

NEVADA FUNERAL AND CEMETERY SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.

Video Conference Locations

Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation SAO
500 E. Third Street
Carson City, Nevada
and
Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation
3405 S. Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas, Nevada

Please Note: The Board may 1) address agenda items out of sequence to accommodate persons appearing before the Board or to aid the efficiency or effectiveness of the meeting; 2) combine items for consideration by the public body; and 3) pull or remove items from the agenda at any time. The Board may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person. (NRS 241.030)

Public comment is welcomed by the Board, but at the discretion of the chair, may be limited to three minutes per person. A public comment time will be available before any action items are heard by the public body and then once again prior to adjournment of the meeting. The Chair may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and in his/her sole discretion. Once all items on the agenda are completed the meeting will adjourn. Prior to the commencement and conclusions of a contested case or a quasi judicial proceeding that may affect the due process rights of an individual the board may refuse to consider public comment.

Action by the Board on an item may be to approve, deny, amend, or table.

1. Call to order, roll call, establish quorum.

The meeting began at 10:05 am and a quorum established.

Board Members Present

Dr. Randy Sharp, Chairman
Bart Burton
Brian Rebman
Adam Garcia
Christopher Naylor

Board Staff Present

Jennifer Kandt, Executive Director
Marie Paakkari, Administrative Assistant

Board Counsel Present

Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General

Board Member Absent

Tammy Dermody, Secretary
Loretta Guazzini, Treasurer

2. Public comment

Note: No vote may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

Jennifer Kandt stated that Geoffrey Chiara submitted written comments for the meeting as follows: Specifically, I would like to comment on Agenda item # 11 regarding the Mortuary Science training program being proposed at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). As a licensed Funeral Director in Nevada, I would like to voice my support for such a proposal and would encourage the Board to support such a training program at CSN as well. Those interested in formal training in funeral service and embalming are forced to move out of state to obtain this education. With a population exceeding 2.5 million, Nevada is overdue when it comes to offering an formal course of study in Mortuary Science and I applaud the College of Southern Nevada stepping forward to offer this kind of training. I would ask that the Board give serious consideration to going on record to support such a program of study in your

3. **Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding review and approval of minutes of meetings (For possible action)**
 - a. October 2, 2018

MOTION: *Brian Rebman moved to approve the October 2, 2018 minutes. Dr. Randy Sharp seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

4. **Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding Consent Decrees for case number FB18-03 (For possible action):**
 - a. La Paloma Funeral Services, Crematory License No. CRE80

MOTION: *Dr. Randy Sharp moved to approve as written the consent decree for case number FB18-03 regarding La Paloma Funeral Services, crematory license no. CRE80. Christopher Naylor seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

5. **Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding Consent Decrees for case number FB18-13 (For possible action):**
 - a. Mitchell Amos, Funeral Director License No. FD30

MOTION: *Brian Rebman moved to approve as written the consent decree for case number FB18-13 regarding Mitchell Amos, funeral director license no. FD30. Dr. Randy Sharp seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

6. **Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding Consent Decrees for case number FB17-23 and FB17-24 (For possible action):**
 - a. Heritage Mortuary, Establishment Permit No. EST85

MOTION: *Dr. Randy Sharp moved to approve as written the consent decrees for case numbers FB17-23 and FB17-24 regarding Heritage Mortuary, establishment permit no. EST85. Brian Rebman seconded the motion with Christopher Naylor recusing as one of the issues occurred at the facility where he is employed, and the motion was carried unanimously.*

- b. James Lee, Funeral Director License No. FD69

Dr. Randy Sharp asked if the adjudication stipulation was within ninety days from today's date.

Henna Rasul stated that the approval and execution would be ninety days from today's date and the consent decree would be fully executed once Dr. Sharp signed it.

Adam Garcia asked if on page six of the stipulated adjudication, under number one, the amount that Mr. Lee is going to pay is the exact amount that is in the establishment consent decree for Heritage Mortuary. He asked if they are essentially paying the same amount.

