#### LA CROSSE COUNTY NOTICE OF MEETING

**COMMITTEE OR BOARD:** JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE

**DATE OF MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022** 

**ROOM 1700 - ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER MEETING PLACE:** 

212 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET N, LA CROSSE, WI 54601

Click here to join the meeting

TIME OF MEETING: 3:30 P.M.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING:** MONTHLY MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- 2. Public Comment \*\*Please see below on how to sign up for making public comment\*\*
- 3. Approve Committee Minutes of May 10, 2022
- 4. Consent Agenda (informational):
  - a. CJMC May 18, 2022
- 5. Conference/Meeting Report
- 6. Jail Updates (Covid, Population, Training, Staffing) Jim Verse
- 7. Jail Ministry Ann Wales
- 8. Jail Programming Mike Kiefer
- 9. Jail Medical Advanced Correctional Healthcare
- 10. Jail Mental Health Ben Pfiffner
- 11. Next Committee Meeting: July 12, 2022
- 12. Future Agenda Items
- 13. Adjournment

#### **NEWS MEDIA DEPARTMENTS/STAFF COMMITTEE MEMBERS** La Crosse Tribune County Board Chair Margaret Larson, Chair County Administrator Dawn Wacek, Vice Chair Other Media County Clerk Robert Abraham **OTHERS** Dillon Mader **Facilities** David Pierce

Emails: Emails: Ryan Westpfahl Kelly Govette

Kevin Rindv Bryan Jostad Elizabeth Wright Tim Candahl Jeff Wolf Lisa Stablier Tim Gruenke Jill Sherry

David Steinberg

**MEMBERS:** If unable to attend, call the County Clerk's Office at 785-9581.

\*\*PUBLIC COMMENT: Individuals may make a public comment in person. For individuals intending on making a virtual public comment, please register at least 24-hours in advance by emailing publiccomment@lacrossecounty.org or leave a message at 785-9700. Please include your name and email address you will be using to connect with the committee, along with the name of the committee you would like to provide a public comment.

The Committee may receive information from the public, but the Committee reserves the right to limit the time that the public may comment and the degree to which members of the public may participate in the meeting.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITY: If you need accommodation to attend this meeting, please contact the County Clerk's Office at (608)785-9581 as soon as possible.

**DATE NOTICE FAXED/MAILED/POSTED: June 2, 2022** 

This meeting may be recorded, and any such recording is subject to Disclosure under the Wisconsin Open Records Law

### JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. County Board Room 1700

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chair Margaret Larson, David Pierce, Dillon Mader, Dawn Wacek, Robert Abraham	
MEMBERS EXCUSED:		
MEMBERS ABSENT:		
OTHERS PRESENT	Jeff Wolf, Bryan Jostad, Jane Klekamp, Beth Lubinski, Tim Candahl, Eric Timmons, Brett Miller, Jim Verse, Olivia Herkin, Ryan Schlicht, Deb Moen, Jake Sweeney, Kelly Goyette, Jessica Skemp, Jeremy Rohr, Chris Sander, Brad Williams, Lisa Bruring	

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Margaret Larson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2022, JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE MOTION** by Dawn Wacek, **SECONDED** by Rob Abraham, to approve the Committee Minutes of April 12, 2022. **Motion carried unanimously.** 

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

a. **CJMC - APRIL 20, 2022** 

**MOTION** by David Pierce, **SECONDED** by Dillon Mader, to approve. **Motion carried unanimously.** 

**CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT - None.** 

#### LA CROSSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SUPPORT DOGS - JEFF WOLF

Sheriff Jeff Wolf introduced the La Crosse County Sheriff's Office Support Dog Program that started in February of this year. The addition of two support dogs in the La Crosse County Jail has proven to be beneficial for assisting inmates with mental health issues. Statistics show that use of dogs in prisons and jails helps inmates emotionally and with their mental health concerns. The dogs have been received extremely well.

#### RFP APPROVAL: JAIL FOOD, COMMISSARY, COMMUNICATIONS - BRYAN JOSTAD

Bryan Jostad, Purchasing & Insurance Manager, La Crosse County Finance Department, presented. The La Crosse County Sheriff's Office has three principal service components that are outsourced and essential to managing the jail operations:

- Food and Laundry Service
- Commissary and Inmate Trust Fund
- Video Visitation, Phone Service, EMessaging

This RFP is a global view of these outsourced components. To this end, the RFP allowed vendors to provide a proposal for any one service, any combination of two components, or all three components. The contract for these services is seven years.

The timeline of the RFP is as follows:

- RFP was released on 02/18/2022.
- Vendor conference held on 03/09/2022.
- Proposals were due 04/06/2022 and reviewed by an evaluation team.
- Five vendors advanced on 04/11/2022 for interviews.

 Evaluation team met after conclusion of interviews for review and evaluation of proposals.

Based on the evaluation scores, the evaluation team recommends:

- Aramark Food Service and Laundry
- Aramark Commissary and Inmate Trust Fund
- Securus Phone and Video Visitation

Discussion followed.

**MOTION** by Robert Abraham, **SECONDED** by David Pierce, to approve the contract. **Motion carried unanimously.** 

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Chair Margaret Larson announced that Dawn Wacek will serve as the Vice Chair.

#### **ESTABLISH COMMITTEE MEETING TIME**

The committee discussed setting the meeting time for the Judiciary and Law Committee for the 2022-2024 term.

