

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER UFISINAN GE'HILO' MEDIKON EKSAMINA



FISCAL YEAR 2013

A Report to Our Citizens



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Chief Medical Examiner of Guam

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OCME's Beginnings,

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

The office was formed back in 1971 under the guidance of the 11th Guam Legislature and approved by the people of Guam and then Governor Carlos G. Camacho.

It was established to provide a scientific investigative system for the island of Guam on deaths which occurred suddenly without cause or from unnatural circumstances.

The office is controlled by the *Commission on Postmortem Examinations* which is made up of the Attorney General of Guam, the Guam Police Department Chief, Public Health & Social services Director, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Administrator, the Guam Medical Society President, and the current Chief Medical Examiner. (Guam Code Annotated Title 10 Part 2 Division 4 Chapter 81)

Mission

Our purpose is to determine a true cause and manner of death by conducting medico-legal* death investigations, autopsies, toxicology & specimen analysis on all unnatural & unusual deaths, such as but not limited to homicides, suicides, accidents, sudden unexpected deaths that occurred in a suspicious manner or caused by an unrecognizable disease. In addition, postmortem examinations must also be done on individuals who expire outside of a hospital facility or less than 24 hours after admission to a hospital facility and whose body is to be shipped off island, cremated, or buried at sea. OCME provides support to Guam's public health and safety.

Initiatives & Community Benefits

- ✚ **Efficiently** perform Medico-Legal Death Investigations.
- ✚ **Accurately** establish a factual explanation of the evidence for every death investigation.
- ✚ **Increase** public awareness of the importance of a medico-legal death investigation.
- ✚ **Output** statistical reports and Medico-legal investigation results to the public through the local Medias.
- ✚ **Maintain** a Neutral and Non-biased interpretation of the evidence found during a medico-legal death investigation.

"The Chief Medical Examiner's office will strive to provide a reasonable explanation to the cause and manner of death for a deceased person based on the evidence obtained during a postmortem examination. We maintain that all interpretations of the evidence uncovered by the medico-legal death investigations are neutral by its nature."

Our Performance FY 2012 -2013

"MEDICO-LEGAL INVESTIGATIONS"

Output of statistical reports is prepared annually and submitted to Guam's Bureau of Statistics & Planning for their annual publication and readily available for other agencies & the public. In addition, monthly reports on Suicide cases are compiled and submitted to Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse for their Suicide Prevention Program.

Distribution by "Manner of Death"			
<i>(Autopsy Cases)</i>			
Manner of Death	2012	2013	% Diff.
NATURAL	51	28	-45%
SUICIDE	6	7	17%
HOMICIDE	3	10	233%
ACCIDENTAL DROWNING	5	16	220%
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	11	15	36%
AIRCRAFT OR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT	0	0	0%
OTHER ACCIDENTS	10	6	40%
COULD NOT BE DETERMINED	3	1	-67%
TOTAL AUTOPSIED CASES:	89	83	-7%

Distribution by "Manner of Death"			
<i>(Non-Autopsy Cases)</i>			
Manner of Death	2012	2013	% Diff.
NATURAL	471	487	3%
SUICIDE	20	22	10%
ACCIDENTAL DROWNING	2	0	-100%
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	4	3	-25%
OTHER ACCIDENTS	2	1	-50%
COULD NOT BE DETERMINED	0	0	0%
TOTAL NON-AUTOPSIED CASES:	499	513	3%

In 2013, OCME conducted a total of 596 medico-legal death investigations and has issued 596 certification of death reports, 89 non-autopsy, autopsy, and/or toxicology reports, 95 verification of death letters, and 67 certification of a Non-communicable disease letters upon request at no cost to the recipients.

Based on the chart to the right, there was a 13% increase comparing 2009 and 2013. →

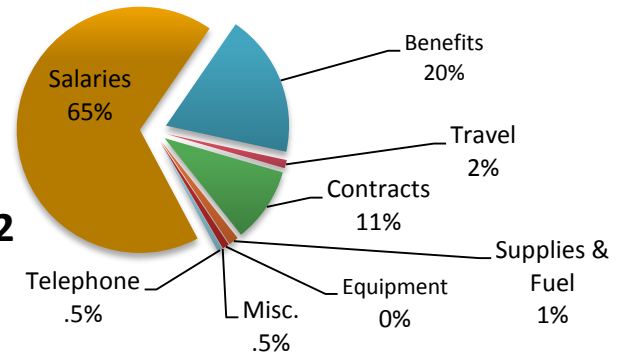


Medico-Legal Death Investigations					
<i>(Calendar Years 2009 - 2013)</i>					
Types of Procedures	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Autopsies	99	91	85	89	83
Non-Autopsies	429	431	423	499	513
Presumptive Death Certificate Issued	1	0	0	0	0
Death Certificate Issued (Military Affiliated)	0	0	1	0	0
Total CME Cases	529	522	509	588	596

