



MEDICAL EXAMINER OFFICE
FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS



STEPHEN PUSTILNIK, M.D.
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

MEMORANDUM

To: Pamela Gubbels, Director
Finance and Investments, Budget Department

From: Stephen Pustilnik, MD
Chief Medical Examiner

Re: FBMEO Case statistics and Projections

Date: April 7, 2021

Attached to this memo is the fiscal year-to-date summary for the ME office for case numbers and outside county revenue. I am making the following projections for FY20-21 based on 188 calendar days since 10/1/2020 for FBC cases and 154 calendar days for the outside county cases because we did not start with all the current counties until November 4, 2020.

	FY to date	Projected FY 2021
Total deaths reported	1456	2827
Total cases examined, FBC	355	687
Total cases examined, outside	65	158
Total FBC+outside cases	420	845

Projected revenue from 158 outside cases for FY20-21 is \$410,800.00

845 predicted cases for this year puts us squarely in the situation we need a mid-year hire for an additional Medical Examiner and investigator to handle the strain these extra cases are causing.

There were 2634 deaths reported to FBMEO in calendar year 2020. We are predicting over 2800 deaths to be reported this year.

The total case statistics for the yearly projections fluctuate like a sine wave throughout the year. Some weeks are busier and some are slower. A month ago the yearly projections were for 714 FBC cases and 142 outside cases. Now they are projected at 687 FBC cases and 158 outside cases. We will run case stats periodically to monitor the variations.

Due to the COVID shutdown for Texas beginning March 12, 2020, the ME office was noticeably less busy during that period of time.

Date range	FBC examinations
3/12/20 - 4/7/20	24
3/12/21 - 4/7/21	41

FBMEO is now handling almost double the cases in this brief period of time as compared to the same period last year during the shutdown.

Since we are in an open period of the State, it is clear that the total numbers of FBC cases in 2020 were skewed lower because of the shutdown. This year we can expect to be predictably busier than last year since we are still in the same period of time in 2021 that the State was shut down in 2020. This will also be reflected in increased submissions from outside counties.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would like to place the two mid-year hires on the Commissioner's County agenda on April 13, 2021 with your support. Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions.

