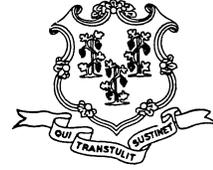


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
11 Shuttle Rd., Farmington, CT 06032-1939
Telephone: (860) 679-3980 Fax: (860) 679-1257



September 25, 2012

Kerry Kelley
Principal Budget Specialist
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capital Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Kelley,

Please find enclosed the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's 5% reduction option for FY14 and FY15 Biennium per Secretary Barnes' letter dated August 31, 2012.

The CT General Statutes define which deaths must be investigated, the parameters and the timelines. As such, this office has no control of the size of the caseload or the degree to which each case must be investigated as it is based on the circumstances surrounding the individual's death. This office has historically been understaffed and underfunded as has been noted on previous budget requests. For several years, it has had to request deficiency funding, reallocate funding or request a release of funds in order to cover ongoing expenditures. With the constant influx of new drugs that consistently flood the market and for which new lab testing standards must be developed by the already limited staff, the agency finds itself in a constant quandary. As previously noted, this office is constantly challenged by the mandated participation in mortality review projects which require the participation of our already limited staff. Any reduction of staff, services or supplies will have a profoundly negative and detrimental effect on agency operations and services to the general public.

If this agency is obligated to reduce funding at the level of 5% of the FY14 and FY15 Biennium Budget, it will have a catastrophic consequence on the work performed forcing the office to function below acceptable standards. Our current level of funding is already significantly lower than the per capita funding of other M.E. offices across the nation. Ultimately, this will cause the burden to fall on the next of kin of the deceased, funeral homes who have to deal with the decedent and the family, the police who depend on our services for timely investigation and the already overburdened judicial system. Significantly deleterious effects on the criminal justice system would ultimately be inevitable. A further reduction in staff and funding would cripple the entire death investigation system currently in place.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-679-3980.

Sincerely,


Dr. H. Wayne Carver, II