



# State of Florida Medical Examiners Commission

P.O. Box 1489 | Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489 | (850) 410-8600

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Joshua Sturms, M.S.  
Section Administrator  
Health Information and Policy Analysis Section  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-18  
Tallahassee, FL. 32399-1700

In Re: Enhanced State Surveillance of Opioid-Involved Morbidity and Mortality  
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
CDC Grant Application CDC-RFA-CE16-1608

Dear Mr. Sturms:

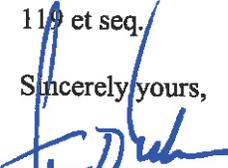
The Medical Examiners Commission, at their May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting in Sarasota that you attended, expressed their strong concerns to you about the data collection necessary for this Grant.

Thank you for providing the recent additional information concerning the Grant application, including the Executive Summaries and partial budget information. Based upon review of this additional information, it continues to appear that the majority of the data necessary to develop and implement the Grant strategy and objectives is possessed by your own Department's Office of Vital Statistics and the investigative reports from the various law enforcement agencies. Of the 175 data points to be collected, your spreadsheet indicated only 3 from the medical examiner offices (Type of Drug Poisoning, Height, and Weight), with an additional 30 data points toxicology analyses. These 33 data points represent 18.8% of the total 175 data points to be collected.

Given that Florida's medical examiners generate only a minority of the comprehensive data that you require, I again encourage you to seek the support and assistance of law enforcement as they appear to be an essential and key component in your endeavor.

Should you be successful and the Grant be awarded, the Medical Examiners Commission encourages the cooperation of the medical examiners as it pertains to the production of those medical examiner-related data points as those items are Public Records as defined by Florida Statutes, Chapter 119 et seq.

Sincerely yours,

  
Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P.  
Chairman

SJN:jkb