Henna Rasul stated that because it is the facility and there is a funeral director who is in charge, the total cost is split between the establishment and funeral director.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she wanted to clarify, because this had been brought up before that even though the consent decrees reference legal and investigative fees, the only amounts ever put into the decrees are direct billing costs from the Attorney General's office.

MOTION: *Dr. Randy Sharp moved to approved as written the consent decrees for case numbers FB17-23 and FB17-24 regarding James Lee, funeral director license no. FD69. Adam Garcia seconded the motion with Christopher Naylor recusing as one of the issues occurred at the facility where he is employed, and the motion was carried unanimously.*

7. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding Consent Decrees for case number FB18-12 (For possible action):
 - a. Serenity Funeral Home, Establishment Permit No. EST104

MOTION: *Christopher Naylor moved to approve as written the consent decree for case number FB18-12 regarding Serenity Funeral Home, establishment permit no. EST104. Bart Burton seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

8. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding request for approval of reciprocal embalmer application for the following (For possible action):
 - a. James C. Nunn

James C. Nunn stated he would like to make note that the phone number for his employer on his application was incorrect and noted the correct phone number.

MOTION: *Brian Rebman moved to approve the reciprocal embalmer licensure application for James C. Nunn. Adam Garcia seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

9. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding request for approval of new funeral establishment and crematory; Eastside Memorial Park Funerals & Cremations, 1600 Buckeye Road, Minden, Nevada with managing funeral director request for Lyle Meyer FD854 (For possible action)
 - a. Eastside Memorial Park Funerals & Cremations – Funeral Establishment with Lyle Meyer FD854 as Managing Funeral Director Approval
 - b. Eastside Memorial Park Funerals & Cremations – Crematory

Jennifer Kandt stated that inspections of both the establishment and the crematory were performed on October 23, 2018. Temporary approval was granted by the Board Chairman after review of those inspection reports on November 1, 2018 and approval is recommended.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that he had a question regarding the legal reporting form. The form states that the Board would be presented the consent decree at the February 20, 2018 meeting, and asked if that is an incorrect date.

Jennifer Kandt stated that it was not an incorrect date as this application was submitted quite some time ago, and that it just took them much longer to get ready for the inspection. Ms. Kandt stated that the Board did review a consent decree at that February 20, 2018 Board meeting. It was basically regarding Eastside Memorial Park advertising as a funeral establishment and crematory prior to the license being issued. Marketing materials such as a calendar was printed with their new name that was printed at the beginning of the year and that is what the consent decree was regarding.

MOTION: *Adam Garcia moved to approve the funeral establishment permit and crematory license for Eastside Memorial Park Funerals & Cremations with Lyle Meyer, funeral director license no. FD854 as the managing funeral director. Brian Rebman seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

Jennifer Kandt stated that all the following request for approval of managing funeral director requests were granted temporary approval by the Board Chairman.

10. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding request for approval of new managing funeral director for the following locations (For possible action):
 - a. Brandy Megan Hall FD944 – Las Vegas Cremations EST103

MOTION: *Brian Rebman moved to approve Brandy Megan Hall, funeral director license no. FD944 as managing funeral director for Las Vegas Cremations, establishment permit no. EST103. Adam Garcia seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

- b. Dewey L. Ellis, Jr. FD932 – Serenity Funeral Home LLC EST104

MOTION: *Adam Garcia moved to approve Dewey L. Ellis, Jr., funeral director license no. FD932 as managing funeral director for Serenity Funeral Home LLC, establishment permit no. EST104. Brian Rebman seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

- c. Jenna Autumn Daunt FD881 – Palm Downtown Mortuary EST17

MOTION: *Adam Garcia moved to approved Jenna Autumn Daunt, funeral director license no. FD881 as managing funeral director for Palm Downtown Mortuary, establishment permit no. EST17. Brian Rebman seconded the motion with Bart Burton recusing as they work for the same company and the motion was carried unanimously.*

