



**Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams**

April 26, 2023

Members

Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital
Sarah Eagan, Co-Chair, Office of the Child Advocate
Brett Salafia, Assistant States Attorney
Angela Jimenez, Department of Public Health
Pina Violano, Community Health, Healthcare Consultants, LLC
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children
Ken Mysogland, Department of Children and Families
Ivis Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Liz Corley, Clifford Beers
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Tonya Johnson CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Excused

Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
SGT. Christine Jeltema, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

Guests

Kimberly Karanda, DMHAS
Jaclyn Meserole, OCME
Ada Booth, MD CCMC-SCAN
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Elliann Sylvester, DPH
Edgar Flores MD
Miriam Miller, DPH
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media
Tasha Hunt CSSD

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made by to approve the minutes by Brett Salafia for March 22, 2023, with corrections. A second to the motion was made by Andrea Barton Reeves.

Corrections- Andre Barton Reeves is the Commissioner for the Department of Social Services. DCF would like folks with lived expertise to participate in the CFRP.

CFRP Data -Brendan Burke-

There have been five deaths reported to the OCA for the month of April, which falls within average range of cases for the year 2023. Two of the cases have received media attention, one being a young homicide and another an older teen who was found deceased without an apparent reason. There was also a case involving an unsafe sleep environment. A breakdown on manner of cases for 2023 indicates that most of the deaths occur in children under the age of one and in older teens ages 17 through 18. yrs. Data from previous years indicates that these two age groups did account for most of the fatalities reviewed by the OCA.

Discussion-

Homicides, Accidents and Overdoses continue to be the prevalent cause of death for older teens, for children under the age of one unsafe sleep environments and situations continue to cause most of the deaths within that age group. Safe sleep messaging was discussed, with internet influencers sending different messages to new parents about the benefits of co-sleeping, it makes messaging against co-sleeping by medical staff hard for parents to take. Messaging around safe co-sleeping was explored, by possibly mitigating some of the safety factors and providing families who would be prone to co-sleep the appropriate tools to do so. Panel members agreed that safe sleep messaging should be provided during the entire course of the pregnancy and postnatally by both medical and non-medical personnel who provide services to the expecting mother. Both parents and all caregivers should be included in safe sleep conversations. The CFRP co-chairs have been reaching out to the birthing hospitals where some of the unsafe sleep fatalities were born to talk to staff about safe sleep.

CFRP Orientation

The Child Advocate explained the role of the CFRP to the new members and how cases reviewed by the OCA were affected by panel decisions. The CFRP's statute was reviewed with the group and explained.

Virtual Packet- Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for March 22, 2023

Executive Session-

Motion to go into executive session was made by Pina Violano and seconded by Andrea Barton Reeves. Guests were asked to leave, and recording was stopped.

A motion to go out of executive session was made by Brett Salafia and seconded by Michael Soltis. There were no votes taken during executive session.

New Business-

There are some upcoming webinars that will discuss strategies for identifying and managing youth suicide risks for children in care settings. The first is CT-AAP - Practical Approaches to Youth Suicide Prevention Part 1 of 3 Part Series which will occur on May 17, 2023 at 6pm. [Registration Link - Zoom](#)

Old Business- Infant, Toddler Report status update will be provided at the next CFRP meeting.

Data on cases for Infant, Toddler report has been requested by DCF officially via the CFRP.

OCA will continue to try and accommodate adding members to the CFRP who have lived expertise.

Motion to Adjourn- Motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Eagan and seconded by Kirsten Bechtel.

Related Links-

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20230426_090307-Meeting_Recording1.mp4

Next meeting- May 24, 2023