**MOTION** by David Pierce, **SECONDED** by Dawn Wacek, to set the meeting time for 3:30 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.** 

#### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNUAL REPORT - TIM GRUENKE**

Jessica Skemp, Deputy District Attorney for La Crosse County, highlighted the 2021 Annual Report on behalf of District Attorney Tim Gruenke as follows:

- Additional staff member approved (legal secretary) and added to "Sensitive Crimes Unit". Position started in January.
- Currently has been operating at ten attorneys for approximately 18 months.
- State of Wisconsin does case load analysis every year. Even with the ten attorneys, the DA's Office is still operating at 77% of what would be required for full staff of current case load.
- County Board authorized payment of bar dues for staff. Starting July, attorneys will have the bar dues paid, which is greatly appreciated.
- Total Cases Referred for Charges:
  - o 2019 Approximately 2,500 felonies / 6,500 misdemeanors
  - o 2020 Approximately 2,900 felonies / 7,200 misdemeanors
  - o 2021 Approximately 3,000 felonies / 7,200 misdemeanors
- Increase in gun-related crimes over the last three years involving felon in possession of firearm.
  - o 2019 27 cases
  - o 2020 47 cases
  - o 2021 58 cases

Discussion followed.

#### **CLERK OF COURTS ANNUAL REPORT - KELLY GOYETTE**

Kelly Goyette highlighted the 2021 Annual Report for the Clerk of Courts Office:

- Currently have five seated judges.
- Many retirements in the Clerk of Courts Office. Slowly filling those positions. Will be back to full staff soon.
- In custody and intake court still happening via Zoom. Process has been working smoothly.
- Courtrooms are open.
- All five courtrooms have been fully outfitted with plexiglass for jury trials.
- Case load has remained steady for the past three years. There had been a decline in small claims filings due to the eviction moratorium related to Covid.
- Goals for 2022:

- Continue to send debt collections to State.
- Get staff up full and running.

Discussion followed.

#### **MEDICAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT - TIM CANDAHL**

Tim Candahl, Medical Examiner for La Crosse County introduced Deputy Medical Examiner Beth Lubinski and presented their 2021 annual report.

#### **Department Overview:**

- Investigate all deaths that occur outside a medical facility.
- Investigate all deaths that occur within 24 hours of hospital admission.
- Investigate all deaths where the decedent has had a fall in the six months preceding death.
- Verify identity of decedents prior to cremation.
- Signing of cremation permit after decedent identity is verified.
- Transport decedents for autopsy and obtaining bodily fluid samples for toxicological investigation.

#### 2021 Highlights:

- Initial increase in Covid-19 cases to start the year, steadily decreasing toward the end of 2021.
- Significant increase in workload due to rise in overdose cases.
- Increased strain on office staff due to insufficient staffing/increased call volume.
  - Hired a full time Administrative Clerk and Full Time Deputy Medical Examiner to compensate for increased workload.

A complete copy of presentation can be found here: 2021 Annual Report

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

• June 7, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.

#### **SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** - None.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Robert Abraham, **SECONDED** by David Pierce, to adjourn at 5:08 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.** 

**Disclaimer:** The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next committee meeting. Lisa Bruring, Recorder

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL Wednesday May 18, 2022 Law Enforcement Center Room 1617

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Scott Horne, Margaret Larson, Heidi Svee, Araysa Simpson, Jason Witt, Tina Tryggestad, Avrie Schott, Vincent Loera, Kristina Fore, Troy Harcey, Michael Sersch, Monica Kruse, Scott Alo	
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Jeff Wolf, Tim Gruenke, Jenna Theler, Heidi Allred, Andrew Alvaro-Rasmussen, Suthakaran Veerasamy, Jayne Rifenberg	
OTHERS PRESENT:	Tonya Van Tol, Jane Klekamp	

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Araysa Simpson called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

#### Overview/Highlights January 2021-April 2022

February 2021	Council sent the Resolution of Wisconsin Legislature: 2019 WI Act 106 to the county board for approval
	allowing for the option of treatment court vs. prison for OWI 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6th
March 2021	Mayoral candidate forum focused on Criminal Justice
May 2021	CJMC establishes a committee, approved by CJMC and County Board, tasked with research and creation of a Civilian Oversight Board
October 2021	Council approved the resolution Creation of a Study Committee Relating to Policing to the county board for approval
June 2021-April 2022	Focus of meetings on mental health services and gaps in La Crosse County: Presentations by:  Overview of mental health in La Crosse County  (Tim Grupple)

- (Tim Gruenke)
- Mobile crisis (Sam Seefeld/Angie Smith)
- Co-responder model (Sam Seefeld/Avery Schott and Joel Miller/Whitney Hughes)
- Gundersen Behavioral Health Department (Josh Court)
- Lighthouse Project (Karen Kuhlmann)

#### **Retreat Topics:**

### Breakout Session 1: Topics/Information/Organizations you would like presented

- Exploring impact of impact of MH on housing, long-term functioning to maintain housing
- CSP- through ISRS- have not heard from this program that helps clients with complex needs
- Juvenile mental health: exploring services available and gaps
- Juvenile mental health facility- explore local opportunities

