



**COUNTY OF COLLIN
STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
FY 2012**

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OUR MISSION

To uphold Article 49.25 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

This includes establishment of a competent cause and manner of death for all reported cases to the office. The Medical Examiner is also tasked with the issuance of cremation permits, facilitating organ and tissue procurement, as well as meeting the needs of families, law enforcement, the District Attorney, Homeland Security, medical and legal communities and funeral directors.

HISTORY

The Collin County Medical examiner's Office was created in 1986 and opened on January 1, 1987. Under the requests and orders of the Commissioners Court, William B. Rohr M.D. was appointed as the County Medical Examiner who retains this position to this day. The Office has full accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners. Sheila Spotswood M.D. was added as an assistant October 2008. This enabled Dr. Rohr to maintain a personal workload acceptable for accreditation in a cost-effective manner yet still conduct autopsy services for Grayson and Fannin counties. The office operated on an annual budget of \$1,081,686 during FY 2012. Growing population and the re-opening of services outside of Collin County has increased the caseload handled by this office in terms of pathology, toxicology, investigation, evidence / property storage and disposal, transportation of bodies and courtroom testimony. Adult and Child Fatality Review Teams continue to be active. Both are chaired by Dr. Rohr.

Information presented in this annual report has been compiled on the deaths reported to the Collin County Medical Examiners Office during FY 2012. It is meant to reflect workload and Office activity rather than public health concerns.

GLOSSARY

To understand just what these charts and graphs represent a glossary is included:

DEATH REPORT: Any reported death.

NO CASE: A reported death in which the attending physician is allowed to sign the death certificate. The death must meet four criteria.

1. Death in the presence of a good witness.
2. There is a physician able and willing to sign the death certificate.
3. Death not under confinement by law enforcement or a mental health institution.
4. Death unrelated to any possible trauma.

CASE: A death not meeting all of the above four criteria and requiring an examination by the medical examiner. The medical examiner always signs the death certificate.

ABSENTIA (IN ABSENTIA): A death not meeting all four of the above criteria but not undergoing an examination by the medical examiner. The medical examiner always signs the death

certificate.

EXAMINED: Another term for case. There are two types of examination by the medical examiner. **INSPECTION** in which the body is only examined externally. **AUTOPSY** in which there is an external and internal examination of the body. Body fluids are obtained externally for further testing in either type of examination.

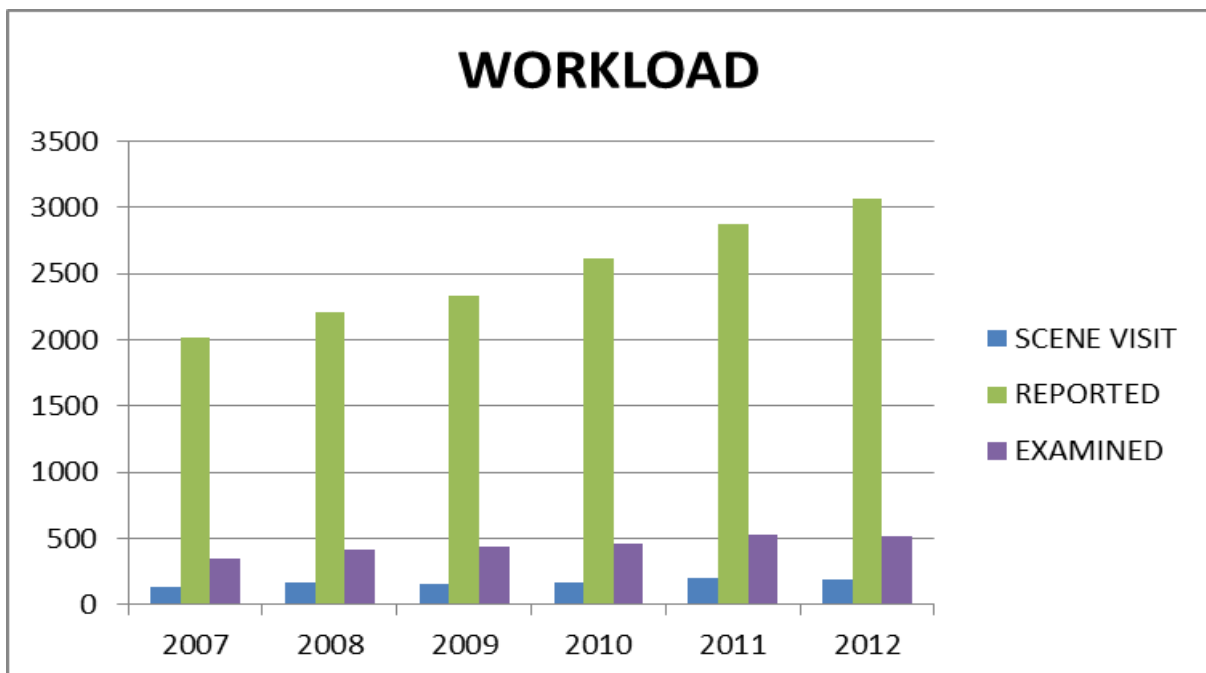
SCENE: The field agent travels to the scene of death to gather further information for the medical examiner and to assist law enforcement with their investigation. A medical examiner attends in select cases.