- d. Andrew Joyce FD936 – Nevada Funeral Services, LLC EST113

MOTION: *Brian Rebman moved to approve Andrew Joyce, funeral director license no. FD936 as managing funeral director for Nevada Funeral Services, LLC, establishment permit no. EST113. Adam Garcia seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

- e. Kristopher Wilks FD919 – Casa de Paz Funeraria EST111

MOTION: *Adam Garcia moved to approve Kristopher Wilks, funeral director license no. FD919 as managing funeral director for Casa de Paz Funeraria, establishment permit no. EST111. Brian Rebman seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

- f. Kristen Anderson FD860 – Sunrise Cremation Society DC88L

MOTION: *Adam Garcia moved to approve Kristen Anderson, funeral director license no. FD860 as managing funeral director for Sunrise Cremation Society, direct cremation facility permit no. DC88L. Brian Rebman seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

- 11. **Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding new mortuary science program at College of Southern Nevada (For possible action):**
 - a. Letter of support for program.
 - b. Support of legislative changes to allow for embalmers apprenticeship without 60 semester or 90 quarter hours; exemption to 1 year as funeral arranger for graduates of mortuary science program; and allowance for students in prep room.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she met with representatives from the program. What they are looking for is basically two things, the first, is that the Board would submit a letter stating that the Board is in full support of the program. The second thing that they would possibly be looking at would be legislative changes that would be done through a legislator and they would want the Board's support for that as well.

Jennifer Kandt stated that the State of Nevada requires an apprentice embalmer to have at least 60 semester or 90 quarter hours of non mortuary science credits and that is not standard practice in other states. She said that someone who is a graduate of mortuary science college may not be qualified to be an apprentice embalmer in our State but if they had 60 semester hours of any other type of education, they could start their apprenticeship. It is not ideal, and thinks changing that would be beneficial for the program otherwise the number of credits required is higher.

Jennifer Kandt stated that secondly, Nevada allows for people to become licensed as funeral directors without attending mortuary science school. If someone is going attend a school of mortuary science to become a funeral director even though it is not required for licensure, it would seem to make sense that

they might have an exemption to the one year as a funeral arranger because they have just spent two years in mortuary science college instead.

Jennifer Kandt stated that the third item would be to draft language that allows for students to be in the prep-room. As the statute is currently written, it probably would not allow for students to observe in a prep-room without immediate family member consent and that could be a potential problem. Ms. Kandt stated that there are a couple of mortuaries down south that have agreed to allow students to come in and observe. It would be towards the end of the program.

Jennifer Kandt stated that those would be the things that would possibly need to be reviewed and changed. If they did move forward with changes, it would just be a matter of her showing up to testify that the Board is in support of changes and possibly working with their legislator to draft some language and make sure there would be no issues.

Adam Garcia stated that this agenda item is simply notification and requesting support and the Board is not obligated to approve anything.

Jennifer Kandt stated that the program is just looking for support, not approval.

Adam Garcia asked if they were looking to make the changes in this legislative session or the next session.

Jennifer Kandt stated that they want to do it this session as they would like to start classes in 2020.

Adam Garcia stated that he would be highly supportive of this process and this educational endeavor by the College of Southern Nevada. He would request that at some point, the Board receive a presentation from the College of Southern Nevada on this program for our information, so we know what they are doing. He would be supportive for the Board providing any support for the program and the support for the legislative changes that are recommended.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that he agrees, and it seems to be a very worthwhile program especially since people must go out-of-state to get this type of education. Dr. Sharp asked Jennifer if she had any idea what the curriculum would involve, and how many years, etc.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she believed it was a two-year program and that they did provide her with all the courses that they intend to offer. There are labs and things that are at the end which is why they want to be able to send students into the prep-room.

Brian Rebman asked about the 60 semester hours and whether that would no longer be a requirement for anyone or just graduates of this program.