- Expansion of System of Care program to serve youth outside of current service area
- Explore peer support specialist opportunities
- Mental Health Court
- Services available to people while incarcerated
- Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Evidence based practices in sentencing
- Reentry services
- New data and updates from previous presentations
- Project PROVEN- updates
- New COVID procedures for the jail and law enforcement
- Justice equity and inclusion
- Sentencing and bond disparities
- Human trafficking
- Chronic absenteeism
- Effects of speed of organizational change impact on marginalized communities and staff
- Future of SROs
- Recovery community and their involvement, connection and peer support
- Tribal Jurisdiction- ICWA, MMIWG, crimes committed on tribal land by non-tribal persons, general cultural sensitivity
- Sheriff's warrant list by date vs. name
- Houska Park- chronically homeless, municipalities response and intersection with CJ
- Domestic Violence Service through JSS- offender treatment
- Domestic Violence and dual arrest and racial disparity
- Racism as a mental health crisis
- crimeless revocation
- Racism
- Youth Justice-family case management model
- New police codes- allows for LE to differentiate 10-codes and response, data tracking

#### Breakout Session 2: Data you would like to see collected/shared

- Juvenile data related to type or level of offense and facilities that may accept juveniles based on level of offense
- Juvenile: Police disposition of calls- resulting in arrest, referral or no action by race and gender
- Juvenile: Human services- what they are screening in vs. screening out, sending to the DAs office
- Criminal justice response that leads to the least amount of recidivism- most impact
- How many people with MH issues end up in the CJ system vs Ch 51 MH system
- COVID: How the population in the jail decreased during COVID protocols. Was there an impact on public safety? Impact on crime rates.
- COVID: Impact on domestic violence and suicide
- Referrals from CJ system to MH programs available and outcomes
- Goal of not weaponizing data, open awareness of tenuousness of data, sit with discomfort of data that is not "pretty"
- Cumbersomeness of data collection- baseline of systems so data is more easily tracked longitudinally
- Demographic data on police stops, incarceration, sentencing
- ER data- visits, chapter holds, discharge to jail, demographic data, voluntary v. involuntary hospitalizations
- Disparities in representation in law enforcement, jail staff and MH professionals
- YASI assessment tool- data regarding recidivism by identifying strengths and areas of growth, early release

- Continually evaluating effectiveness of CJ programming
- Dual arrest rates in DV case and demographics
- Unsheltered populations: criminalization of homelessness crime rates within homeless pops chronic v. temporary AODA/mental Connections to resources
- Jail population by race
   New crimes v. violations
- Violent crimes- how are they defined and tracked
- Map of police calls county wide
- Success of DV offenders completing probation/parole
- Breakdown of police calls by race
- Racist police calls-response
- Updating racial categories and having other box for gender
- Jail population by socioeconomics

#### Breakout Session 3: Actions/actives you would like the CJMC to participate in

- Explore the steps to start a mental treatment health court
- Looking at a county wide school system of support for families/students in need to increase consistency
- What recommendations can be made regarding juveniles with mental health- early interventions county-wide programs/resources
- Look at connections being made between current programs and the populations they serve using data to identify gaps
- Presentation of past, present and future of CJMC
- Presentation on the scope of CJMC and report to county board-what is the authority of this council
- Review the bylaws of CJMC
- Make group presentations available to other orgs upon request
- Advocacy for mental health treatment court
- Advocacy in general for topics that are discussed
- Orientation for new members
- Action groups within CJMC- subcommittees
- Take part in racism as a mental health crisis initiatives
   Educate on civilian rights- driving, gathering, protests
- Advocate to remove SROs from schools
- Informational campaign around data collected
- Truancy for youth- avoiding the funnel into the CJ system

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next committee meeting.

Recorded by Tonya Van Tol



### Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

### Office of Detention Facilities

January 12, 2022

Sheriff Jeff Wolf La Crosse County Sheriff's Department 333 Vine St. #1500 La Crosse, WI 54601

Re: 2021 Annual Inspection

Dear Sheriff Wolf:

On October 27, 2021, the annual inspection of the La Crosse County Jail was conducted pursuant to WI Statute 301.37(3). The inspection compared the facility and its operation to applicable state statutes and Department of Corrections Administrative Code Chapter DOC 350. This inspection consisted of a tour of the facility; interviews with administration, staff and inmates; review of inmate files; and a review of facility records and documentation.

#### **Changes Since Previous Inspection**

- Implemented the Guard 1 system to replace the Pipe system.
- Implemented a new key exchange procedure along with reducing the number of keys that staff carry.
- Implemented a new live scan fingerprint machine into the booking area.
- Allowed more program providers back into the jail to offer more programming opportunities.

#### **Goals and Initiatives**

- Coordinate Sergeant meetings every 6 weeks in order to discuss operational and managerial topics.
- Facilitate weekly staffing meetings with staff.
- Cross train sergeant at different positions.
- Implement taking palm prints and sending mug shots to CIB.

### **Summary of Jail Operations**

I met with the administrative, security, healthcare, and foodservice staff to conduct the annual inspection. The inspection included a review of records and practices, as well as a walkthrough of the detention area to assess the safety, sanitation, adequacy, and fitness of the facility. My observations during the inspection revealed cordial and professional interactions between the staff and persons in custody. Captain Verse and his staff are to be commended for the positive feedback and facility climate.

The maximum rated capacity of the facility is 274. On the day of the inspection, there were 86 inmates incarcerated in the facility. The La Crosse County Jail is approved for double celling per DOC 350.20 and is not approved to house juveniles.

### **Variances**

• The La Crosse County Jail has six variances on file with the Department.

### **Inspection Findings**

• There were no violations noted during this year's inspection.

### **Approval**

The La Crosse County Jail is approved by the Department of Corrections for the secure detention of adult inmates with the maximum capacity of 274.

I wish to thank Captain Verse and his staff for their assistance, cooperation and professionalism during the inspection process.

