



**Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
September 28, 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
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
Ken Mysogland, Department of Children and Families
Andrea Barton Reeves, Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
SGT. Christine Jeltema, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Pina Violano, Community Health, Healthcare Consultants, LLC
Liz Corley, Clifford Beers
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Excused

TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children
Tonya Johnson CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Guests

Kimberly Karanda DHMAS
Tasha Hunt, CSSD
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Jaclyn Meserole, OCME
Deland Weyrauch
Christina Ghio, OCA
Ada Booth, CCMC, SCAN
Kaitlyn Anderson, CCMC Resident
Ivis Arroyo, Hartford PD

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made by to approve the minutes Pina Violano for August 24, 2022. A second to the motion was made by Angela Jimenez. Vote taken to approve-All in favor. Abstentions- Michael Soltis

Presentations

MVA Fatalities, CT crash data repository DOT-Sgt. Christine Jeltema

Crash fatality data from the Fatal Analysis Reporting System (FARS)

- FARS is a national program administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) through CT DOT.
- Purpose of FARS is to collect and analyze data to inform legislative changes and support prevention efforts via education.
- YTD there have been 12 MVA deaths between the ages of 14-18 years.
- In 2021 there were 21 MVA deaths between the ages of 2-18 years, 10 of the drivers were under the age of 18, one as young as 14.
- In 2020 there were 15 MVA deaths between the ages 7-18 years.
- Younger child MVA deaths were noted to not be wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident.
- In CT State PD is responsible for the collection of data submitted to the FARS.

Discussion-

Panel members discussed possibly collaborating with a body currently working on safe driving, the OCA will reach out to Safe Driving Partners to see what is being done and how this body can help. The creation of a PHA was discussed around seat belt usage and other safe driving practices. Possible partners and networks for distribution of such a PHA were explored (DMV, AAA, SDE). Incentive programs for those who participate in Drivers Ed and providing parents with more safety information when signing their kids up for Drivers Ed could help with message retention. In CT drivers who are involved in an MVA get an automatic tox screen by the OCME. Tox screen can tell if the person used but does not pinpoint when they used. Correlation between legalization of marijuana and wrong drivers was brought up. In CT there are State trooper who are Drug Recognition Expert certified (DRE), these troopers can identify drug-impaired drivers.

Suicide Screenings and Pediatric Emergency Mental/Behavioral Health (MBH)-Dr. Steven Rogers

- Data collected over 6 years (2016-2021) from 49 U.S. Children’s Hospitals has indicated an increase in the number of children and families seeking mental/ behavioral healthcare in Pediatric Emergency Departments.
- In CT, CCMC’s C- Zone was over capacity (19 using hall space) for 9 months from late 2020 through 2021, there was also an increase in the average Length of Stay for these children.
- At CCMC all patients 10 years and older, are screened for risk of suicide using the ASQ-Suicide Risk Screening Tool. Positive screens ASQ screens result in further screening to determine what the child’s risk level is and an appropriate intervention is taken.
- From August 2019 through July 2020, there were 135 positive ASQ screenings for 10-year-olds
- National hospital data from 2014 showed that the second leading cause of death for children ages 10-14 years was Suicide (425). Data collected in 2020 indicated that Suicide was still the second leading cause of death for this age group (581).

No executive Session

Legislative Update- none

Old Business- none

New Business- OCA’s Annual report will be released soon.

Next meeting- October 26, 2022-Microsoft Teams invite sent out. Focus on Opioid related deaths.

Adjourn- Motion to Adjourn made by Sarah Eagan and seconded by Brendan Burke.