CREMATION PERMIT: A certificate issued by the medical examiner allowing a cremation to go forward. The certificate is required by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Authorization for the cremation always comes from the family. A short informal investigation is always undertaken by the Office before the certificate (permit) is signed. A few requests require a more significant investigation including full autopsy. There is a fee of \$25 charged for every permit issued.

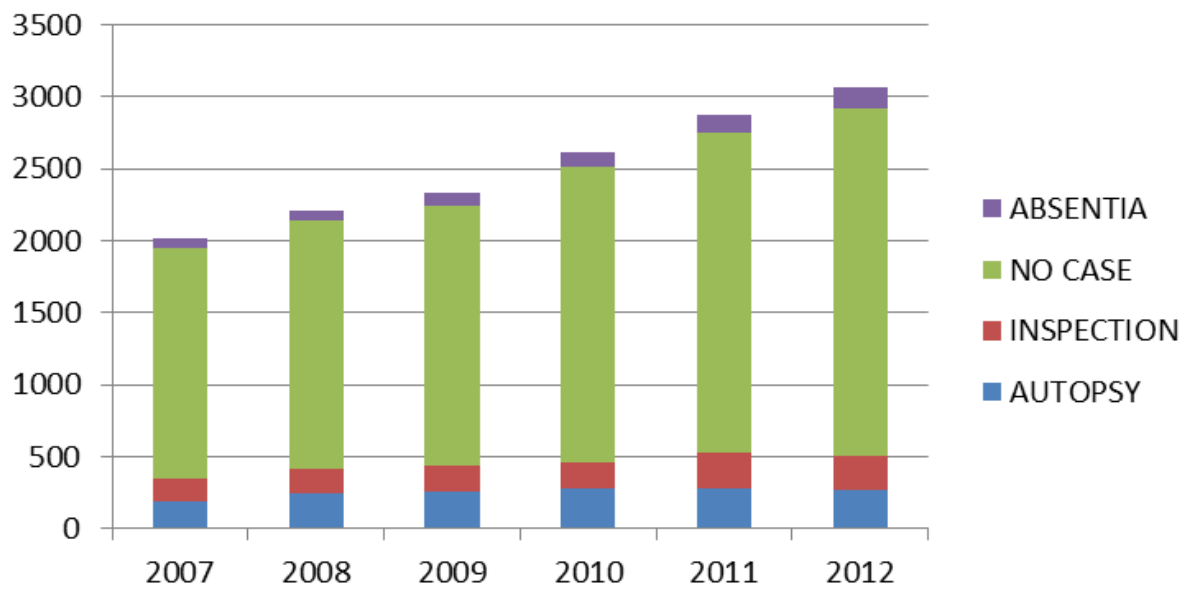
MANNER OF DEATH: This is the fashion about which death occurred. The medical examiner is required to make this determination for each death reported to the Office. There are several choices for manner of death:

- **NATURAL** is a death completely unrelated to trauma.
- **ACCIDENT** is when a death is in any way related to trauma.
- **SUICIDE** is a special type of traumatic death in which one dies at their own hand.
- **HOMICIDE** is a special type of traumatic death in which one dies at the hand of another.
- **UNDETERMINED** is when the medical examiner lacks sufficient information to make one of the above four determinations.

