



STATE OF NEVADA  
**FUNERAL AND CEMETERY SERVICES BOARD**

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**MINUTES**

***Thursday, April 06, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.***  
**Video Conference and Teleconference**

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

The Board meeting commenced at 9:00 am and a quorum was established.

**Board Members Present**

Dr. Randy Sharp, Chairman  
Bart Burton, Secretary  
Kim Kandaras, Treasurer  
Dr. Raymond Giddens  
Laura Sussman  
Dr. Donald Edward Chaney

**Board Staff Present**

Jennifer Kandt, Executive Director  
Marie Paakkari, Administrative Assistant

**Board Counsel Present**

Joel Bekker, Deputy Attorney General

**Board Members Absent**

None

Jennifer Kandt stated that Adam Garcia has resigned from the Board, as he had applied for the position of Board executive director. Ms. Kandt stated that she would notify the Board once an appointment had been made to the Board to fill the vacant spot.

**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)

There was no public comment.

**3. Consent Agenda (For Possible Action)**

The consent agenda items contain matters of routine acceptance. The Board members may approve the consent agenda as a whole or individually at their discretion.

- A. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding review and approval of minutes of meetings (For possible action)
  - 1) November 15, 2022
- B. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding previously issued temporary establishment permit, direct cremation facility permit, crematory license applications and request for approval of new managing funeral directors (for possible action)

- 1) Establishment Permit for Autumn Funerals & Cremations, 1575 N. Lompa Lane, Carson City 89701 EST136 with Rick Noel FD620 as Managing Funeral Director (Change of ownership to Integrity NV Funeral Service, Inc.); Temporary approval effective November 10, 2022.
- 2) Establishment Permit for Star Mortuary, 900 Nevada Way, Boulder City, NV 89005 EST137 with Traci Ortlieb FD992 as Managing Funeral Director; Temporary approval effective February 17, 2023.
- 3) Funeral Establishment Permit for Care Cremation & Burial, 5070 Arville Street, Suite 14, Las Vegas, NV 89118 EST138 with Aaron Robert Forgey FD877 as Managing Funeral Director; Temporary approval effective March 21, 2023; and Crematory License for Cremation Center of Las Vegas, 5070 Arville Street, Suite 14, Las Vegas, NV 89118 CRE116; Temporary approval effective March 21, 2023.
- 4) Managing Funeral Director Request for Larry Davis FD984 – Bunker’s Memory Gardens Mortuary EST30 and Bunker’s Eden Vale Mortuary EST10.
- 5) Managing Funeral Director Request for Billy Vallie, Jr. FD918 – Davis Funeral Home (Rainbow) EST28
- 6) Managing Funeral Director Request for Brandy Megan Hall FD944 - Kraft-Sussman EST130, Tulip Cremations DC100L and Vegas Valley Cremations DC98L.
- 7) Managing Funeral Director Request for James Lee FD69 – Lee Funeral Home EST2.
- 8) Managing Funeral Director Request for Lauren Ashley Guido FD980 – Las Vegas Cremations EST103.
- 9) Managing Funeral Director Request for Kristin Elizabeth Mulhall FD979 – Desert Memorial EST46 and Sunrise Cremation Dc101L
- 10) Managing Funeral Director Request for Michael Roberts II FD968 – Palm Downtown Mortuary EST17

***MOTION: LAURA SUSSMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ABOVE REFERENCED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A AND B-1 THROUGH 10. DR. RAYMOND GIDDENS SECONDED THE MOTION WITH BART BURTON RECUSING ITEMS 3.A. AND 3.B.10; KIM KANDARAS RECUSING ITEM 3.B.1.; LAURA SUSSMAN RECUSING ITEMS 3.B.3. AND 3.B.6 AND THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**4. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding funeral arranger license application for Marlon Demond Williams (For possible action)**

Jennifer Kandt stated that Mr. Williams presented a criminal history with his application which required Board approval. Mr. Williams was previously licensed as the owner of a crematory, and this is a different license type.

Dr. Donald Edward Chaney questioned the pending litigation.

Jennifer Kandt stated that there is a civil lawsuit between Mr. Williams and his father regarding ownership of a crematory, funeral establishment, and direct cremation facility. Ms. Kandt stated that there is ongoing civil litigation which was noted in Mr. Williams’ application.

