

BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS/EMBALMERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 16, 2009

The Open Session of the State Board of Funeral Directors/Embalmers was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on the above date in Room 104, Rhode Island Department of Health, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established.

Board members in attendance:

Mary Bray

Raymond Butterfield

Elizabeth Feid

Edward Murphy

Board member not in attendance:

Joan Retsinas

Staff member in attendance:

Maureen Slowik

Open Minutes of the September 21, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made by Raymond Butterfield, seconded by Elizabeth Feid, to accept the September minutes.

The Board welcomes its newest member, Mary Bray. Mary will fill the Public Board Member Position that has been vacant for several years.

Adjournment to Executive Session

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order. On motion of Edward Murphy, seconded by Raymond Butterfield, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential matters discussed in Executive Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

Rhode Island Funeral Directors Association (RIFDA)

Several members of RIFDA came to speak to the Board regarding several of their concerns—especially in regards to pre-need

agreements. Those attending were Mark Russell, Elizabeth Januskiewicz, Craig Carpenter and Stephen Mello. RIFDA would like to work with the Board and the Department to change some of our Rules and Regulations. We are all concerned with protecting the consumer. RIFDA will send their suggestions to the Board for review.

Advertising as Funeral Directors in the Verizon Yellow Pages

We have had several complaints regarding two entities advertising in the Verizon Yellow

Pages under Funeral Director Section that are not licensed as such in Rhode Island. Several letters have been sent to Verizon asking what the criteria is used for placing advertisements in certain categories. We have never received a response. Letters have been sent to Ocean State Transfer and Memorial Society of Rhode Island asking that they find a more appropriate place to advertise.

Adjournment

On motion of Elizabeth Feid, seconded by Edward Murphy, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 11, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Slowik

Board Administrator

Health Professionals Regulation