Jennifer Kandt stated that would no longer be a requirement to become an apprentice embalmer. She stated that there is a model practice act that was created by the Conference where they looked at different qualifications in each state and what is required. She said that this requirement for 60 semester or 90 quarter hours was not in the model practice act. Ms. Kandt stated that Bart Burton was part of that process and could speak to the Board better regarding that matter.

Bart Burton stated that Nevada was outside of what most states require as it was a major requirement to even get your foot in the door to serve an apprenticeship. Mr. Burton stated that he believes that this proposal is good. It can get people in there but said it is also important to guard against how long you let the apprenticeship go. Mr. Burton stated that he believed that we need to guard against having an apprentice go in and learn a trade and keep going and going as an apprentice and never go and get the education. He believes it would be good to open the door, but they must be committed to finishing the program.

Jennifer Kandt stated that in statute, individuals cannot serve more than two years as an apprentice without passing the National Board Exam.

Brian Rebman asked about how many states required a four-year mortuary science degree versus a two year degree.

Bart Burton stated that he believed that it was three states. He said that every mortuary school now, when you graduate, you come out with an associate degree. That was changed by the American Board probably four to five years ago.

Brian Rebman stated that he thought in the beginning, it was stated that apprentices were strictly observing, and his experience with apprentice embalmers was that they are hands on and are doing the work under the guidance of the embalmer.

Jennifer Kandt stated that for anyone who would register as an apprentice embalmer, they absolutely could perform work. If they did not register as an apprentice, they wouldn't be allowed to do anything behind the scenes.

Brian Rebman asked whether the school would then require them to be an apprentice embalmer, because at least the schools that he has seen require you to have hand-on experience with at least ten embalmings to receive their associate degree. Mr. Rebman believes that every one of them would need to get that apprentice embalmer license.

Jennifer Kandt stated that is one of the things that they were discussing was at what point in the program that they would require the students to seek out the registration as an apprentice embalmer. That would be a detail for the school to work out, we wouldn't really care other than to say that they could not perform any work on the body until they are a registered apprentice. However, whether they wanted to do it in the first year of the program or the second year of the program would not matter to us, other than they cannot serve more than two years as an apprentice embalmer without passing the National Boards.

Bart Burton stated that Jennifer Kandt is chairing a national project on the apprenticeship program and we will know in February if the model internship program is approved at the national level. Mr. Burton stated that he believes it will pass and wondered if there was a way for the Board to incorporate that with legislative changes.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she was thinking about that the way to the meeting and was thinking about whether legislation or regulation would be needed to not just state completion of 50 cases, but have more specific guidelines on those cases.

Bart Burton stated that he believes that what Jennifer Kandt has been working on brings a lot of structure to the apprenticeship program and it sets out much better guidelines. He said it makes things more clear for not just the apprentice, but for the individual who has the apprentice under them to have a guide of what is expected of them as well.

Jennifer Kandt stated that the program she has been working on nationally goes into detail on tasks that an apprentice embalmer or funeral director should complete prior to licensure and she stated that there may be a way to incorporate some of the program into our state should the model be approved.

Brian Rebman asked if two years was too restrictive. He asked if the Board thought three years would be better in case they cannot get their degree within those two years.

Jennifer Kandt stated that you would have mortuaries that would take advantage of people that way and would keep apprentices for longer than they should and that could be a problem. Ms. Kandt stated that she believed that two years is long enough to be an apprentice. Once they pass the National Board, they have already done the one-two years, they could apply for licensure as an embalmer.

Brian Rebman asked whether they had to have the schooling completed.

Jennifer Kandt stated that they must have the schooling completed and they must pass the National Board exams.

Bart Burton stated that the apprenticeship program, if given the extension to two years, is for them to learn and to get their fifty bodies. Once they get their fifty bodies, if it goes beyond the two years and they need time to pass their exams or get through school, once that is completed, they have satisfied their apprenticeship to get licensed. He agrees with Jennifer that making it any longer you will see, three to five-year apprenticeships.