Kim Kandaras asked if the funeral arranger license for Mr. Williams was for a facility that was separate from the ownership civil litigation.

Jennifer Kandt stated that Mr. Williams' funeral arranger license application was an individual license, and he was applying for an individual funeral arranger license which is separate from any facility license. Theoretically, Mr. Williams could work for any funeral establishment in the State.

Marlon Carter, father of applicant Marlon Williams asked if he could ask the Board a question regarding Mr. Williams' funeral arranger license application.

Jennifer Kandt asked the Board Counsel if it was appropriate for Mr. Carter to ask the Board a question.

Joel Bekker, Deputy Attorney General stated that the individual on the application was Marlon Williams, not Marlon Carter.

Jennifer Kandt stated that the individual asking the question is a different person than the applicant. Ms. Kandt stated that the individual asking the question is the father of the applicant.

Marlon Carter asked the Board how far can you live from Nevada to get an arranger's license. He asked if you could get an arranger's license if you don't live in Nevada.

Joel Bekker, Deputy Attorney General stated that was an easy question.

Jennifer Kandt stated, yes, you can be licensed in Nevada no matter where you live. Some individuals will sometimes hold licenses in multiple States. Often many individuals do seek licensure in multiple States.

**MOTION: BART BURTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FUNERAL ARRANGER LICENSE FOR MARLON DEMOND WILLIAMS. DR. DONALD EDWARD CHANEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding consent decrees for case number FB21-56 and FB22-04 (For possible action)**

**a. Clark County Funeral Services EST106**

Jennifer Kandt stated that usually the Board would see one consent decree for the managing funeral director and the location, but they are no longer associated and wanted completely different outcomes.

The Board reviewed and discussed the consent decree for case number FB21-56 and FB22-04 for Clark County Funeral Services EST106.

**MOTION: DR. RANDY SHARP MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT DECREE AS WRITTEN REGARDING CASE NUMBERS FB21-56 FB22-04 FOR CLARK COUNTY FUNERAL SERVICES EST106. DR. DONALD EDWARD CHANEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Sheila Winn FD926**

The Board reviewed and discussed the consent decree for case number FB21-56 and FB22-04 for Sheila Winn FD926.

**MOTION: LAURA SUSSMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT DECREE AS WRITTEN REGARDING CASE NUMBERS FB21-56 AND FB22-04 FOR SHEILA WINN FD926. DR. RAYMOND GIDDENS SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Interviews for the Executive Director position (For Information Only)**

- a. Adam Garcia
- b. Stephanie McGee
- c. Sheridan Simpson

Jennifer Kandt stated that her last day would be July 31, 2023. Depending on when the individual who the Board hires would like to start. Ms. Kandt stated that she could extend the July 31, 2023, date a little but not too long. Ms. Kandt stated that after the Board completes the interviews, then ranking the candidates in order the Board would like to hire them in case an individual is hired and for some reason they change their mind, or it does not work out then the Board can go to the next individual.

The Board interviewed Adam Garcia, Stephanie McGee, and Sheridan Simpson.

**7. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding hiring of new Executive Director including salary offer (For possible action)**

Jennifer Kandt asked the Board Members to rank the applicants in order of preference in case the chosen applicant does not work out for any reason.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that there are three very strong candidates for the executive director position, which is not bad, but makes it a little difficult.

Dr. Chaney asked the Board Chairman if he wanted a verbal, chat, or individually rank the applicants.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that it was a new process for him as well and he would defer to Ms. Kandt. Dr. Sharp stated that he envisioned Board Members stating their opinions and then the Board can discuss.

Jennifer Kandt stated that a discussion can be started to see where the Board is leaning.

Joel Bekker, Deputy Attorney General stated that he wanted to make sure that the Board members are comfortable with the applicants being present during deliberations. Mr. Bekker stated that he wasn't sure if the Board Members wanted to go into a closed session and discuss the applicants in a more private situation. Mr. Bekker stated that a closed session would give the Board Members more freedom and the feeling that they could speak freely without creating any ill will with any of the candidates. Mr. Bekker stated that if someone speaks against a candidate that gets hired that might set up a poor start to the relationship. Mr. Bekker stated that was a possibility, then after the closed session when the Board returns to the open session, then the Board can report back to the open session a summary of what was discussed and then take a vote. Mr. Bekker also suggested opening to public comment after deliberations for the vote to see if the public has any influence regarding the applicant. Mr. Bekker stated that the Board could also do a blind vote then report back to the public what that vote was so there is no feeling that the Board Member needs to hide their vote from the candidate or not wanting them to know how they voted.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that he was used to withdrawing to discuss the applicant and coming back with a decision.