If you have any questions regarding the inspection results summarized in this letter or any other correctional matters, please contact me.

Sincerely,

**Brad Hoover** 

**Detention Facilities Specialist** 

cc: Captain Verse, Jail Administrator Greg Bucholtz, Director-ODF

File

## La Crosse County Medical Examiner's Office

2021 Annual Report



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- 2021 Investigations
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  - Death Certificates & Cremation Permits
  - Homicides
  - Suicides
  - Overdoses
  - Motor Vehicle Accidents
  - Tissue Donation
- Financial Review
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## Department Overview



## **Department Overview**

- Investigate all deaths that occur outside a medical facility
  - Suicides, Homicides, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Accidental Deaths,
     Natural Home Deaths
- Investigate all deaths that occur within 24 hours of hospital admission
- Investigate all deaths where the decedent has had a fall in the 6 months preceding death
- Verify identity of decedents prior to cremation by obtaining a photograph with identifying information.
- Cause of Death confirmatory investigations and signing of cremation permit after decedent identity is verified
- Transport decedents to Southeast Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office in Rochester, Minnesota for autopsy, and obtaining bodily fluid samples for toxicological investigation



## **Department Overview**

- Office Staff:
  - Chief Medical Examiner
  - Full Time Deputy Medical Examiner
  - Full Time Administrative Clerk
  - 3 Part Time Deputy Medical Examiners
  - 2 Part Time Deputy Medical Examiners (In Training)
    - 3 Current Employees are American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) Certified
    - Goal is for 7-8 Part Time Deputy Medical Examiners

## 2021 Highlights



## 2021 Highlights

- Initial increase in COVID-19 cases to start the year, however these cases steadily decreased towards the end of 2021
- Significant workload increase due to rise in overdose cases
- Increased strain on office staff due to insufficient staffing combined with increasing call volume
  - Hired a Full Time Administrative Clerk & Full Time Deputy Medical Examiner to compensate for increased workload

## 2021 Investigations



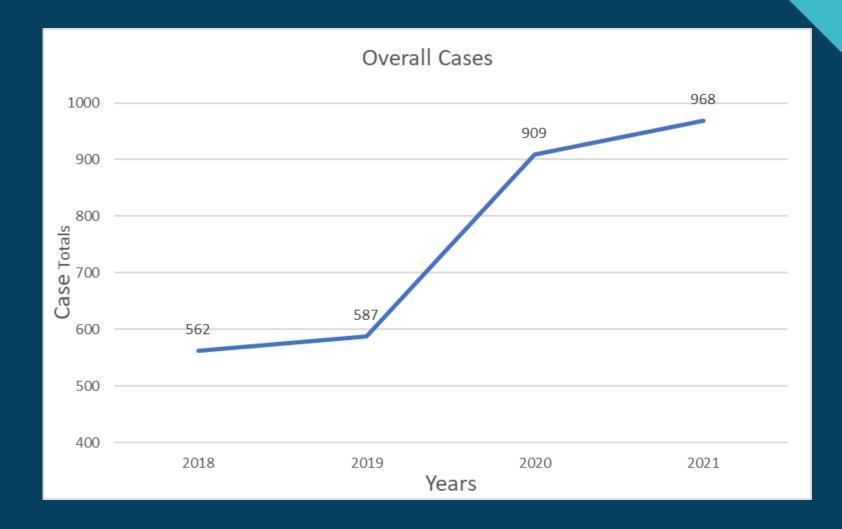
## 2021 Investigations

- Overall Cases
- Scene & Hospital Calls
- Autopsy & Toxicology
- Death Certificates & Cremation Permits
- Homicides
- Suicides
- Overdoses
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Tissue Donation

## Overall Cases



## **Overall Cases**



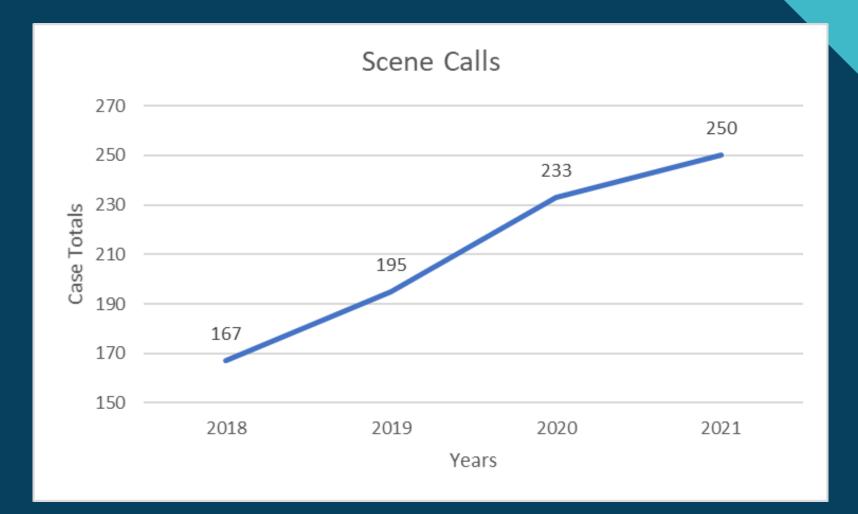
Year	Cases
2018	562
2019	587
2020	909
2021	968