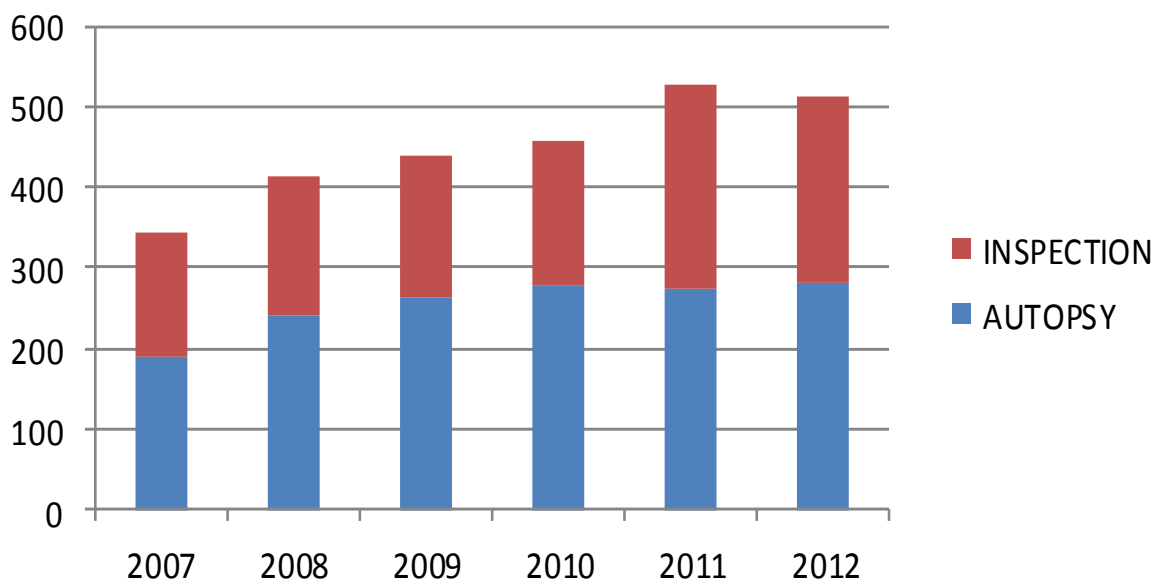
Years are fiscal years, not calendar years.

