



Department Update to Standing Committee

**Jennifer Banek MS, CRNA
Lake County Coroner**

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Department Overview

Lake County Coroner



- **Determination of Cause and Manner of Death**
 - Covers entire county
 - Scene investigations, forensic examination and toxicology
 - Identify, communicate, and educate about preventable death trends
- **Administrative Functions**
 - Certification of death on Coroner Cases
 - Cremation permits for any death that occurs in Lake County
 - Case file management and record keeping
- **Family Support**
 - Assist family member throughout process

Department Overview

Lake County Coroner

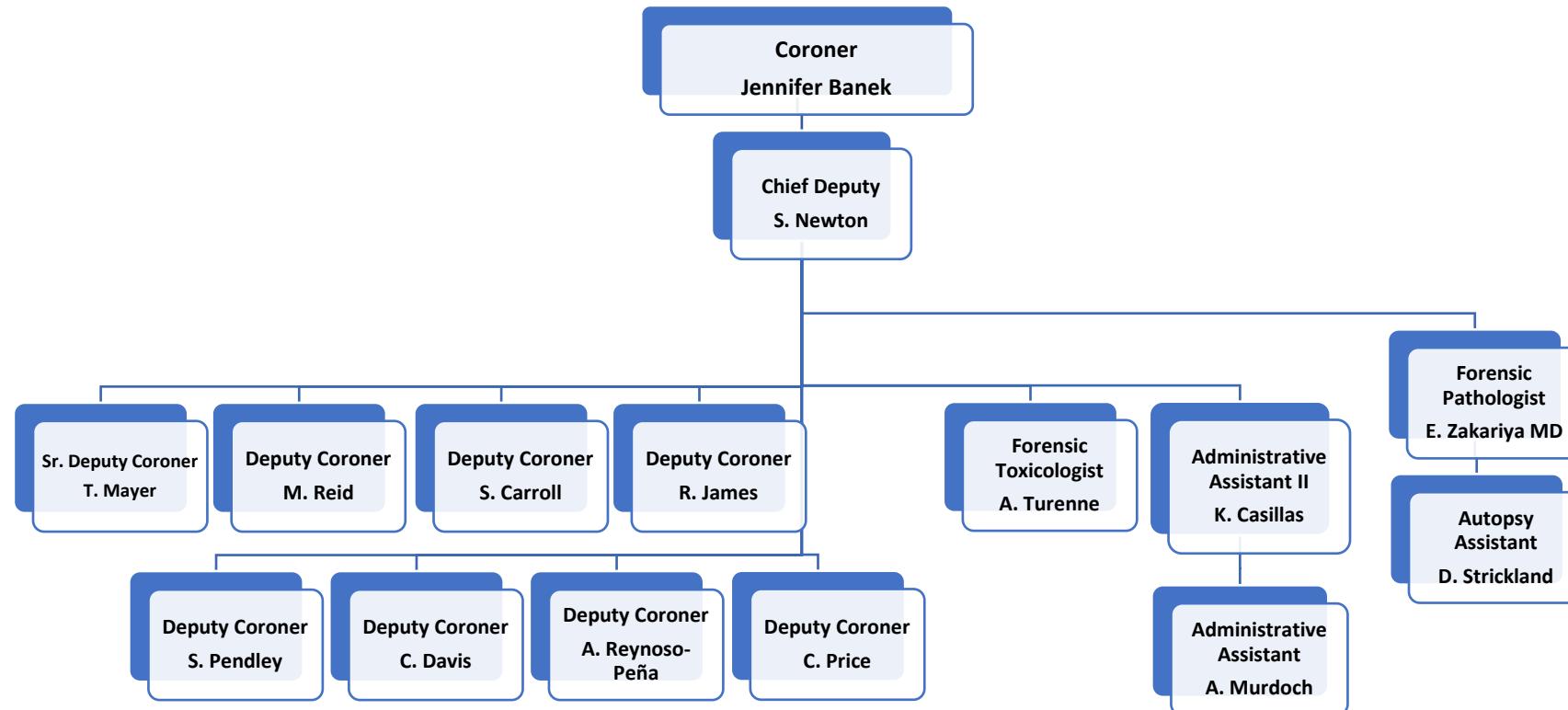


- Staffing
- Administration/Investigations
 - Coroner
 - Chief Deputy
 - 8 Deputy Coroners/Investigators
 - 2 Administrative Staff
- Examination
 - Forensic Pathologist, Pathology Assistant
 - Toxicologist