Years	% Change
2018-2019	4.45%
2019-2020	54.86%
2020-2021	6.49%
2018-2021	72.24%

## Scene & Hospital Calls



## **Scene Calls**

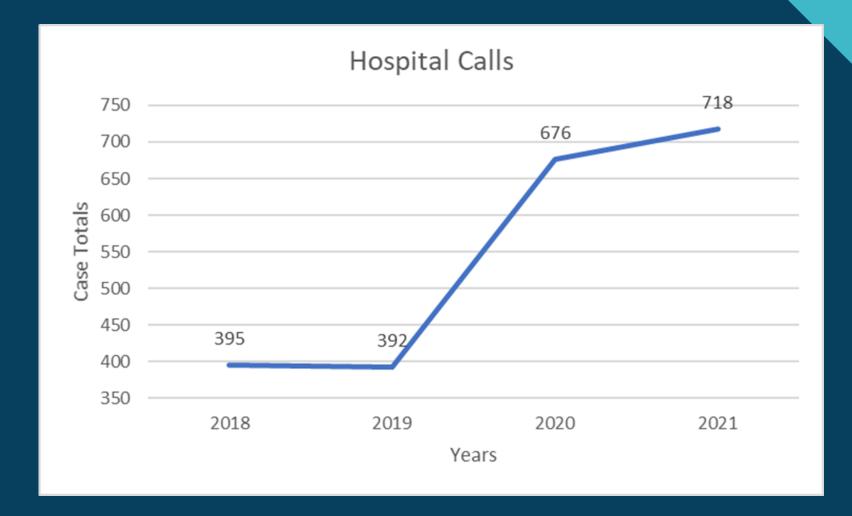


Year	Cases
2018	167
2019	195
2020	233
2021	250

Years	% Change
2018-2019	16.77%
2019-2020	19.49%
2020-2021	7.30%
2018-2021	49.70%



## **Hospital Calls**



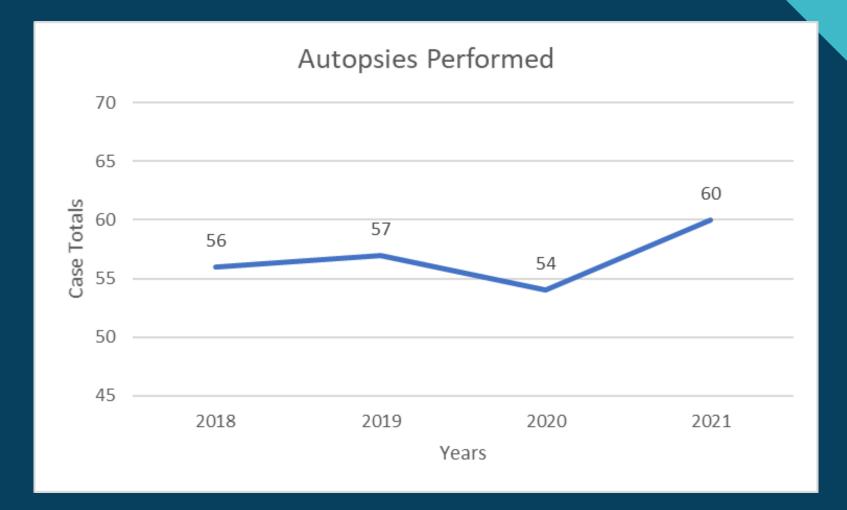
Year	Cases
2018	395
2019	392
2020	676
2021	718

Years	% Change
2018-2019	0.76%
2019-2020	72.45%
2020-2021	6.21%
2018-2021	81.77%

## Autopsy & Toxicology



## Autopsy



Year	Cases
2018	56
2019	57
2020	54
2021	60

Years	% Change
2018-2019	1.79%
2019-2020	5.26%
2020-2021	11.11%
2018-2021	7.14%



## Toxicology



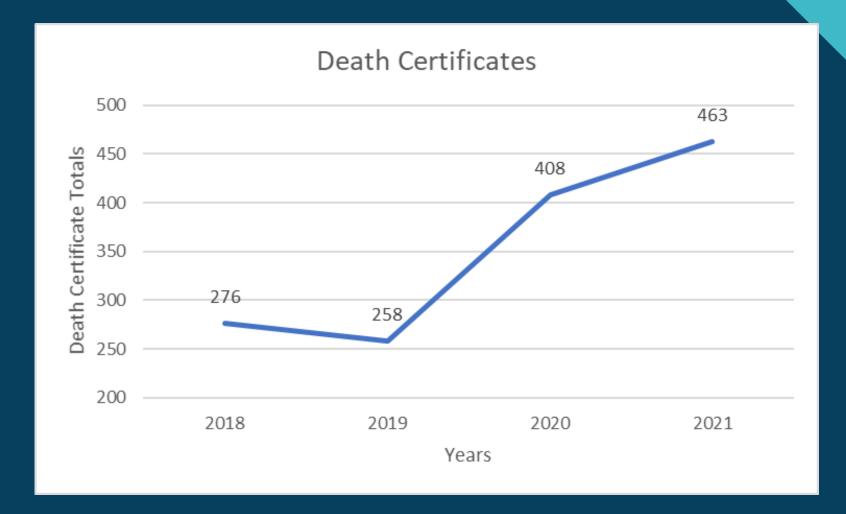
Year	Cases
2018	30
2019	36
2020	44
2021	28

