

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE
165 CAPITOL AVENUE, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106**



**Sarah Healy Eagan, J.D.
Child Advocate**

OCA Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes – July 25, 2023

OCA Staff: Sarah Eagan, Child Advocate; Christina D. Ghio, Associate Child Advocate

Members Present: Shelley Geballe, Jeanne Milstein, Jennifer Collins, and Edwin Colon

Members Not Present: Rudolph Brooks, Toni Boucher

1. OCA Staffing Updates

OCA did not get new positions in the budget. There is a need to discuss, on a future date, the need to ensure the independence of OCA and adequate funding to meet our statutory obligations. OCA is currently exploring other temporary funding options, like donations/grants.

Maria W. Cruz, Assistant Child Advocate, is retiring from state service. Sarah Eagan described the position of Assistant Child Advocate that will be posted in the near future. Jeanne Milstein would suggest someone with substance abuse knowledge and experience. Attorney Collins asked whether it would be remote or hybrid. The position will be hybrid. OCA will work to fill the position as quickly as possible.

2. Project Updates

The Infant Toddler Report was issued today. All of the state agencies had the opportunity to review the report and provide feedback on the report prior to its release. The focus is on prevention efforts in relation to very young children. We want policy makers to understand that things like Husky, WIC, housing, and public education all impact child death. We need to continue to focus on Naloxone. We have had 3 critical incidents in the last 2-3 weeks, in which there is suspected fentanyl exposure, including one death. That report is a blueprint for our child fatality prevention work related to very young children.

3. Investigation Updates

Motion to go into executive session, by Jeanne Milstein, to discuss confidential investigations. Second by Shelley Geballe. All voted in favor.

4. Executive Session

Discussion regarding confidential information related to ongoing fatality investigations.

Following confidential discussion, a motion to leave executive session was made by Edwin Colon. It was seconded by Jennifer Collins. All voted in favor.

5. Return to Regular Session

Next meeting will be August 22, 2023 at 5:30. Meetings will be schedule for the fourth Thursday of the month going forward.