**Training on Management of the Dead**

Justices of the Peace

**Overview**

Deaths in South and West Texas jurisdictions may overwhelm or exceed local medicolegal resources, including the expertise required to adequately manage the dead and perform transnational identifications. Nonetheless, there is a standard duty of care that must be provided to all deceased persons. Specifically, the dead must be managed in a manner that protects their dignity and permits personal identification to clarify the fate and whereabouts for their families. The early response by authorities plays a key role for avoiding mismanagement of the dead (e.g. cremating unknown bodies, losing traceability on buried bodies, etc.). This training for Justices of the Peace (JPs) is intended to assist authorities in adequately responding to deaths, particularly for migrants, and providing them with the necessary tools during surges in deaths.

**Scope:** Justices of the Peace in West & South Texas

**Time/Date:** Monday, March 27, 2023 from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Locations**: Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas

900 N Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78401

**Trainers**: Multiagency

* **Thea Whalen**, Texas Justice Court Training Center (TJCTC)
* **Jessica Foreman**, TJCTC
* **April Williams**, TJCTC
* **Jason Wiersema**, Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (HCIFS)
* **Kate Spradley**, Texas State University/OpID
* **Molly Kaplan**, Texas State University/OpID
* **Courtney Siegert**, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
* **Cate Bird**, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

**Agenda**

**Monday, March 27, 2023**

**12:00 - 1:00 pm** **Lunch**

**1:00 - 1:30 pm Arrival / Introductions**

**1:30 - 2:45 pm** **Session 1**: Minimum Components of Management of Dead

Led by Kate Spradley, Molly Kaplan, Courtney Siegert

**2:45 - 3:00 Break**

**3:00 - 4:00 pm** **Session 2**: Applying Minimum Components in Death

Investigation

Led by Jason Wiersema

**4:00 - 5:00 pm** **Session 3**: The National Missing and Unidentified Persons

System (NamUs)

Led by Jessica Ruiz, Regional Program Specialist for Texas

**Tuesday, March 28th**

**7:00 - 8:00 am Breakfast**

**8:00 - 8:40 am** **Session 4:** The US Border Patrol Missing Migrant Program

Led by Medardo Barrera, Gilberto Salinas, and Alex Jara)

**8:40 - 8:50 am** **Session 5:** The FBI Latent Fingerprint Unit

Video by Bryan Johnson, Major Incident Program Manager

**8:50 - 9:30 am** **Session 6:** Death Investigation in Brooks County

Led by Nora Salinas

**9:30 - 10:00 am** **Break**

**10:00 - 12:00 pm** **Session 7:** Managing the Dead Tabletop Exercise

**Learning Objectives**

**Session 1**: **Minimum Standards for Effective Management of the Dead**

* **Allocate** a unique tracking code
* **Recover** a body
* **Record** relevant data (e.g. documentation and photography)
* **Collect** and managedata for identification (i.e. fingerprints, DNA samples)
* **Submit** information for identification
* **Store** bodies in a dignified manner
* **Retain traceability** on unidentified bodies

**Session 2**: **Applying Minimum Components in Death Investigation**

* Case examples/lessons learned from the HCIFS
* Mass fatality resources

**Session 3**: **The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)**

* Background, purpose, legal framework
* Demonstration on the components, search, and role of users/information
* Requirements for uploading/publishing cases on unidentified persons
* Resources, documents, and services available
* Registration of JPs (time permitting)

**Session 4:** **The US Border Patrol Missing Migrant Program**

* Background and role in recovery, processing, and identification
* Resources (FPs/training, searching names, etc.) available to JPs
* Fingerprint submission, comparison, and notification process

**Session 5: The FBI Latent Fingerprint Unit**

* Background and role
* Importance for fingerprint for personal identification
* Online training videos: <https://fbibiospecs.fbi.gov/biometric-training>

**Session 6:** **Death Investigation in Brooks Count**y

* Role of JP in death investigation and identification
* Challenges and response to migrant deaths in Brooks County
* Brooks County Protocol for Managing Migrant Deaths
  + Operation Lonestar support
  + Importance of collection/comparison of information (DNA, photographs, fingerprints) prior to burial

**Session 7:** **Managing the Dead Tabletop Exercise**

* Practical based on Session 1. Minimum Standards For Effective Management Of The Dead
  + Utilize JP Checklist
  + Discuss challenges and successes

**Handouts**

* Contact List
* Resource List
* JP Training: Session 1 Presentation
* Unidentified Persons Checklist
* Decedent Documentation Form
* UHR Sample Submission Form
* Photography Basics & Checklist
* Photo Log Template
* FACTS Transfer of Custody Form
* TMORT Assessment Form
* ICRC Manual on Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters (ref. [0880](https://shop.icrc.org/management-of-dead-bodies-after-disasters-a-field-manual-for-first-responders-print-fr.html))
* ICRC The Forensic Human Identification Process: An Integrated Approach (ref. [4590](https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/4590-forensic-human-identification-process-integrated-approach))
* ICRC Guidelines on Coordination and Information-Exchange Mechanisms for the Search for Missing Migrants (ref. [4577](https://shop.icrc.org/guidelines-on-coordination-and-information-exchange-mechanisms-for-the-search-for-missing-migrants-pdf-en.html))