Years	% Change
2018-2019	20%
2019-2020	22.22%
2020-2021	36.36%
2018-2021	6.67%

# Death Certificates & Cremation Permits



## **Death Certificates**

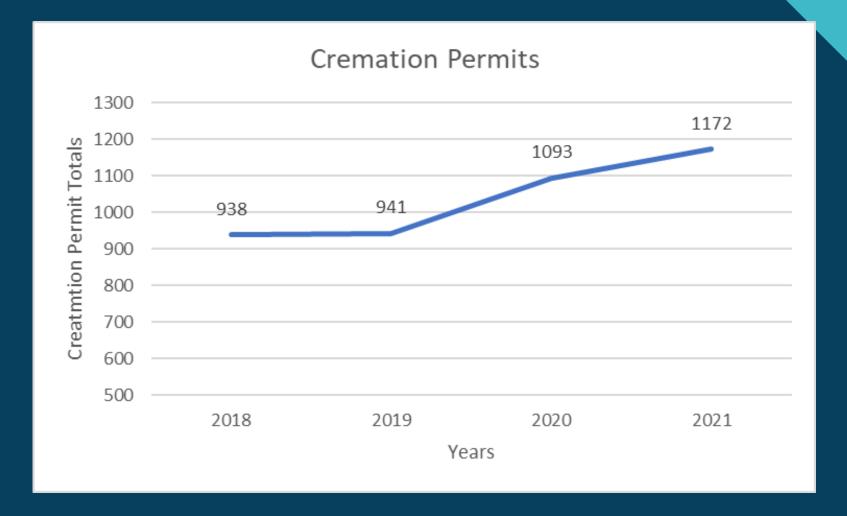


Year	Cases
2018	276
2019	258
2020	408
2021	463

Years	% Change
2018-2019	6.52%
2019-2020	58.14%
2020-2021	13.48%
2018-2021	67.75%



### **Cremation Permits**



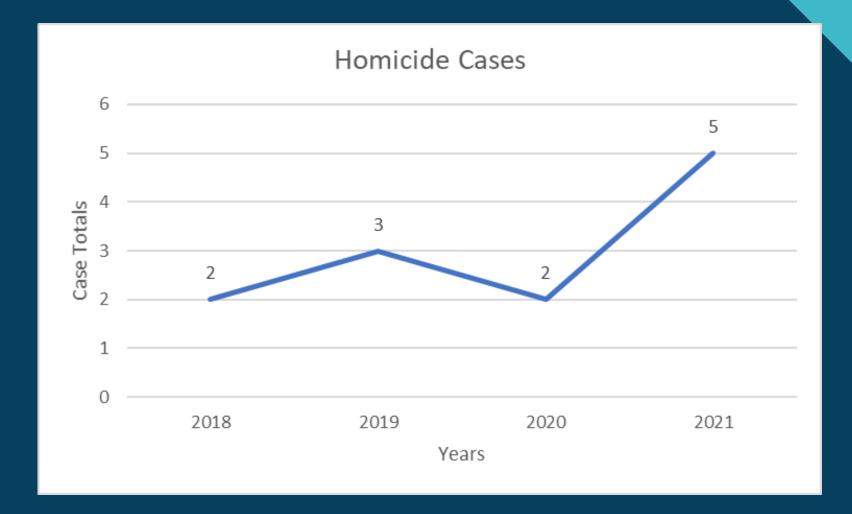
Year	Cases
2018	938
2019	941
2020	1093
2021	1172