Jennifer Kandt stated that there might be different interpretations from different attorneys. Ms. Kandt stated that when she interviewed for the executive director position, it was all done in the open forum as she was told it had to be in open session. If Mr. Bekker's interpretation is different, then the Board can go into closed session to make the deliberations.

Joel Bekker, Deputy Attorney General stated under NRS 241.030, or NRS 241.031, discussion whether or not to hire someone is discussion of their professional conduct which would fit under the closed session requirements. Mr. Bekker stated that a closed session could be done under a motion, and he would phrase it "to discuss the professional conduct of each of the applicants in order to discuss whom to hire." Mr. Bekker stated that he would also request that the candidates waive all notice requirements if they would allow the closed session as they have a right to waive the closed session and have everything out in the open.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she had understood that NRS 241.031 b. applies as, "a person who is an appointed officer or who serves at the pleasure of a public body as a chief executive or administrative officer." Ms. Kandt stated what had been interpreted in the past, when she interviewed and why she didn't close the session.

Joel Bekker, Deputy Attorney General stated that if they have not been appointed and are not serving yet, then he did not believe that they would fall under that exception.

Dr. Donald Edward Chaney stated that he has done the hiring process both ways and he is prepared to state for the record that Stephanie McGee is his first choice and Adam Garcia, his second choice and Sheridan Simpson would be his third choice.

Jennifer Kandt stated that would make it easier if the Board Members would state their choices so they can be tracked.

Dr. Donald Edward Chaney stated that is why he presented the candidates this way, so that the Board Members can begin the process and to be very transparent.

Bart Burton stated that he had the same order written down as Dr. Chaney.

Laura Sussman stated that she has a different order, Adam Garcia as her first choice, Stephanie McGee as her second choice and Sheridan Simpson as her third choice.

Dr. Raymond Giddens stated that his candidate order was Stephanie McGee as his first choice, Adam Garcia as his second choice and Sheridan Simpson as his third choice.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that his candidate order was Adam Garcia as his first choice, Sheridan Simpson as his second choice and Stephanie McGee as his third choice.

Jennifer Kandt stated that all Board Members have provided their candidate order choices, as Kim Kandaras must recuse as Sheridan Simpson is affiliated with her business and the Board has one Board Member vacancy. Ms. Kandt stated that three Board Members chose to place Stephanie McGee as first choice, two Board Members placed Adam Garcia as first choice and three Board Members placed Adam Garcia as second choice and one Board Member placed Sheridan Simpson as second choice. Ms. Kandt stated that there are three votes for Stephanie McGee for first choice, and two votes for Adam Garcia for first choice. Ms. Kandt stated that the Board Members should now deliberate and try to sway each other as to what the thought process was for each choice, thereby making sure that the public has an idea why the applicant was picked. Ms. Kandt stated that is why keeping this an open session helps the public to know why the Board made their choice and is good for transparency.

Dr. Donald Edward Chaney stated that he would like to see if there was any public comment regarding the Board's choices.

Joel Bekker stated deliberation by the Board then public comment and if there is any more deliberation based upon the public comment then move toward the motion.

Bart Burton stated that he selected Stephanie McGee as his first choice because the current position that she is in now is very similar to what the Funeral Board does and there is interaction with funeral homes throughout the State with licenses of pre-need arrangements. Mr. Burton stated that with Ms. McGee having a law background will aid her with learning the Funeral Board statutes quickly. Mr. Burton stated that when Jennifer was hired, she did not know the statutes at all and looked where she is now. Mr. Burton stated that Jennifer has laid great groundwork. Mr. Burton stated that as the new executive director, Ms. McGee, has the best qualifications. Mr. Burton stated nothing against the other candidates, he has enjoyed working with Adam and he feels that Sheridan has a bright future, but the time is probably not the best for her on an experience level.

