Multnomah County				
Program #40052A - Med	lical Examiner			6/27/2018
Department:	Health Department	Program Contact:	Kathryn Richer	
Program Offer Type: Related Programs:	Existing Operating Program	Program Offer Stage:	As Adopted	

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The County Medical Examiner's Office (ME) investigates and determines the cause and manner of deaths which occur under specific circumstances in Multnomah County. Approximately 2,200 of the County's 6,500 yearly deaths fall into this category. ME Office activities are highly visible to the public when a questionable death occurs in the community. ME 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 Office operates 24/7/365.

Program Summary

Under ORS Chapter 146, the County is required to have a Medical Examiner (ME) Office investigate deaths that occur under specific circumstances. These include deaths a) that are apparently homicidal, suicidal or occurring under suspicious circumstances, b) resulting from unlawful use of controlled substances or toxic agents, c) following an accident or injury, d) occurring under incarceration or police custody, and e) during or arising from employment. They also include deaths that are sudden, unexpected or that are unattended by a physician.

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. Examples include clusters of death due to an unknown illness, prescription medication, overdose, or illicit drug use.

ORS 146 establishes a hybrid state/county approach to ME services. Counties and the state share authority and responsibility for staffing, supervision, operations, and technical direction. Multnomah County staff carry out field death investigations, authorize removal of deceased persons from the place of death, notify next-of-kin, and protect decedents' property until a personal representative takes charge. They also work in collaboration with state physician Medical Examiners who perform autopsies and certify the cause and manner of death. The Multnomah County ME's Office is physically co-located with the Clackamas County and Oregon ME Offices in an Oregon State Police facility in Clackamas County.

Performance Measures					
Primary Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Purchased	FY18 Estimate	FY19 Offer	
Number of deaths requiring investigation	2,233	2,500	2,350	2,500	
Deputy Medical Examiner arrives on-scene within one hour for 90% of calls	80%	82%	73%	73%	
	Primary Measure Number of deaths requiring investigation Deputy Medical Examiner arrives on-scene within one	Primary MeasureFY17 ActualNumber of deaths requiring investigation2,233Deputy Medical Examiner arrives on-scene within one80%	Primary MeasureFY17 ActualFY18 PurchasedNumber of deaths requiring investigation2,2332,500Deputy Medical Examiner arrives on-scene within one80%82%	Primary MeasureFY17 ActualFY18 PurchasedFY18 EstimateNumber of deaths requiring investigation2,2332,5002,350Deputy Medical Examiner arrives on-scene within one80%82%73%	

Output: Number of deaths in Multnomah County that require investigations. Because census data and occurrence deaths are tracked at the calendar year level, these data are 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 in order to support public safety, law enforcement, and affected members of the public.

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

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	
Program Expenses	2018	2018	2019	2019	
Personnel	\$1,127,733	\$0	\$1,119,259	\$0	
Contractual Services	\$16,516	\$0	\$17,010	\$0	
Materials & Supplies	\$76,968	\$0	\$76,687	\$0	
Internal Services	\$95,213	\$0	\$130,607	\$0	
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,316,430	\$0	\$1,343,563	\$0	
Program Total:	\$1,31	\$1,316,430		\$1,343,563	
Program FTE	10.10	0.00	10.00	0.00	

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Explanation of Povenues				

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2018: 40052 Medical Examiner