Years	% Change
2018-2019	0.32%
2019-2020	16.15%
2020-2021	7.23%
2018-2021	24.95%

## Homicides



## Homicides



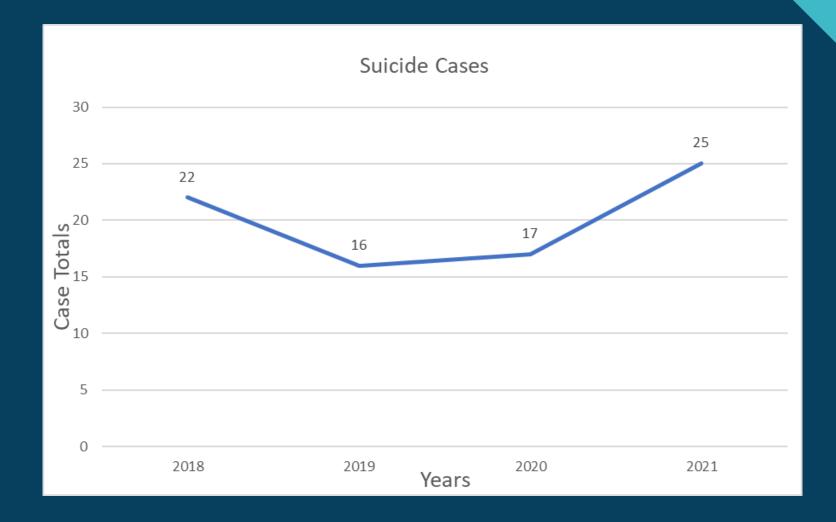
Year	Cases
2018	2
2019	3
2020	2
2021	5

Years	% Change
2018-2019	50%
2019-2020	33.33%
2020-2021	150%
2018-2021	150%

## Suicides



## **Suicides**



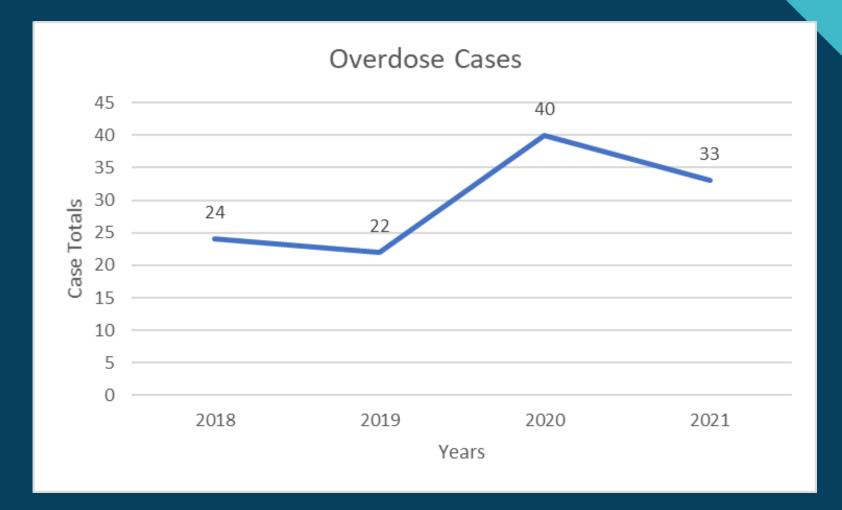
Year	Cases
2018	22
2019	16
2020	17
2021	25

Years	% Change
2018-2019	27.27%
2019-2020	6.25%
2020-2021	47.06%
2018-2021	13.64%

## Overdoses



## **Overdoses**



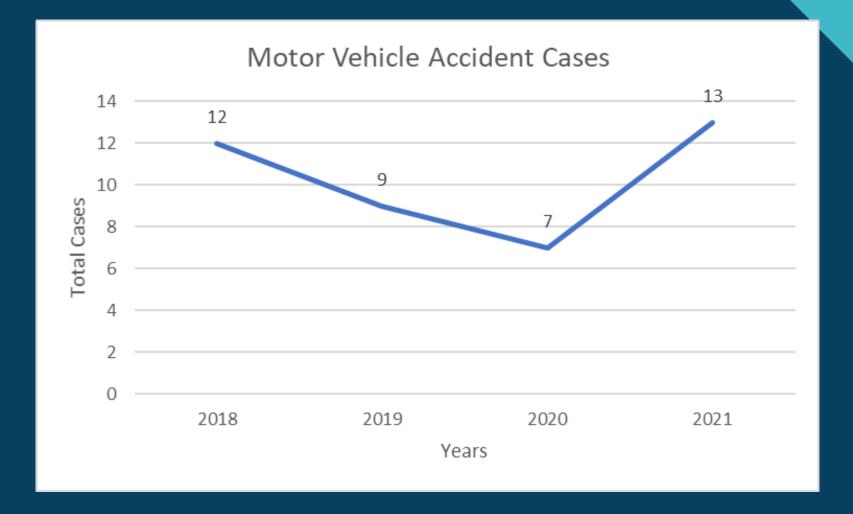
Year	Cases
2018	24
2019	22
2020	40
2021	33

Years	% Change
2018-2019	8.33%
2019-2020	81.82%
2020-2021	17.5%
2018-2021	37.5%

## Motor Vehicle Accidents



### **Motor Vehicle Accidents**



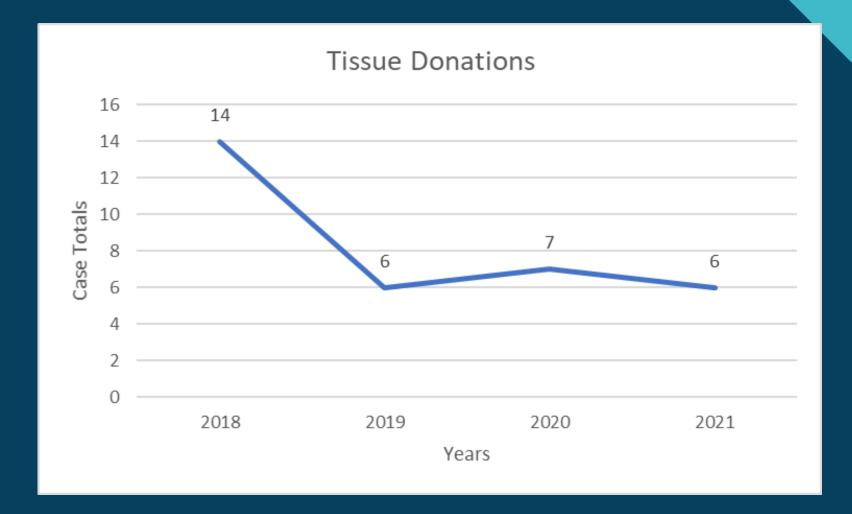
Year	Cases
2018	12
2019	9
2020	7
2021	13

