



**Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
July 26, 2023**

Members

Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital
Sarah Eagan, Co-Chair, Office of the Child Advocate
Angela Jimenez, Department of Public Health
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
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, Clifford Beers
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Ken Mysogland, Department of Children and Families

Excused

Tonya Johnson, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children
Ivis Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department
SGT. Christine Jeltema, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
Tasha Hunt, CSSD

Guests

Kimberly Karanda, DMHAS
Ada Booth, CCMC SCAN
Miriam Miller, DPH
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Joungsuk Moon, DESPP
Melia Allan, DPH
Lisa Backus, Media
Jessica Serventi, CCMC SCAN

OCA Staff

Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the June 28, 2023, minutes by Steven Rogers, as they are. A second to the motion was made by Pina Violano.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for June 28, 2023.

CFRP Data-

There were 12 fatalities reported to the OCA by the ME so far this month. Six of those deaths happening over the course of 5 days, as of this meeting there are 7 cases pending further study, 3 MVA's, 1 drowning and 1 homicide. Included in these cases were three that got extensive media coverage, the death of a 2-year-old boy who fell out of a window, a 6-year-old who drowned while swimming with her mother, and a home invasion that resulted in homicide. During recent years there has been an uptick in drowning deaths of children and teens, statewide.

Discussion-

Given the recent drownings, the panel discussed the possibility of swims lessons and water safety being provided on a wider scale. Panel members discussed the work that has been done and is being done statewide to address the disparity when it comes to children who have gotten swim lessons and those who cannot swim. It is estimated that less than 10 percent of adults in Hartford know how to swim. OCA will continue to monitor statewide efforts prevent drowning related deaths and provide updates.

Participant/ Member Updates-

The infant toddler report has been completed and disseminated to all interested parties.

Discussion-

The Infant Toddler report is complete and has been released to the public. Members provided feedback on the process of collaborating with the OCA to create the report. The challenges with composing the report were discussed. There was a large amount of time spent on updating the research associated with the report. The value of parents offering feedback on some of the recommendations of the report were discussed. DCF can set up forums in the community so that panel members can discuss safe sleep with families, to find out why despite the research and messaging they continue to engage in unsafe sleep behaviors, a few panel members would be interested in participating. Changing the way messages are worded and even the what the message is may help prevent some of these unsafe sleep deaths. Chicago is trying harm reduction strategies to cut down on bedsharing not outlaw it.

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.

Executive Session

A recommendation is made by Sarah Eagan to go into executive session, a motion to go into executive session was made by Pina Violano and seconded by Ken Mysogland.

A motion to go out of executive session is made by Pina Violano and seconded by Steven Rogers.

Meeting Recording

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20230726_090438-Meeting_Recording.mp4

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Eagan and seconded by Steve Rogers.

Next meeting

September 27, 2023- Presentation by Dr. George Wang, Children's Hospital of Colorado, about the impact of THC legalization in Colorado.

Note: The August meeting will be cancelled given summer vacations