Brian Rebman stated that he was just suggesting stretching it out to three years.

Jennifer Kandt stated that they might never go to school at that point.

Brian Rebman stated that he sees the point, but he would just hate to see someone, and maybe that would be the extreme, two years and now they must quit their employment until they finish whatever they have missed.

Jennifer Kandt stated that they would still be able to work in the funeral home, they just would not be able to embalm bodies.

Brian Rebman stated that he believes that there is abuse of that part. If they are still working at the mortuary and they have been doing these tasks and now they are not legal.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that if we did have extenuating circumstances is there a provision to where the Board could take that into consideration and perhaps allow them to go beyond two years or is that a legal issue.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she did not believe that there is currently anything in statute that addresses that but in regulation there is a section stating that if they don't pass the National Board Exam after two years as an apprentice, they must start the apprenticeship over. It has not been something that the Board has struggled with. Ms. Kandt stated that she did not know anyone who are stating that they have been an apprentice for two years and now I'm struggling to graduate. Ms. Kandt stated that Mr. Rebman's son has taken a pause between his apprenticeship before renewing, but that is not typical.

Brian Rebman stated that it would have been convenient to keep him working through that year. He did an online schooling and was still employed but could not continue to work in the prep-room.

Lyle Meyer asked if you could reapply for your apprenticeship and if you do your fifty cases before your two years, is that accepted, or do you have to do a two-year apprenticeship or one year until you get your fifty.

Jennifer Kandt stated that the requirement is one year and fifty cases. Sometimes in the rural areas, people cannot get fifty cases. That is more of the problem that they cannot get enough bodies within one year, so they need to extend the apprenticeship a year so that they can get the fifty cases. That is much more common than people wanting three years because they did not end up graduating from mortuary school in time.

Bart Burton stated that you could also put it on hold.

Jennifer Kandt stated that you can renew it once and that is the idea, you do your apprenticeship and you can renew it one time then you need to graduate and pass the National Board exams, so you can become an embalmer. Ms. Kandt stated that it is really for the protection of the apprentice to not be an apprentice for so long and be paid as an apprentice.

Brian Rebman stated that he believes that the renewal would take care of any issue and that is reasonable.

Dr. Randy Sharp asked if there was a national accreditation for the college programs like there is for veterinarians, human doctors and dentists.

Jennifer Kandt stated that there is a national accreditation and the college is working with the accreditation agency.

Bart Burton stated that it is the American Board.

MOTION: Bart Burton moved to draft letter with support of the mortuary science program through the College of Southern Nevada and that the Board support legislative changes. Brian Rebman seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she would recommend adding language to include that the Board would delegate to the Executive Director authority to testify in support on behalf of the Board.

AMENDED MOTION: Bart Burton moved to also incorporate that the Board would delegate to the Executive Director authority to testify in support on behalf of the Board. Brian Rebman seconded the amended motion and the amended motion was carried unanimously.

12. Financial Reports

- a. Regulatory Fee Collection
- b. Financial Reports

Jennifer Kandt overviewed regulatory fee collection for July, August and September. She stated that the cases reported are compared against reports from Vital Records and that they check to see if they generally correspond. She said there was an instance where the Board had to go back to a funeral home and say it doesn't look like the reports are matching the number of permits issued with Vital Records.

Adam Garcia stated that he wanted to commend both Jennifer and Marie as well as Wayne for the work that they have done throughout the year and the information being provided continues to support his notion that they all do a great job.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that he would also agree with those comments.

Brian Rebman asked if the budget vs. actual, on the profit and loss statement, the reason why the income is so low is because the biannual collection of the fees.

Jennifer Kandt stated correct, the bookkeeper defers the revenue and then at the end of every quarter adds in the deferred renewal amounts. You will see the income for renewals will go up throughout the year. At the end of December, there will be an addition to that amount and you will see less deferred revenue as it will be put into the income for renewals.