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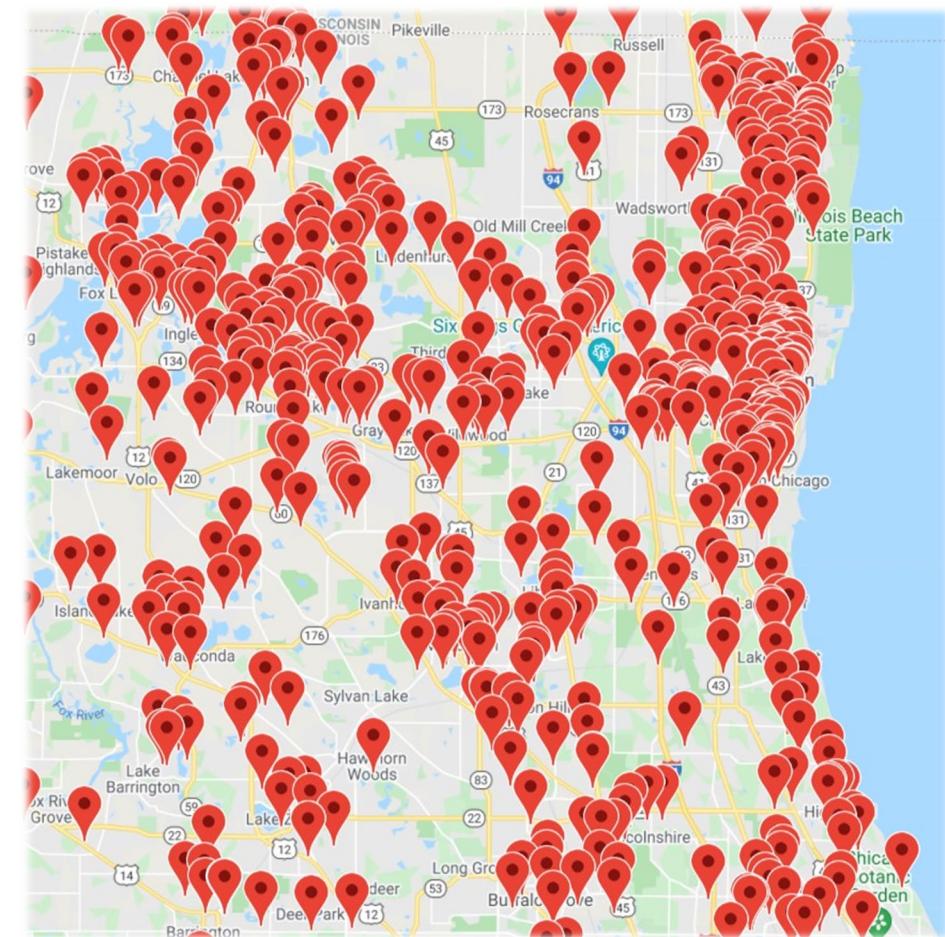


Department Overview

Lake County Coroner



- Departmental Statistics 2022
 - 5,752 Total Deaths Reported
 - 671 required further investigation
 - 601 required further examination
- Average Coroner Case 84/yr./Deputy ⁽⁷⁾
- Average Medical Case 719/yr./Deputy ⁽⁷⁾
- 2021 Comparison
 - 5,530 Total Deaths Reported
 - 669 required further investigation
 - 606 required further examination



Strategic Alignment

2019 Strategic Plan



County's Mission: Deliver exceptional, financially and environmentally responsive / responsible services that promote a safe, affordable, healthy, and resilient community

Strategic Initiatives	
X	Regional Leadership
X	Fiscal Responsibility
X	Exceptional Service and Operational Excellence
Strategic Goals	
X	Public Safety and Integrated, Data-Driven Justice System
X	Enhance Economic Opportunities
	Improve Infrastructure
	Promote a Sustainable Environment
X	Build Healthy, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities

Strategic Themes	
X	Inter-Organizational Cooperation
X	Quality of Life
	Economic Development
	Infrastructure
	Environmental Sustainability
X	Non-Environmental Sustainability
X	Lake County Branding
X	Mental Health
X	Grants and Specialty Funding
X	Diversity and Inclusion

Previous 12 Months



- Address mortality issues – Suicide and Overdoses
 - Continued collaboration with partner organizations
 - Provide transparent, timely and accurate statistical data
 - Identify and provide for needs of Families
 - *Resources/Support, Missing Pieces*
 - Identified new organizations to form partnerships for at risk population
- Increase educational opportunities
 - School, organization and group tours
 - Classroom lectures on forensic related topics