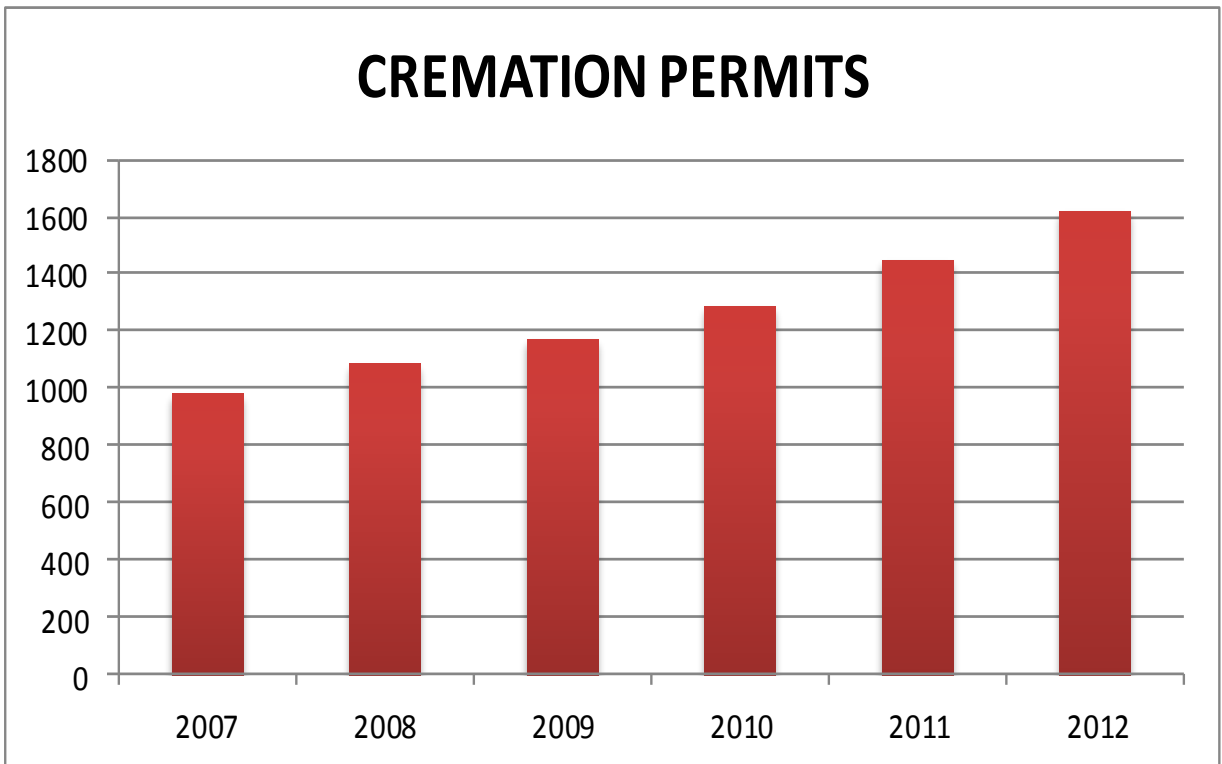
