

Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board-Strategic Policy Framework

Draft for review by Board: January 27, 2009

Key Topics:

Internal

- Board Practice Maturity
 - The Board has established management practices, sufficient staff support, and regularly reviews strategic and policy questions establishing clear direction.

- Statute and Rule review; regulatory streamlining and plain language
 - The Board will review all Rules and Statutes to insure relevance; that language is forward-facing and easy to understand; that consumer protection and professional excellence are maintained in all aspects of the death care industry.
 - Agency staff will review processes and forms with an eye toward regulatory streamlining and improved service to the consumer and licensees.

- Operations; Meeting Statutory requirements for inspections, investigations; reporting
 - The Board will meet all statutory requirements for investigations, inspections and reporting.
 - The Board will improve mechanisms to track issues and policy decisions, improve forms, and establish industry standards (such as required reporting forms) where appropriate.

- Budget allocation and revenue source sufficiency
 - The Board will focus on creating greater stability of revenue sources for long term viability of programs.

- Staffing; standards, practices and stability
 - The Board will have a sufficient staff to support the operations of the Board.
 - The Board will ensure consistency of practice, and will address current issues of high turnover.

- Interagency partnership
 - The Board will effectively partner with other State agencies in order to meet with mission of the Board, as well as to improve consumer protection and regulatory streamlining where possible, when there is overlap with or process exchange to other Agencies.

External

- Death Perception in Oregon
 - The Board will focus on improving the visibility and understanding of the death care industry and current and emerging trends and issues for consumers and licensees.
 - The Board will provide leadership on these issues at the State level.
 - Establish Focused services on the education of consumer and licensees.

- Supporting Population and Cultural Change;
 - The Board will address current and emerging impacts of demographic changes in Oregon, including variable county mortality rates; projected shift of social services to early childhood and prison populations; demographic changes and accompanied cultural, religious rites and rituals.
 - Support the availability of skilled practitioners in the death care industry, especially in rural areas.
 - Provide clear policy in support of a wide variety of cultural practices and preferences toward the care of the dead. Provide sufficient regulation to ensure consumer protection and safety without restricting cultural preferences or practices.

- Economic and Environmental Considerations and impacts on industry
 - Evaluate Overall economic impact on social services within State of Oregon and impacts on Death Care Industry.
 - Provide expertise and policy relating to maintaining integrity of pre-need contracts and arrangements.
 - Provide expertise and policy relating to Indigent Burial
 - Provide leadership and policy relating to the utilization of new disposition technologies and on ensuring the environmental sustainability of death care services and products.
 - Skilled laborer availability; especially rural areas
 - Potential regulation of chemicals; mercury release, etc

- Disaster Preparedness and Role of Funeral Practitioner
 - Support State-wide regional planning and preparedness

- Other Areas
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 - Participate in discussions on land use and zoning; cemeteries, memorials, funeral homes, and other facilities used in the death care industry.
 - Ensure proper safety and regulation of the overall transportation logistics chain for human remains.