

## **Death Care: Creating A Shared Vision for the Future:**

Community input for long-term death care education and oversight in the State of Oregon.

*This document represents suggestions presented to OMCB for consideration in developing updated ten year plan and outcomes.*

*Comments from small group discussion during November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 strategic planning session.*

*Distributed at March 2012 OMCB Board Meeting.*

### **1. Education and Outreach**

- a. Education program for stakeholders (practitioners, consumers, Legislature, kids).
- b. Continuing education requirements—structured training.
- c. Less regulation, more education
- d. Establish death-care awareness week or month.
- e. We will be educating children regarding death care.
- f. Mandatory continuing education for licensees; ten hours minimum.
- g. Re-education or refresher course every time rules or laws changed.
- h. Flyer to practitioners quarterly that covers one topic each flyer
- i. OMCB has a bigger presence on Internet.

### **2. Effective Operations and Fiscal Sustainability:**

- a. Central agency does all background investigations for all applicants for any state issued license.
- b. Central licensing for all state.
- c. Smaller board, meeting electronically, review cases electronically, still meet in person on occasion.
- d. Consider adjusting composition of Board itself; consider smaller size but make sure all licensees and public members represented.
- e. OMCB should be paperless internally.
- f. More inter-agency records should be digitalized and automated (state and county).
- g. Close complaint backlog.
- h. Clarify protocol for how Board actions are recorded, enforced and finalized in a consistent and timely manner.
- i. Open format for all investigations, inspections.
- j. Sufficient, stable funding - ladder of pre-defined series of fee increases.
- k. Self audits with random inspections for compliance.

### **3. Licensing, Certification and Regulatory Oversight:**

- a. Any other companies or practitioners dealing with human remains should come under regulation, ASAP.
- b. In ten years we would be properly regulating all businesses that handle human remains (like tissue procurement facilities, first call facilities and scattering companies)
- c. Certification of first call workers?
- d. Cemetery licensing and managerial
- e. All involved in care of dead are licensed, if paid (first call companies).
- f. Bordering state collaboration - ability / authority to sign death certificates if under doctor's care reciprocity for doctors.
- g. Revise Embalmer / FSP Reciprocity between states.

### **4. Indigent Burial**

- a. Establish one or two dedicated facilities for indigent cremation — State or contract with State.
- b. The Indigent Disposition Fund would be properly funded and used.

### **5. Clarity:**

- a. The inspection sheet modified to remove any areas that may leave significant room for interpretation.
- b. Clarify rules (so that consumers and practitioners on same page).
- c. Plain language in all ORSs and OARs
- d. Definition of "funeral establishment"
- e. Final disposition is defined and regulated.
- f. Revise "Final Disposition" definition.
- g. Require greater transparency and full disclosure regarding goods and services offered by licensees, i.e., where is body taken for holding and / or cremation.

### **Recommended Metric:**

20 percent fewer complaints in first two years.