



**Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
December 21, 2022**

Members

Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital
Sarah Eagan, Office of the Child Advocate
Brett Salafia, Assistant States Attorney
Angela Jimenez, Department of Public Health
Ken Mysogland, Department of Children and Families
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Liz Corley, Clifford Beers
SGT. Christine Jeltema, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Pina Violano, Community Health, Healthcare Consultants, LLC
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children

Excused

Tonya Johnson CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Ivis Arroyo, Hartford PD
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Andrea Barton Reeves, Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority

Guests

Kimberly Karanda, DHMAS
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Jaclyn Meserole, OCME
Ed Stannard, Hartford Courant via bot
Liz Hardaway, Hearst Media CT

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke

Minutes

A motion was made by to approve the minutes Brett Salafia for November 30, 2022. A second to the motion was made by Angela Jimenez. - . Abstentions- None made.

Virtual Packet- Meeting Agenda, December 21, 2022, Draft Minutes

Sharing of CDR data- Brendan Burke-

Breakdown of 2022 cases, there are 14 cases pending further study. Specific causes of death were compared for years 2017→2022, there was an uptick in accidental deaths in 2022. Panel members asked for a breakdown of children who are under 8 years of age who die because of MVA's.

Fentanyl Related Deaths systems discussion/ next steps-continued

Panel members asked about the number of parents or caregivers that are prosecuted for their children getting into their drugs. Cases like these are prosecuted throughout the state when appropriate however it is difficult to link causal to an individual to be accused. Prosecution hindering other parents or caregivers from leaving illicit substances within reach of their children was discussed. The possibility of safe storage messaging to limit ingestions was explored again, this messaging should be done in a way that doesn't further the addiction stigmas. Messaging should encompass all illicit substances since a lot of fentanyl is purchased unbeknownst to the buyer. Safety plans for use do exist for high-risk families, harm reduction strategies can be shared with these families as well. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that families understand that substance use in and of itself does not warrant a child to be removed.

Issues faced by service providers who work with families who struggle with addiction were briefly discussed. Lack of tools for service providers such as fentanyl testing strips and the validity or quality of those tests. There are no intensive inpatient treatment centers for adolescents who suffer from addiction. Options for substance addicted minors are very limited. Current psychiatric beds-SA kids there may not be many options available or accessible, Inpatient psychiatric facilities do not accept substance use disorder kids unless they have a dual MH dx. Withdrawal is a medical management issue that is very difficult to address within a psychiatric facility. In CT some hospitals are trying to figure out the best way to accommodate these children even though reimbursement levels will be low.

OCA will continue to collect data, and are currently working on an in-depth Infant, Toddler Death Review report that will encompass 3 years. OCA has been requesting records from different agencies involved with the families prior to their losing their child. Recommendations in that report will include having a multi-agency summit to build on and expand on some of the recommendations, concerns and findings of the report. OCA's priority is to share useful information in a systemic way, providing material for other stake holders to add to their presentations.

Link to recording:

[Child Fatality Review Team-20221221_090525-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

Link to public service information campaign about cannabis- <https://beintheknowct.org/>

Legislative Update-

A new session will begin soon.

Old Business-

None

New Business-

Future Agenda Item- Legalization of marijuana and the effects of use while pregnant.

Possibly bringing back the Gun Violence subcommittee.

Next meeting-

January 25, 2023