Brian Rebman stated that we were way under on the budget for total expenses, but profit and loss, we are still behind. That is because the money coming in every other year.

Jennifer Kandt stated correct. Additionally, she said the only thing in the budget that we were not anticipating was the \$9,000 settlement agreement which was not budgeted. She said that the Board has adequate reserves because those were built up before the Board went to doing renewals every two years. She said that now the Board is fairly even with income and expenditures.

13. Overview of current complaint status

Jennifer Kandt overviewed a complaint status report. She said that the Board is down to three open cases and she stated she would have to commend Wayne for his work in getting all of these cases finalized.

14. Report from Executive Director, Jennifer Kandt

Jennifer Kandt stated that the adopted regulation was sent to Legislative Counsel Bureau and is set to be reviewed by the Legislative Commission on December 19, 2018. Ms. Kandt stated that she will be there in case the Legislative Commission has any questions on the regulations. She does not anticipate any opposition as we did make changes to try to appease everyone who was involved in the process and make sure that we came up with a product that everyone could agree with.

In looking at inspections and investigations, we only have three investigations right now and Wayne is on track with the annual inspections.

Regarding the Governor's Finance Office, we are awaiting the second report of the audit. At the last meeting the Board reviewed the first report and we took into account any recommendations that were made for all Boards. Nothing in that audit report was concerning for this Board and she did not anticipate anything in the second report being of any concern to this Board either.

There is also an overview of meetings that she has presented at or attended. Then there is also attached a listing of applications that have been approved outside of the meeting.

15. Board member comments

Dr. Randy Sharp would like to reiterate what Adam Garcia stated, we certainly appreciate Jennifer, Marie and Wayne for all their efforts. For the short time that he has been on the Board, he has noticed quite an impact and he believes things are awesome.

16. Discussion regarding future agenda items and future meeting dates

Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Thursday, June 6, 2019
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Thursday, November 14, 2019

Jennifer Kandt stated that Lorretta Guazzini was unable to attend on Tuesdays so the dates have been moved to Wednesdays and Thursdays.

There was discussion that Adam Garcia was still teaching and would need a 10:00 am start time.

Jennifer Kandt stated that we will keep the time at 10:00 am.

Christopher Naylor asked why the dates were not every three months apart.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she thinks in the past they were the months that the Board met, and they were kept the same, but they could be changed in the future.

17. Public comment

<p>Note: No vote may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)</p>
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Tyrone Seals, owner of Heritage Mortuary stated that he had concerns regarding doctors not signing death certificates and said that if no one is regulating the doctors, then how does that transfer to the responsibility of the mortuary when they do not sign. He said he had concerns about moving forward since they just had a consent decree.

Jennifer Kandt stated that this case had more to do with the doctor not signing the death certificate and a hearing would have been needed to discuss the details, as now that a consent decree was entered into, other details of the case couldn't be discussed.

Bart Burton stated that if he understands Mr. Seals correctly, he is stating if the doctor does not sign in a timely manner, what recourse does a funeral home have, is there a reporting mechanism that a funeral home can go to the State or the Health Department.

Jennifer Kandt stated that is all part of an investigation in terms of, what date did the funeral home get the body, what date did the funeral home enter initial information, and what date did the doctor sign. Vital Records gives us all that information. It is very common that funeral homes struggle with getting death certificates signed. We receive many complaints on that, but in cases where the funeral home is diligently attempting to get the death certificates signed, we have not taken any action against them and have encouraged complaints against the doctors.

Bart Burton stated if a funeral home has a case that died, within the next twenty-four hours they get the information into EDRS. Seventy-two hours goes by and the doctor does nothing, they can see everything. That is the question as a lot of people complain all the time stating that they did everything that they could, but the doctors are holding it. Is that something the funeral home can get a hold of the Health Department, we don't regulate the doctors.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she has sent many families to file complaints with the Medical Board against the doctors who are not signing the death certificates. There is a provision in the statute and regulation that allows for the head of the hospital department to sign off. In a lot of cases, people have gone to the head of the hospital or Southern Nevada Health District has intervened to try to get the head of the hospital to sign the death certificate.