APPROPRIATIONS

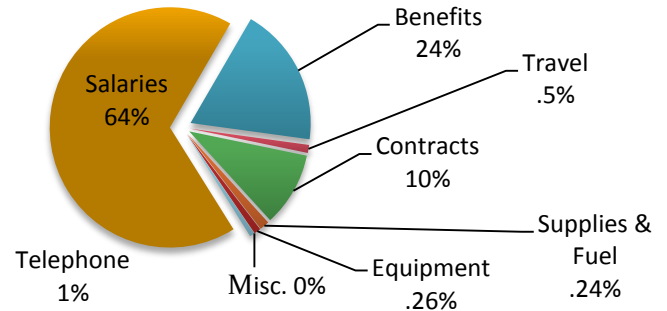
APPROPRIATIONS		
Categories	FY2012	FY2013
Salaries	\$258,360	\$261,410.14
Benefits	78,411	96,453.00
Travel	8,440	4,271.62
Contracts	44,820	38,771.88
Supplies & Fuel	6198	2,268.08
Equipment	0	971.58
Miscellaneous	35	0
Telephone	2594	1,919.78
Total:	\$398,894	\$406,066.08

FY 2012



The graphs indicate a 2% Appropriation difference between 2012 & 2013.

FY 2013



EXPENDITURE REPORT

EXPENDITURES		
Categories	FY2012	FY2013
Salaries	\$257,296.00	\$261,410.00
Benefits	78,074.59	96,452.75
Travel	4,554.15	4,271.62
Contracts	40,468.00	38,771.88
Supplies & Fuel	2,155.00	1,960.16
Equipment	0	490.00
Miscellaneous	0	0
Telephone	1,704.37	1,508.64
Total:	\$384,252.46	\$404,865.05

In **FY 2013**, OCME spent 5% or \$20,612.59 more compared to FY2012. Expenditures were utilized for salary increments and benefits of two employees and the purchasing of required office supplies.

***Note:** Based on the Appropriation amounts above, a 5% Reserve was placed by the Bureau of Budget Management & Research (BBMR) on agency's budget in an effort to reduce the governments past deficits. Release of reserved funds were only approved with adequate justification & used as a "last resort" when all other options to resolve the issue were unsuccessful.*

Comparison between the Appropriations & Expenditures chart, OCME has continued to spend within its appropriated budget for both years. There is only a 5% increase in expenditures between FY12 and FY13. No federal funds were appropriated to OCME during FY2013. Operations are status quo every year as with our budget appropriations approved by the Guam Legislature & Governor of Guam.

OCME's OPERATIONS:

- **Off-Island Travel:** Exclusively for the Medical Examiner for his yearly continuing education seminar as prescribed on his employment contract agreement.
- **Locum Tenens Contract:** Acting Medical Examiner Contract per fiscal year to cover the Medical Examiner when on leave.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** contract between Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) & OCME for services such as but not limited to power, water, laboratory, housekeeping, etc.

Future Challenges & Outlooks

FY 2012 – FY 2013

Moving Forward....

Just as the government of Guam strives in decreasing its financial deficit, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will maintain the upmost professional and empathetic services to the people of Guam as we have for over the past 30 years. Throughout the years, we have continued to struggle with difficulties just as any other agency in the Government.

The main hurdle for our agency is BUDGET CUTS. With cuts to our budget, we suffer from the following:

- ★ Inadequate Personnel. Personnel are overworked & stressed.
- ★ Inability of replacing outdated/broken office & morgue equipments. Utilizing personal materials to operate office daily.
- ★ Minimal to no purchasing of needed supplies causing scarce to none available.
- ★ Limited & hazardous workspace due to the continuous flow of incoming workload.

However, we continue to look at other options in addressing the above issues like federal grants and/or getting approval from our Commission & the Guam Legislature in generating revenue by starting a “Fee Schedule” for some of the services we provide to the public. These options remain stagnant.



Hours of Operations

Monday – Friday

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

CLOSED ON:

Weekends

Govt. of Guam Holidays

Location

We are located within the Guam Memorial Hospital Compound at the back side pass the Emergency Room area (Morgue Area)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you like this report?

What would you like to see in future reports?

Please let us know by contacting our office by telephone (671) 646-9363/647-2369, email:

cme.guam@gmail.com, or write us at #325 Duenas Drive, Tamuning, Guam 96913.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

This report was prepared by students from the University of Guam, School of Business and Public Administration, Intro to Research Class under the direction of Dr. Ron McNinch. The report was reviewed, adjusted, and approved for publication by the OCME Staff.