Years	% Change
2018-2019	25%
2019-2020	22.22%
2020-2021	85.71%
2018-2021	8.33%

## Tissue Donation



## **Tissue Donation**



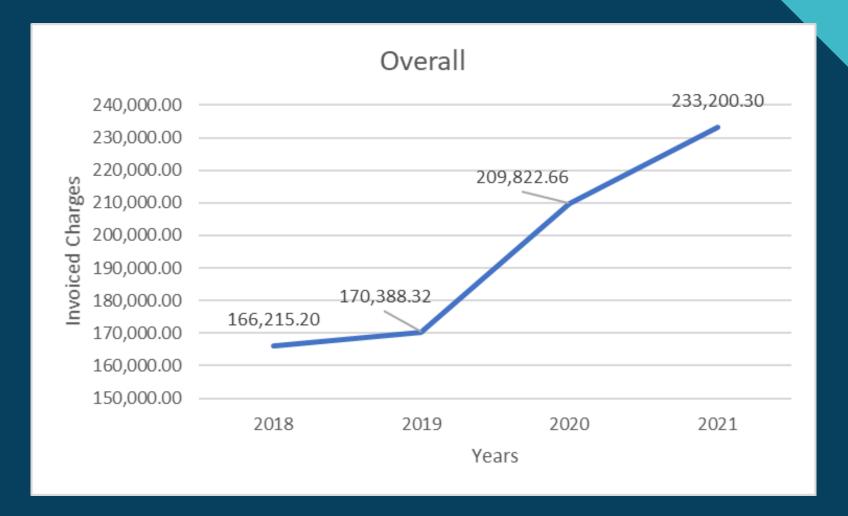
Year	Cases
2018	14
2019	6
2020	7
2021	6

Years	% Change
2018-2019	57.14%
2019-2020	16.67%
2020-2021	14.29%
2018-2021	57.14%

## Financial Review



## **Overall**



Year	Invoiced Charges
2018	\$166,215.20
2019	\$170,388.32
2020	\$209,822.66
2021	\$232,200.30

Years	% Change
2018-2019	2.51%
2019-2020	23.14%
2020-2021	11.14%
2018-2021	40.30%



### **Death Certificates**

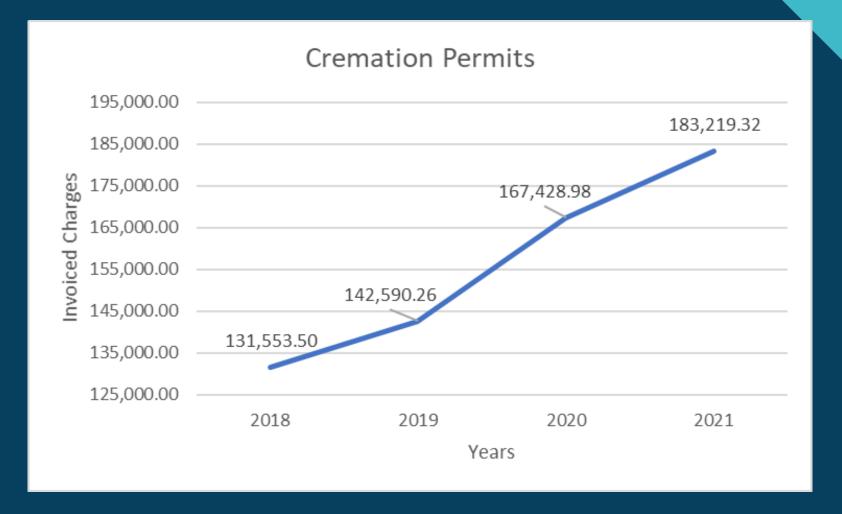


Year	Invoiced Charges
2018	\$21,661.70
2019	\$21,798.06
2020	\$35,393.68
2021	\$44,980.98

Years	% Change
2018-2019	0.63%
2019-2020	62.37%
2020-2021	27.09%
2018-2021	107.65%



### **Cremation Permits**

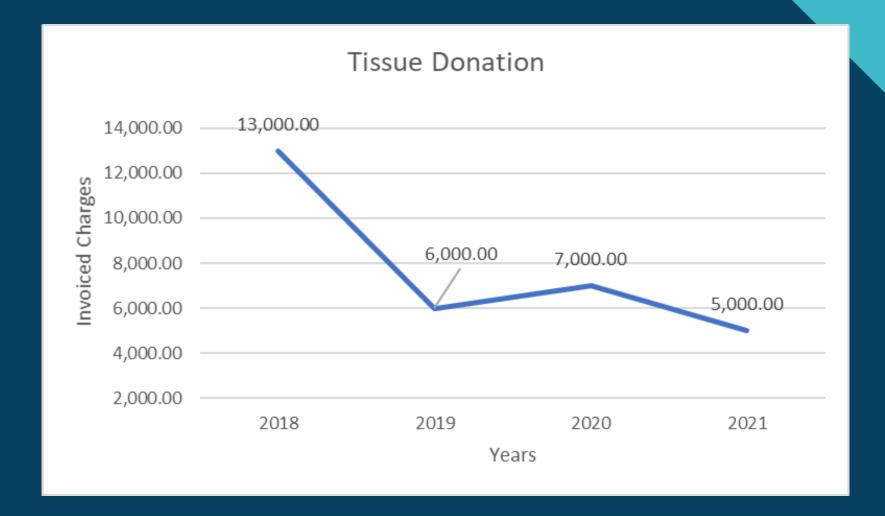


Year	Invoiced Charges
2018	\$131,553.50
2019	\$142,590.26
2020	\$167,428.98
2021	\$183,219.32

Years	% Change
2018-2019	8.39%
2019-2020	17.42%
2020-2021	9.43%
2018-2021	39.27%



## **Tissue Donation**



Year	Invoiced Charges
2018	\$13,000
2019	\$6,000
2020	\$7,000
2021	\$5,000

Years	% Change
2018-2019	53.85%
2019-2020	16.67%
2020-2021	28.57%
2018-2021	61.54%

## Looking Forward



## **Looking Forward**

- COVID cases have decreased significantly
- Currently in the process of hiring more Part Time Deputy Medical Examiners to help cover the increasing workload
- To better serve the public, we are arranging times to meet with area agencies to discuss procedures and protocols
  - Local Law Enforcement, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Funeral Homes, etc.
- Gathering statistics and collaborating with local agencies to decrease the overall numbers of drug overdose cases in the local community

## Questions?