Medical examiner placed on paid administrative leave
Follows OSME accreditation downgraded to provisional in June

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island’s chief medical examiner, Dr. Christina Stanley, was placed on paid administrative leave on July 22, according to the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH). Dr. Stanley has held that position since the fall of 2011.

No specific reason was given for the decision, which was made by newly installed DOH medical director, Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott. Contractual, temporary physicians will be used to absorb the workload.

The department has been reviewing the structure and staffing at the Office of the State Medical Examiner (OSME), following an accreditation downgrade from full to provisional by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) in June. The department has until December 2015 to remedy deficiencies found in the report.

Among the deficiencies noted were turnaround times in reports of post-mortem examinations; data from 2013 and 2014 showed that 78% and 74% of the reports were completed within 90 calendar days; the standard is 90% of completed reports.

It found insufficient staff coverage to handle the caseload 24/7. The report stated, “the high quality of the work performed by OSME is currently hindered by the lack of a sufficient number of medicolegal death investigators.” It stated the five investigators are “spread much too thinly to be able to handle case follow-up work and other investigative functions in a timely fashion…”

However, in its summary the report also lauded the Rhode Island Office of State Medical Examiners as functioning at a “highly professional level in all areas of its operations…The OSME has made significant contributions to public health locally and nationally, including the identification of a cluster of deaths due to acetyl fentanyl and the institution of measures to improve the quality of infant death investigations.”

The full report can be found here: http://www.rimed.org/rimedicaljournal/2015/08/OSME-certification-letter.pdf

Rhode Island Department of Corrections
Medical Program Director

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections is seeking an Internal Medicine or Family Practice Board Certified Physician to serve as its Medical Program Director. This leadership and policy maker position is responsible for inmate clinical healthcare delivery services for the RIDOC and coordinating professional and clinical duties of medical and treatment providers.

The RIDOC is a dual jurisdiction department responsible for both the Jail System as well as the Prison System within the State and services approximately 3200 inmates on an annual basis.

The Medical Program Director develops and implements programs as needed to ensure the RIDOC medical services are in compliance with all required healthcare laws and the community standard of care in Rhode Island. The Medical Program Director is responsible for supervision and clinical support of the medical providers and mid-level providers working within the RIDOC approving consultants, outside referrals, non-formulary medications and labs, medical furloughs, medical complaints, and outside elective medical care. The Medical Program Director also participates in medical education research.

Qualified applicants must have a MD degree and ideally is Board Certified in either Family Practice or Internal Medicine or Board Certified in a related specialty and must be eligible to be licensed in the State of Rhode Island.

The position is a 35 hour non-standard weekly position; the salary range is $149,658.00 - $167,551.00 plus a full benefit package.

Interested applicants should visit www.apply.ri.gov and apply for job number 1380-13200-28. The Rhode Island Department of Corrections is an AA/EOE employer.