James Lee, licensed funeral director and embalmer stated that he would like to put his endorsement of the Southern Nevada Community College pursuing a mortuary program degree. He has had people that have applied with him who have come from out of state, but they did not meet the Nevada criteria to become an apprentice embalmer. He believes that some of that has been addressed by the Conference. The Southern Nevada College needs to make sure that they take that into consideration. Basically, when he got into the business, which was almost fifty years ago, the criteria from the first state that he was licensed in was two years of general college, one year of mortuary school and one year of apprenticeship. You couldn't serve the apprenticeship unless you passed both of those.

James Lee also stated that he would like to reiterate that there is a problem with death certificates being signed timely in the State of Nevada. Many doctors are just oblivious to the time frame, they do not take into consideration, he doesn't think, the hardship, not only the funeral homes, but the families that they have been serving if they do not sign that death certificate in a timely fashion. He would suggest that there needs to be more interaction between State agencies, the State Funeral Board, the State Medical Board, maybe even Vital Records. It is currently the issue that Vital Records that they have had when you put the death certificate into EDRS and send it to the doctor, it doesn't get to the doctor. We have checked this out and Vital Records is concerned with it, but now we have cases that will be shipped to other parts of this country, funeral services that are being delayed. He said that they have complained and spoke with Vital Records and what they get is that they are sorry about the inconvenience. It isn't their inconvenience, it is the families that they serve that are being inconvenienced because they cannot get the death certificate signed within the proper length time as prescribed by the NRS. He would advise or plead to the Board that maybe have some interaction with these other boards and agencies within our State government to see if there isn't something that can be done to push the buttons a little bit harder to see that these death certificates get signed. Mr. Lee thanked the Board for their time.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she spoke with Jason at Vital Records and she knows that they are always looking at ways to improve and knows that they are aware of the issues with the doctors.

Tyrone Seals stated that he has called Jason and some of the people at his office would tell him, "that death certificate is laying over there in that stack of papers and we haven't gotten to it yet," especially when it comes to the amendments.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she does believe that the amendments are still paper processed.

Tyrone Seals stated that it has been four and five weeks before they could get their death certificates back.

James Lee stated that he understands the two or three days in getting that initiated, and most of the time their staff would see that getting done. But when it is put in and initiated within that time frame and then sent to the doctor through the EDRS, and it doesn't even get to the doctor, it looks like it is there, but it is not and that has happened many times over the last few days. They went to call the doctor to ask if they got it and the doctor said no. They stated that they were going to send it to the doctor again and for them to tell the funeral home if they got it and the doctor stated no, he didn't get it. That is what they talked to Jason at Vital Records and they were told that Vital Records was having a problem and they are sorry, their system is not capable or sophisticated enough and large enough to take care of all of this and that they are getting a new system. He is not sure if that was said to just get the funeral homes off their back. Nonetheless, when they are waiting three or four days, or the death certificate doesn't even get to the doctor after they fill it out and put it into their queue, that is a serious problem which is affecting, not them directly, but families that they are serving because they cannot get burial permits, transit permits, or cremation permits, and families are questioning them how come it is taking so long. If it doesn't even get to the doctors once you put it into the queue, we've got a problem.

Aaron Forgey, stated that he knows Jennifer Kandt, Board Executive Director has the ability to grant licenses outside of Board meetings, but stated he was just curious if the new Simple Cremation location

had been sorted out, if a new person had been submitted as a licensee in Reno and Las Vegas as he didn't see it on the agenda today.

Jennifer Kandt stated that at the last Board meeting, the Board approved the facility in Las Vegas contingent upon them appointing a different funeral director who met the specifications which was done.

18. Adjournment

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am.