Previous 12 Months

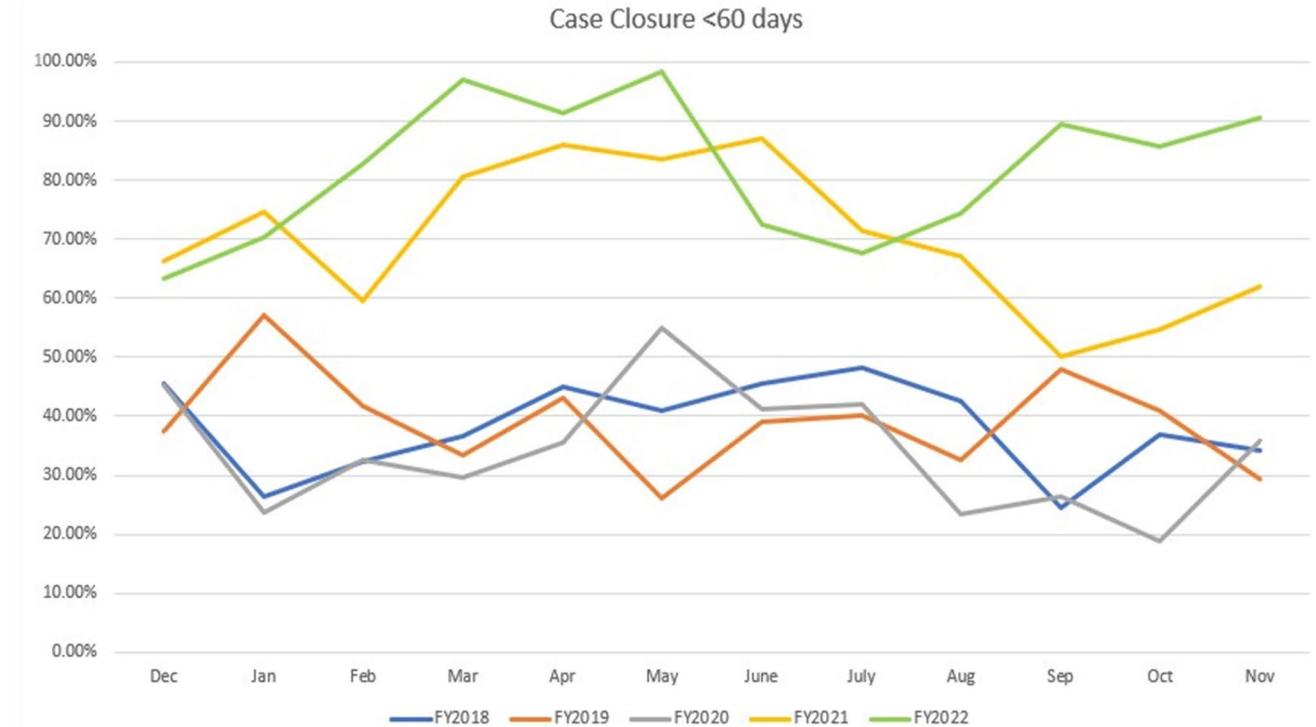


- Staff
 - Encouraged continued professional training
 - Hired 2 Deputy Coroner positions from staff already within the office
 - Continued to improve office accountability and transparency
 - Continued managerial case review procedures
- Expenditure Accountability
 - Implemented procedures to track spending and costs
 - Evaluate purchasing sources for best costs
 - Continued reduction in overtime expenditure

Previous 12 Months



- Case Closure Rates
 - Continued procedures and effective supervision practices to reduce delay in closing of cases
 - Monthly reports
 - Less delay for families



Next 12 Months



- **Community Involvement**
 - Identify and collaborate additional partner organizations to provide increased services and resources for grieving families
 - Provide additional timely data to drive resources where needed
 - Finalize the implementation of a County Ecumenical Indigent Burial Program
- **Evaluate expenditures/contracts**
 - Continue to ensure Coroner contract services are fiscally responsible
 - Continue to explore potential revenue generating lab services
 - Research grant funding for future equipment

Next 12 Months



- Continue staff development and accountability
 - Maintain staff accreditation through American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators
- Maintain 60-day case closure rate to minimum 80%
 - *FY2018 – 38.43%*
 - *FY2019 – 38.92%*
 - *Increased to 69.29% in FY2021 over 33.98% in FY2020.*
 - *Increased to 80.83% in FY2022! 83.45% Calendar Year*



Questions