

# **State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Health and Social Services State Medical Examiner Component Budget Summary**

## Component: State Medical Examiner

### Contribution to Department's Mission

The Department's mission is to promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans. In support of this mission, the State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) provides a statewide system for the medical-legal investigation of unanticipated, sudden, and violent deaths in order to provide accurate, legally defensible determinations of the cause of death and information to ensure appropriate follow-up on all child deaths in the state.

### Core Services

- As required by law, investigate and certify all deaths that occur within the state of Alaska that are a result of violence, suspected violence, deaths due to accidental causes, deaths that occur during incarceration, deaths that are associated with conditions that pose a hazard to public safety or health, and all unattended or unexplained deaths. The central facility in Anchorage provides post mortem examinations appropriate for each case referred and includes access to state-of-the-art forensic medical services, including forensic pathology and radiology, odontology, anthropology and the services of the Department of Public Safety Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.
- For deaths that are investigated, identification of the deceased is established if necessary, records and evidence are maintained, legally defensible determinations of the cause and manner of death provided, and present findings of the investigation are provided to courts, law enforcement agencies, and other parties with legitimate interests in the death.
- Examine living persons to collect evidence as a result of previous injuries.
- Participate in training personnel involved in death investigations, including forensic medico legal investigators, local physicians, state and local police, village public safety officers and other authorities.

### FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

<b>FY2008 Component Budget: \$2,198,600</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	15
	Part time	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

### Key Component Challenges

- Increasing numbers of statewide autopsies, consults, and teaching affect the ability for the medical examiner to maintain and perform the increased workload each year with the limited number of staff and limited budget allocations.
- Continuing to bring the autopsy suite and embalming/decomposition suite into compliance with OSHA regulations and standards is costly. The SMEO will proceed as funding permits.
- In FY08, the office will continue on the prescribed track towards accreditation, following the guidelines of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), as funding permits.

### Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

No significant changes.

### Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

Total cases reported: 1,512

Cases autopsied: 293  
 Cases with consult: 793  
 Cases with inspection: 23  
 Cases with natural cause: 403

- Successfully recruited and hired new Deputy Medical Examiner to enable the State Medical Examiner's Office to meet the expectations of increased autopsies performed and surveillance to detect new or unexpected infectious diseases.
- Began the accreditation track, as recommended by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). Worked to adopt newly established national NAME standards for autopsies. This project will be accomplished as funding permits.
- Enhanced the quality of performance of the Child Fatality Review Committee.
- The Bone Committee continued collaboration with anthropological staff at the University of Alaska and the workload of the forensic odontologist continued to grow. Through this effort, cases are being solved and missing persons identified.
- Continued improvement in the quality of statistical information for various state and federal organizations by comparing previous years' case files processed to the current-year case files. Archived case files from 1992 to 1994 to magnetic media storage.
- Continued to upgrade the database of State Medical Examiner's Office cases.

**Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 12.65                      Death Investigations and Medical Examinations  
 7 AAC 35                    Embalming and Other Post-Mortem Services

<b>Contact Information</b>
<p><b>Contact:</b> Janet Clarke, Assistant Commissioner  <b>Phone:</b> (907) 465-1630  <b>Fax:</b> (907) 465-2499  <b>E-mail:</b> janet_clarke@health.state.ak.us</p>

**State Medical Examiner  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	1,077.3	1,522.7	1,721.7
72000 Travel	36.4	18.5	18.5
73000 Services	246.3	304.5	304.5
74000 Commodities	83.6	103.9	103.9
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	50.0	50.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>1,443.6</b>	<b>1,999.6</b>	<b>2,198.6</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,443.6	1,977.9	2,176.9
1156 Receipt Supported Services	0.0	21.7	21.7
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>1,443.6</b>	<b>1,999.6</b>	<b>2,198.6</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Managemen t Plan	FY2008 Governor
<b><u>Unrestricted Revenues</u></b>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b><u>Restricted Revenues</u></b>				
Receipt Supported Services	51073	0.0	21.7	21.7
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>21.7</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>21.7</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2007 Management Plan</b>	<b>1,977.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>1,999.6</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-FY 08 Health Insurance Increases for Exempt Employees	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-FY 08 Retirement Systems Rate Increases	198.4	0.0	0.0	198.4
<b>FY2008 Governor</b>	<b>2,176.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>2,198.6</b>

**State Medical Examiner  
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2007</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2008</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	15	15	Annual Salaries	980,761
Part-time	0	0	Premium Pay	63,305
Nonpermanent	2	2	Annual Benefits	743,988
			<i>Less 3.71% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(66,354)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>1,721,700</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk II	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk III	1	0	0	0	1
Autopsy Assistant	4	0	0	0	4
Embalmer	2	0	0	0	2
Investigator I	5	0	0	0	5
Investigator II	1	0	0	0	1
Staff Physician	2	0	0	0	2
State Medical Examiner/Chief	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>