Laura Sussman stated that she put Adam Garcia as first choice, Stephanie McGee as second choice and Sheridan Simpson as third choice. Ms. Sussman stated that she felt that Sheridan, given some time and additional experiences, might be something to consider in the future. Ms. Sussman stated that with Adam Garcia and Stephanie McGee, she felt that both had very strong qualifications but felt that Adam had a good sense of the Board and would continue our growth without any hiccups, not that Stephanie couldn't get up to speed quickly. Ms. Sussman stated that it sounds like Ms. McGee has done some incredible work with the Insurance Division but felt that Adam Garcia might have a little extra qualification to take on leadership for the Board.

Dr. Donald Edward Chaney stated that his first choice, Stephanie McGee, liked the aspect of the regulatory experience. Dr. Chaney stated that he believed that statutory experience is very important as the Board looks at the NRS statutes and trying to move the Board forward and being more inclusive and transparent and he feels that Stephanie McGee is the one to do that. Dr. Chaney stated that it would be nice to have an executive director and assistant position. He said that he would like to commend Adam for his service to the Board and all his time. Dr. Chaney stated that he believes that Ms. McGee is the choice to move the Board forward with her experience in law and the regulatory aspect.

Dr. Raymond Giddens stated that he appreciated Ms. McGee's law background and being part of the insurance industry as he believes that Ms. McGee is a part of the funeral industry already. Dr. Giddens stated that he believes that Ms. McGee interviewed well when she addressed the Board's questions and her goals that she has for the Board as well. Dr. Giddens stated that he was torn regarding Mr. Garcia he has been great to work with and he believes that the Board should still consider his application, but he believes that Ms. McGee shined a different light for him through her resume.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that he had Adam Garcia as his first choice, Sheridan Simpson as his second choice and Stephanie McGee as his third choice. Dr. Sharp stated this was not a reflection of any capabilities. Dr. Sharp stated that working with Adam Garcia he has a sense of his leadership, and he was very clear on the direction that he wanted to take the Board. Dr. Sharp stated that Stephanie McGee has a direction for the Board that was more efficient as opposed to five years down the road as to what she thought the Board would look like. Dr. Sharp stated that he thought Sheridan Simpson was youthful, enthusiastic, has managerial experience and knows her rules and regulations and seems like she wants to take the next step to get more involved. Dr. Sharp stated that his only hesitancy with Adam Garcia was coming in at close to the maximum salary, but Mr. Garcia stated that he was willing to negotiate. Dr. Sharp stated that he agrees with everyone's comments that all three candidates are extremely qualified, Stephanie McGee with her law degree and law background, but he would still stick with Adam Garcia.

Dr. Randy Sharp opened up discussion regarding the prospective executive director candidates to the public.

Dr. Randy Sharp stated that there was no public comment regarding the candidates.

The Board discussed the candidates and their qualifications for the executive director position and agreed to approve Stephanie McGee as the new Funeral Board executive director with an annual salary of \$110,000 with Adam Garcia as second choice with the salary he requested of \$135,000.

**MOTION: BART BURTON MOVED TO HIRE STEPHANIE MCGEE AS THE NEW FUNERAL BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$110,000 AND ADAM GARCIA AS SECOND CHOICE WITH AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$135,000. DR. RAYMOND GIDDENS SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding review of regulations as required by Executive Order 2023-003 (For possible action)**

Prior to submitting their respective reports, every executive branch department, agency, board and commission shall hold a public hearing, after having provided reasonable notice to key industry stakeholders, to (i) vet their recommended changes; (ii) solicit input as to the merits of those changes and (iii) identify other regulatory changes stakeholders feel are worthy of consideration. Stakeholder input shall be reflected in the summary of findings and recommendations included in each submitted report.

Jennifer Kandt stated that by May 1, 2023, the Board is required to submit reviewed regulations and have at least ten for repeal. Ms. Kandt stated that the Board has few regulations under its purview as so much is in statute. Ms. Kandt stated that she went through and selected ten to eliminate along with the reason why they should be eliminated. Ms. Kandt stated that there were some items that were redundant and some items that are in 233B. Ms. Kandt stated that the Board should provide a chance for the public to comment regarding the changes. Ms. Kandt stated that if these changes are to be accepted there will still have to be legislative process. Ms. Kandt stated that at this point they are requesting a report on recommendations on what can be eliminated and that they were reviewed.

Laura Sussman asked what the process to have the Board of Health review the changes.