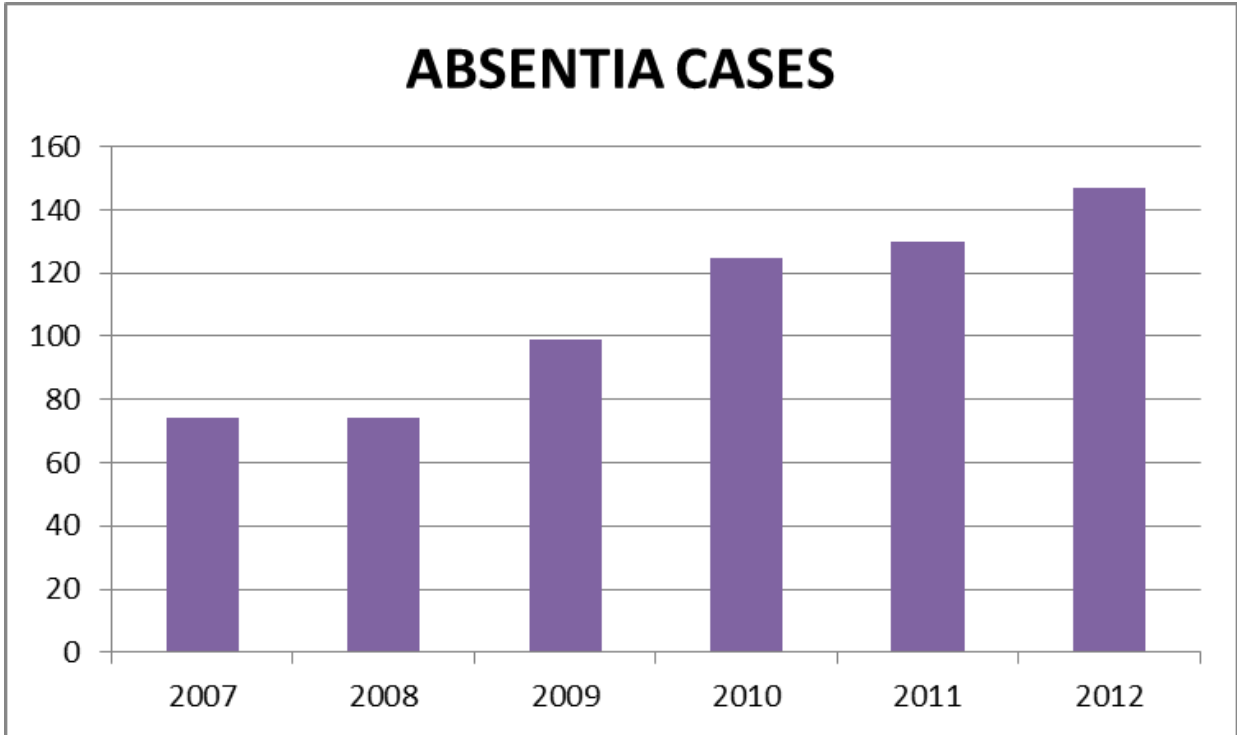


