



MEMO

Date: September 3, 2024
To: Whatcom County Council
From: County Executive Satpal Sidhu
RE: Medical Examiner Transition/Recruitment & Candidate for Interim Medical Examiner

The County Administration is conducting a national recruitment for a new Medical Examiner, who will serve as a full-time County employee and oversee the County's in-house Medical Examiner office. We have hired a local consultant, Ms. Kara Turner with Turner HR Services, to manage our recruitment and interview process, assisting with logistics, decision-making and processing of stakeholder feedback. Deputy Executive Kayla Schott-Bresler and County Human Resources Manager Melissa Keeley are overseeing the recruitment process.

As we work to wrap up our contractual arrangement with Hunt Forensics for Medical Examiner services, there will be a need to appoint a Medical Examiner on an interim basis while we undergo the recruitment process. We have reached an agreement with Dr. Aldo Fusaro to assume the role of Interim Medical Examiner, pending candidate approval by the Medical Society and Sheriff Tanksley, as well as confirmation by County Council on September 10, 2024. It is our intention for Dr. Fusaro to assume this interim role effective September 10, 2024, following the Council meeting.

Dr. Fusaro has extensive experience as a forensic pathologist. Since 2017, he has served as Deputy Medical Examiner for the Montana State Medical Examiner's Office. Prior to that he served as Associate Medical Examiner for King County from 2005 to 2017, after beginning his career in Office of the Cook County Medical Examiner in Illinois (1997-2005).

Dr. Fusaro received his Bachelor's Degree at Grinnell College and subsequently attended medical school at Des Moines University. He did a one-year clinical internship at Chicago Osteopathic, a four-year residency at St. Luke's Medical Center and then a one-year fellowship at Cook County's Office of Medical Examiner. He co-authored multiple articles and taught at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Rush Medical College.

Dr. Fusaro will continue to concurrently serve as Deputy Medical Examiner for the Montana State Medical Examiner's Office. He will split his time between Montana and Whatcom County. During weeks when Dr. Fusaro is in out of state, autopsies will be performed by local pathologists.

Additionally, Ms. Louise Trapp is on temporary assignment to assist with the operations of Medical Examiner services, as well as this transition and office start up. Ms. Trapp has worked in the Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Health & Community Services. Earlier she served as Chief Administrator for the King County Medical Examiner's Office and Chief Deputy Coroner for the Kitsap County.