

Regional medical examiner's facility

October 2017

Support \$26.2 million in state bonding for a Regional Forensic Science Center of Excellence

Hennepin, Dakota, and Scott counties are committed to developing a regional medical examiner's facility that provides high quality, cost effective, state-of-the-art forensic death investigation and autopsy services. With a strong focus on education and community partnerships, we are positioned to support a growing geographic area and provide services across the region and upper Midwest on a referral basis. This center will also educate future professionals in the field of forensics.

Regional services create greater efficiency and cost savings

A regional medical examiner facility makes fiscal sense. In 2012, Hennepin County tax dollars paid more than 90 percent of the Medical Examiner's operating budget. In 2016, that number had decreased to 63 percent. Regional services increased efficiency for each county.

One-third of greater Minnesota counties do not have a trained and certified medical examiner. They rely on a coroner for forensic investigations. With additional space, this facility could formalize partnerships with other counties throughout the region and increase opportunities for efficiency and excellence.

This is the only medical examiner's office in Minnesota with a training program for future medical examiners as well as rotating residents and medical students. We hold a critical role in assuring that educated professionals meet the needs of our communities, the state of Minnesota and the nation .



Current medical examiner facility

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Current facility has inadequate space

The space in use by Hennepin, Dakota and Scott counties is located in downtown Minneapolis, next to the Hennepin County Medical Center. At 28,800 usable square feet, the space is too small to meet the demand for services. In addition:

- Secured areas for bodies, evidence, medication, property and emergency response equipment are beyond capacity.
- Intake, processing and release of decedents occur in one cramped workspace that shares a single elevator.
- Location and structural elements prevent expansion of workspaces, secured evidence storage and onsite parking.

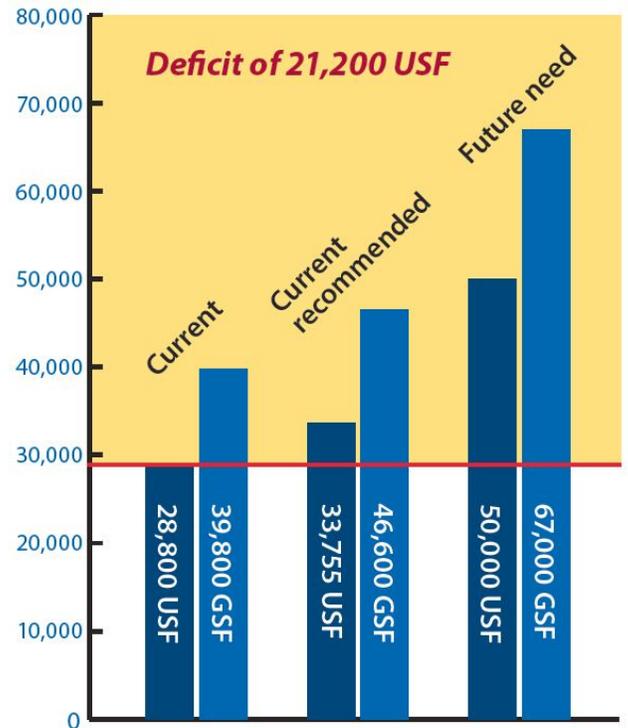
Regional facility supports public health

Having adequate space will allow the medical examiner to handle a disaster. We certainly hope to never face that need. But if it happens, a new facility will ensure we have what is needed to respond well. A modern facility will provide heightened biosafety from contagious diseases for autopsies, thereby reducing hazards to workers and the community.

Help us look to the future

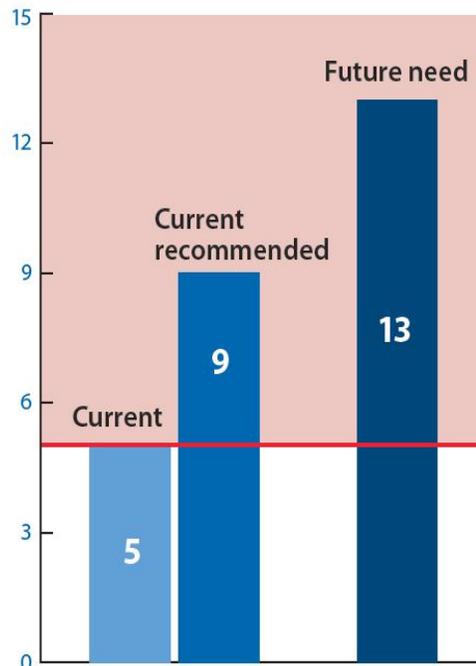
The nationwide shortage of board-certified forensic pathologists supports a regional approach to death investigations in a new regional facility. We need space to educate future professionals in the field of forensics. We will design the facility for emergency situations in our communities. Hennepin, Dakota and Scott counties have seen significant growth in recent decades and population growth will continue. The region needs a medical examiner's facility that can accommodate a growing and increasingly diverse population and ensure high-quality death investigative services far into the future.

Facility area



USF – usable square feet
GSF – gross square feet

Autopsy stations



Body storage

