

BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS/EMBALMERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 6, 2010

Open Session

The Open Session of the Board of Funeral Directors / Embalmers was called to order at 2:00 pm on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, 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:

Edward Murphy

Joan Retsinas

Raymond Butterfield, III

Mary Bray

Board Members not in attendance:

Elizabeth Feid

Staff members in attendance:

Maureen Slowik

J. Michel Martineau

Chairman Murphy opened the meeting. Mark Russell a licensed Funeral Director / Embalmer made a brief presentation to educate the Board on the process he follows as it pertains to his business relationship with Brown Medical School and the anatomical donations program. Mark indicates the relationship with Brown started many years ago with a different funeral home, after his family acquired that funeral home; they decided to continue the relationship with Brown. Mark described the protocol he follows, it was established in communication with the Office of the Medical Director (ME); he finds it works well for all parties.

Board Members review and discuss the proposal made by Mr. Craig Carpenter. Mr. Russell states the MedCure, Inc. / White Dove Crematory proposal contains both similarities and differences as compared to the process he follows. Members note a valid need and continue their review point by point referencing Mr. Carpenter's original four-page presentation packet.

Member Mary Bray advises it may be better to consider writing a new section only addressing anatomical donations / body parts as it pertains to this proposal, numerous Members say they agree. This Board Administrator states that Dr. Alexandre confirms that any change to the law or regulations would require a Hearing involving the public.

Board Members express a desire and need to continue to review the Carpenter proposal. Board Members direct this Administrator to contact Mark Russell, MedCure, Inc., and Mr. Craig Carpenter and invite them to the next Board Meeting, January 10, 2010 for the purpose of discussion involving further review of this matter. Member Joan Retsinas asks this Administrator to please notify and invite the appropriate Department personnel who assist with drafting new regulations. Board Members state at the January 10, 2011 meeting, they will consider scheduling a Special Meeting to address other business.

Board Members direct this Administrator to contact the ME and ask what their concerns are and ask why they directed MedCure to the Board.

The minutes of the open session held on November 15, 2010 were presented. On motion by Joan Retsinas, seconded by Raymond Butterfield, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes. The minutes of the closed session held on November 15, 2010 were presented. On motion by Joan Retsinas, seconded by Raymond Butterfield, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes.

This Board Administrator states there have been inquiries about the requirement of 3 CE hours of OSHA training. Dr. Alexandre advises we cannot require 3 CE hours because OSHA requires 2 CE hours.

Board Members express a desire to change the current regulations to 2 CE hours.

Adjournment to Executive Session

On motion of Edward Murphy, seconded by Raymond Butterfield, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, as Amended, in that confidential issues of fitness for licensure and investigative cases will be discussed. The Open Session adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 3:25 pm. On motion of Edward Murphy, seconded by Raymond Butterfield, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Closed Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

Adjournment

Having no further business, on motion of Raymond Butterfield, III, seconded by Edward Murphy, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Monday, January 10, 2011 at 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michel Martineau

Health Policy Analyst