

of the coroner. The medical examiner shall be a licensed physician and surgeon duly qualified as a specialist in pathology.

The creation of an Office of Medical Examiner could provide the opportunity for future federal funding that will be available to governmental entities that have independent, accredited Medical Examiner offices.

Due to inconsistent practices throughout the country, recent studies have recommended significant changes to the provision of Coroner services. Creating an accredited Coroner function is a common recommendation of these studies, and federal grant funds may be available to agencies that can become accredited. A key component of the accreditation process is that the Medical Examiner be independent from the law enforcement agencies he or she serves.

The proposed study would include an analysis of the potential costs and benefits of an independent Office and the identification of alternative staffing scenarios.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Auditor-Controller's Office concurs in this report. County Counsel has approved the agreement and Risk Management and the County Administrative Office have reviewed the report.

FINANCING:

There is no increase in General Fund Contribution from the original contract as a result of this recommendation.

Prepared by: James Colangelo, Acting Chief Deputy, Administration
Approved by: Scott Miller, Sheriff-Coroner

Attachment: Amendment No. 3