DEATH REPORT DISPOSITION

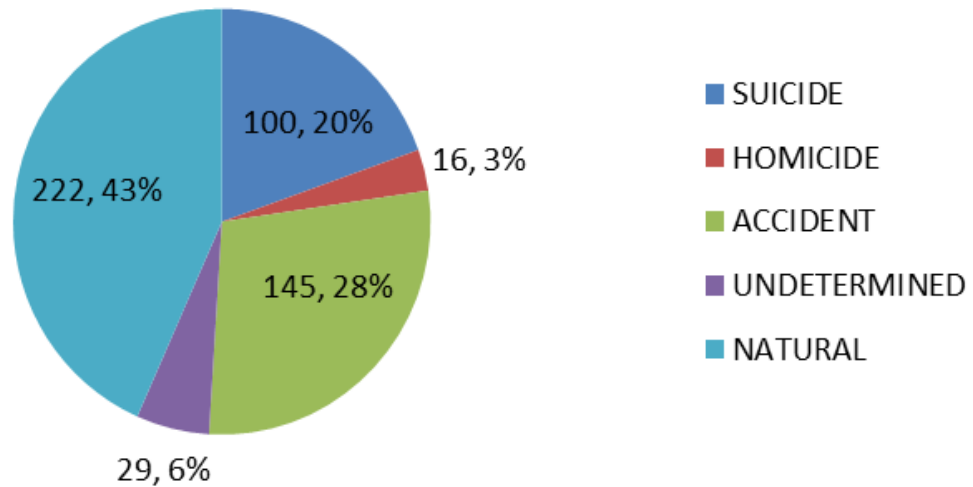


EXAMINATION TOTALS



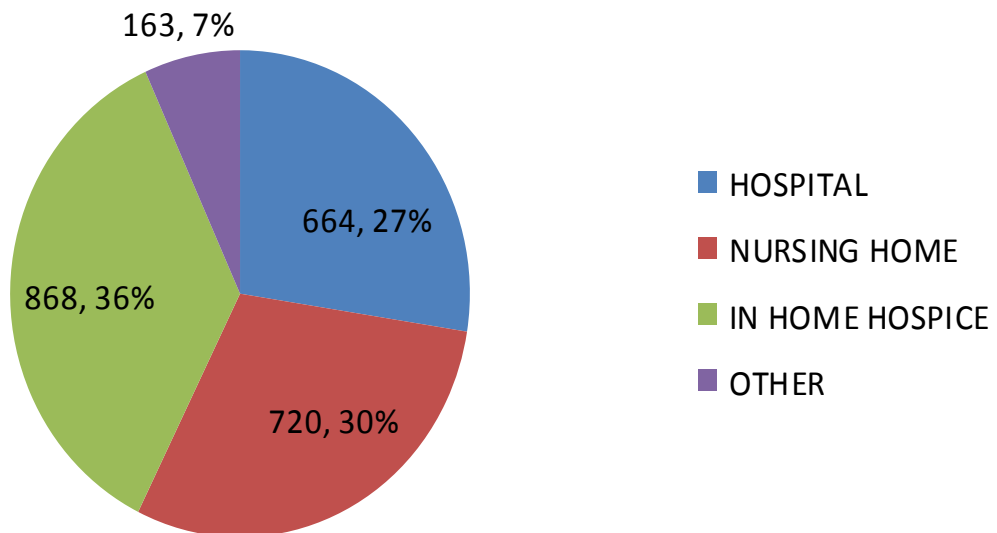


FY2012 Manner of Death by Examination



Homicide examinations generally create the most work. Natural deaths generally create the least amount of work. Homicides are almost always autopsied. The manner of death least likely to result in an autopsy is natural.

No Case Distribution FY 2012



Where death reports come from and how many that are signed by the attending physician.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SUICIDE	56	54	62	83	89	100
HOMICIDE	7	14	13	12	15	16
UNDETERMINED	13	19	14	30	31	29
CREMATIONS	982	1085	1169	1283	1446	1623
ABSENTIA	65	71	96	95	131	147
SCENE VISIT	133	164	155	169	200	195
REPORTED	2014	2215	2335	2613	2877	3066
EXAMINED	345	415	440	457	528	512
ACCIDENT EXAMINED	68	81	84	94	116	145
NON-TRAUMA EXAM-	201	247	267	238	277	222
AUTOPSY	190	241	261	276	275	281
INSPECTION	155	174	179	181	253	231
NO CASE	1604	1729	1799	2061	2218	2415

ADULT FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

The Adult Fatality Review Team meets on the last Friday of every month at the Collin County Medical Examiners Office. The team members are:

Dr. William Rohr – Chief Medical Examiner (Collin County)

Sabina Stern – Collin County Substance Abuse

Sue Schultz – Mental Health Professional

Amy Atnip R.N. – Medical Center of Plano

Byron Wells—Drug Enforcement Administration

The purpose of the Collin County Adult Fatality Review Team is to review all deaths of adults in Collin County from a public health perspective and to enhance the skills of those investigating death in Collin County, especially the Medical Examiner, Epidemiology, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health.

The interaction that takes place among these agencies during the Review Team meetings gives insight to everyone involved and helps them to understand why these deaths take place with a focus on prevention.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

The Child Fatality Review Team meets the first Friday of every month at the Plano Fire Department. The members of the team are:

Dr. William Rohr - Chief Medical Examiner

Dr. Sheila Spotswood - Deputy Medical Examiner

Amy Atnip R.N. – Director of Trauma Services: Medical Center of Plano

Alyson Dietrich – Collin County District Attorney’s Office

Katy Emerson – CCCC

Susan Etheridge – CASA of Collin County

Delia Guillamondegui – CPS Inv. Supervisor / CCCC

Jack D. Sides – Captain-EMS/Training Division-Plano Fire Dept.

Danelle Parker – Community Wellness / THP-Hospital of Plano

Courtney Pero—Narcotics, Plano Police Dept.

Jeff Rich – Plano Police Dept.

