses with a death investigator on scene	1,009	1,200	1,182	1,400

Performance Measures Descriptions

Output: Number of deaths in the County that require investigations. Census data regarding deaths is based on calendar years. Outcome: A Deputy Medical Examiner arrives on-scene in 90% of calls requiring on-scene investigation within one hour of first notification to support public safety, law enforcement, and affected members of the public. Optional Outcome: A death investigator will respond in-person to scene calls to investigate deaths (versus investigation via phone). Provides support to community. ensures deaths are investigated. reduces involvement of law enforcement.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 146 specifies responsibilities and authorities for the Office (i.e. deaths requiring investigation; responsibility for investigation; notification of death; removal of body; authority to enter and secure premises; notification of next of kin; authority to order removal of body fluids; autopsies; disposition of personal property; unidentified human remains). ORS 146 also establishes a hybrid state/county program structure which limits the county's authority over operations, procedures, and technical functions.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$1,632,361	\$0	\$1,729,130	\$0
Contractual Services	\$96,814	\$0	\$108,856	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$31,466	\$0	\$27,627	\$0
Internal Services	\$238,284	\$0	\$279,859	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,998,925	\$0	\$2,145,472	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,998,925		\$2,145,472	
Program FTE	12.50	0.00	13.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 40052A Medical Examiner

Addition of 1.00 FTE death investigator and administrative support approved last fiscal year.