KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	20-1452-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	5/19/2021 3:08 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Reeves County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	PO BOX 910
Agency City:	Pecos	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	79772		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Arturo
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Granado		
Reporter Name:	Ernesto Lazcano	Reporter Email:	elazcano@reevescounty.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Norma

Middle Name: Barrera

Last Name: Avila

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 6/15/1966 Sex: Female

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 54

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 10/20/2020 11:56 PM

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 10/21/2020 9:24 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?: Yes, results are available

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death: Natural

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Autopsy Report Cause of Death: Chronic ischemic heart disease

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment:	No

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?:	Not applicable

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of weapon that caused death?:	Not Applicable

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical condition?:	Pre-existing medical condition

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death:	Not applicable, cause of death was illness/natural cause

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	500 South Oak	City:	Pecos
County:	Reeves	Zip:	79772

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category:	Law Enforcement Facility

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody:	County Jail

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:
Jail - single cell

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time:	10/21/2020 12:22 AM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location:	Medical facility

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?:	No

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Possession of a Controlled Substance

Offense 2:

Possession of a Controlled Substance

Offense 3:

Tamper/Fabricate Physical Evidence

Were the Charges:: Filed

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Alcohol / drug offense

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): No

Make suicidal statements?: No

Exhibit any mental health problems?: No

Exhibit any medical problems?: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Barricade self or initiate standoff?: No

Resist being handcuffed or arrested?: No

Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	No	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	No
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	No		

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint: No

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On October 21, 2020 at 00:12 hours Norma Barrera Avila, was arrested by Deputy James Garcia for two counts of Possession of Control Substance PG 1 >=4G<200G a 2nd Degree Felony and one count of Tamper/Fabricate Physical Evidence w/ Intent to Impair a 3rd Degree Felony. Upon arrival to the Reeves County Sheriff's Office, a suicide screening was conducted on Inmate Avila where it was noted that the inmate appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. When asked if she had a history of drug or alcohol abuse, Inmate Avila stated she had a history of heroin last consumed on 10/20/2020. When asked if she believed she would have withdrawal symptoms from stopping the use of heroin, Inmate Avila stated she would be withdrawing form heroin. Inmate Avila answered no to all suicide questions. Magistrate, Mental Health and Medical were notified electronically. Suicide watch was not warranted at the time of book-in and Inmate Avila was housed in Holding Tank 1 and placed on 30 minute holding checks where she remained for the remainder of her stay.
On the morning of October 21, 2020 Inmate Avila went before Justice of the Peace Cecil Lee. Inmate Avila was given a $50,000 bond for the first count of Possession of Control Substance PG 1 >=4G<200G, a $30,00 bond for the second count of Possession of Control Substance PG 1 >=4G<200G, and a $30,000 bond for Tamper/Fabricate Physical Evidence w/ Intent to Impair. On the afternoon of October 21, 2020, Inmate Avila placed a phone call to Freedom Bail Bond and to her daughter Sabrina. After Inmate Avila placed her phone calls, Nurse Lozano asked Inmate Avila what she was withdrawing from to which she stated heroin. Nurse Lozano also asked if she needed any medical attention and Inmate Avila stated she did not. Inmate Avila was placed back in Holding 1, where during the remainder of the day she was seen by officers laying down and using the restroom. During the dinner meal, Inmate Avila refused her tray.
On the Evening of October 21, 2020 at 1800 hours Sgt. Jamie Bracknell, Jailer Alexa Jasso, Jailer Isaac Legarretta, Jailer David Bernal and Dispatcher Liliana Martinez began their tour of duty. While conducting a wellness check, Officer Jasso noticed Inmate Avila had urinated on herself and advised Sgt. Bracknell who then notified Nurse Lozano. Officer Jasso then entered Holding Tank 1 and found Inmate Avila nonresponsive. Officer Jasso then notified Sgt. Bracknell and returned to Holding Tank 1 where she visually checked Inmate Avila for signs of breathing, Officer Jasso then noticed Inmate Avila was not breathing. Officer Jasso notified Sgt. Bracknell who then instructed Dispatch Martinez to call EMS. Sgt. Bracknell arrived on scene and performed a sternum check on Inmate Avila, Inmate Avila did not respond. Sgt. Bracknell then checked for a pulse and did not feel one. Sgt. Bracknell proceeded to perform chest compressions on Inmate Avila until Deputies and EMS arrived on scene. Upon arrival on scene, Deputy Christine Ontiveros took over compressions. Inmate Avila was then assisted on to the gurney and was transported via ambulance to Reeves County Hospital. Inmate Avila was pronounced dead at Reeves County Hospital by Judge Riley. The Texas Rangers were called to do the investigation.

Autopsy report available.

Cause of Death: Chronic ischemic heart disease.