Erica Stanley – CCCAC

Sue Schultz, LPC, LMFT – Collin County CFRT Coordinator

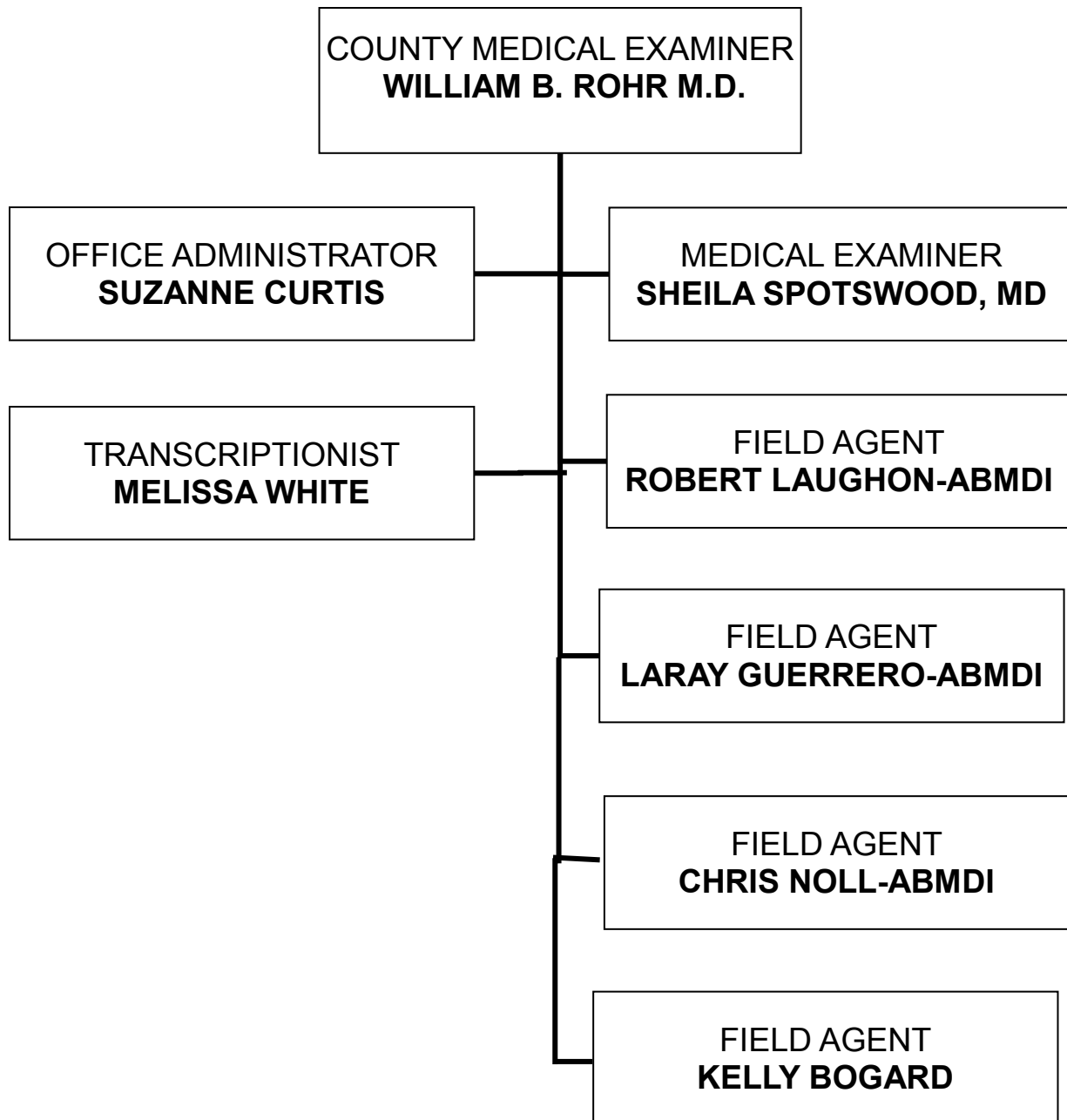
Sabina Stern – CFRT Member

Dr. Brad Tate – Pediatric Hospitalist

Crystal Levonius – Collin County District Attorney’s Office

The purpose of the Collin County Child Fatality Review Team is to review all deaths of children in Collin County from a public health perspective and to enhance the skills of those investigating death in Collin County, especially the Medical Examiner, law enforcement and Child Protective Services. The interaction that takes place among these agencies during the Review Team meetings gives insight to everyone involved and helps them to understand why these deaths take place with a focus on prevention.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (2013)





**DIRECTIONS TO COLLIN COUNTY MEDICAL
EXAMINERS OFFICE:**

**TAKE US-75 TO MCKINNEY EXIT 42-A @ WILMETH
ROAD**

**HEAD EASTBOUND UNTIL THE 4 LANES BECOME
ONLY 2**

**TURN NORTH AT THE CCMEO SIGN AND
PROCEED TO PUBLIC PARKING. HOURS 8-5 M-F**