



**Child Fatality Review Panel  
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams  
October 25, 2023**

**Members**

Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital  
Sarah Eagan, Co-Chair, Office of the Child Advocate  
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
Pina Violano, Community Health, Healthcare Consultants, LLC  
Jody Terranova, Department of Public Health  
Brett Salafia, Assistant States Attorney  
Liz Corley, Family Strong  
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
Jodi Hill-Lilly, Department of Children and Families  
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center

**Excused**

Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services  
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children  
Ivis Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department  
Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection  
Tonya Johnson, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

**Guests**

Kimberly Karanda, DMHAS  
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF  
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media  
Amanda Quijano, YNHH  
Jaclyn Meserole- OCME  
Shawna Singh, CCMC  
Tasha Hunt, CSSD  
Elliann Sylvester, DPH

**OCA Staff**

Brendan Burke

**Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the September, minutes by Steven Rogers, as they are. A second to the motion was made by Brett Salafia.

**Virtual Packet**

**CFRP Data-**

There were seven fatalities reported by the OCME to date for the month of October. The causes varied there were GSW homicides, suicide, and some unsafe sleep with one possible medical case that are all pending further studies. There were a few cases from earlier in the year that have been signed out, most have been ruled to be natural in manner. One case was determined to have been caused by a therapeutic complication. There was a recent uptick in suicides over the past week, there was a 17-year-old and 4 young adults ages 18-24. A review of 2022 data indicated that there were more accidental deaths in 2022 than in previous years and that males die via this manner up to 3 times more than females.

**Discussion-**

Suicide ages were discussed, lethal means are predominantly items used for hanging in this state with firearms being the secondary cause. Recently there was a massive recall of Gun safes, which happened after 39 unauthorized users accessing firearms from locked safes and one child death. Several questions were raised as per the MVA accidents with regards to how cars were accessed, times and dates of accidents and overall licensure of these teens. Panel members discussed the graduated license program and if it was still in effect. At this time panel members would like to revisit adolescent deaths and have requested it become a future agenda item.

**Infant Toddler Summit 12/13/23 -**

An opportunity to revisit with multiple stakeholders, to fortify prevention efforts and explore other avenues for information collection and sharing. There will presentations by subject experts. Full zoom option is being explored. Panel members were asked to send presenter information to Brendan Burke who is organizing the event.

**Liam R. Report released 10/23/23-**

A general summary of the report was provided by Sarah Eagan. Recommendations from report were also discussed.

**Discussion-**

Agencies involved with the family discussed their contacts with Liam's family and discussed gaps in services provided. Accountability for all agencies/providers involved was discussed to collectively prevent these tragic case results. DCF offered a walkthrough of the case practice for this family in real time.

**Participant/ Member Updates-**

Commission on Gun Violence will have a report coming out at the end of the year. OCA remains active with ADPC and continues to put forth recommendations about a 2-generation approach to treatment. Currently the CT Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee is requesting public feedback on allocation of funds.

**Related Links**

[https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/19/us/fortress-gun-safe-recall-death.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.40w.zOAc.aGqj8--xonzF&smid=em-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/19/us/fortress-gun-safe-recall-death.html?unlocked_article_code=1.40w.zOAc.aGqj8--xonzF&smid=em-share)

[CT Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee](#)

[OCALiamR-Fatality-Exec-Summary.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)

**New Business-**

Adding Adolescent deaths as a future agenda item  
Possible Suicide PSA

**Old business/ Reoccurring items**

CFRP co-chairs will work on coming up with a process to add rotating members who have lived expertise/ experience. Legalization of Marijuana, ingestions, and fatalities. As a follow up to the Infant/Toddler Fatality report, efforts are being made to develop a summit with invited stakeholders to identify next steps for recommendations. This meeting will occur in December.

**Meeting Recording**

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child\\_Fatality\\_Review\\_Team-20231025\\_090326-Meeting\\_Recording.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20231025_090326-Meeting_Recording.mp4)

**Motion to Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Pina Violano and seconded by Brett Safalia.

**Next meeting**

November 15, 2023 @9:00 am via Teams