Jennifer Kandt stated that is a good question, and that this is a report to the Governor and whether they will make those changes even though those regulations are under the purview of the Board of Health. The Legislative Counsel Bureau will not let the Board change them because they are not specifically under the Funeral Board purview, they were enacted by the Board of Health some time ago and are outdated. Ms. Kandt stated that if the Governor's office chooses to do something with them, it is assumed that they would also get the input from the Board.

There was no public comment.

**MOTION: DR. DONALD EDWARD CHANEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS AS WRITTEN. KIM KANDARAS SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. Financial Reports (For Information Only)**  
A. Regulatory Fee Collection  
B. Financial Reports

Jennifer Kandt presented a summary of the Board financial reports.

## **10. Overview of current complaint status (For Information Only)**

Jennifer Kandt presented a summary of the current complaint status to the Board.

## **11. Report from Executive Director, Jennifer Kandt (For Information Only)**

Jennifer Kandt presented a written report, and the Board reviewed the information provided.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she is monitoring SB431 which would consolidate certain functions of the Board under Business and Industry and it is unclear whether that will pass or not. Ms. Kandt stated that it is exempt from any of the deadlines, and it could be a last-minute situation. Ms. Kandt stated that it is unclear what that would mean for the Board at this time, and they are proposing a type of centralized administration.

Jennifer Kandt stated that she was going to present to the Board some video and filming regulations, but with the hold being placed on regulations, it might be best to get through this legislative session to see if there are any changes, especially with the powers that are being created under SB431 which would give powers for creation of regulations to some entities to this new bureau that is being created.

Dr. Randy Sharp asked if AB289 referred to alkaline hydrolysis.

Jennifer Kandt stated that alkaline hydrolysis made it through and passed several sessions ago and there are a couple facilities currently operating. Ms. Kandt stated that natural organic reduction is human composting, but no one wants to call it composting because if it is called composting, it becomes regulated by the Department of Agriculture, so it's not called that, and since they don't want to be regulated by the Department of Agriculture, they call it natural organic reduction.

Ms. Kandt stated that regarding the removal transport training, she reached out to NFDA to see if they had anything available, but they did not. Ms. Kandt stated that she also reached out to someone she knows at a big mortuary science college in California, and she sent an outdated YouTube video. Ms. Kandt stated that Randy Anderson who is President of NFDA has offered to come up with something, Ms. Kandt stated that it is unknown if Mr. Anderson will provide that, but it seems like that there is not anything good on a nation-wide level. Ms. Kandt stated that is something that the Board could continue to look at and certain individuals in the State have offered to help create something, and the President of NFDA Randy Anderson has offered to film something.

Kim Kandaras stated that they would be happy to volunteer their staff to help with removal transport training as well.

Jennifer Kandt stated that if it is going to be done, for someone to put together something comprehensive that would include a manual and some videos. Ms. Kandt stated that there is an opportunity to create something really good for the State and a great project for the new executive director.

Ms. Kandt stated regarding transitioning with the new executive director, she will definitely be taking Ms. McGee around to the various funeral homes.

Ms. Kandt stated regarding the sexual harassment training, most Board Members have completed, but if any have not to contact Marie.



**12. Discussion regarding future agenda items and future meeting dates**

Wednesday, June 7, 2023  
Wednesday, August 16, 2023  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023

**13. 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)

Aaron Forgey, Care Cremation and Burial stated that he wanted to present a special thank you to Jennifer, Marie, and Wayne for all of their assistance in getting their location licensed today and for the Board and their vote.

Laura Sussman stated that she attended The Conference annual meeting and Jennifer represented the Funeral Board very well as the President of the organization and it was a wonderful experience which she would recommend any Board Member who has not attended to sign up for next year. Ms. Sussman stated that it gave her a good perspective as to things the Board should be considering.

Dr. Donald Edward Chaney stated that he attended The Conference annual meeting as well and it was good Board training. Dr. Chaney stated that they started the day before with Board training and had a wonderful time, great experience, asked a lot of questions, and it was good to see other practitioners and service industry personnel working in that field and other Board members.

Kim Kandaras stated that she attended last year and was not able to attend this year, and agrees, the day before when they have the Board member training, it is very beneficial. Ms. Kandaras stated that it was great, and she made a lot of contacts.

There was no further public comment.

**14. Adjournment**

The Board adjourned at 11:16 am.