



**Child Fatality Review Panel  
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams  
November 15, 2023**

**Members**

Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital  
Sarah Eagan, Co-Chair, Office of the Child Advocate  
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  
Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection  
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children  
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

**Excused**

Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services  
Ivis Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department  
Tonya Johnson, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**Guests**

Kimberly Karanda, DMHAS  
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF  
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media  
Jaclyn Meserole- OCME  
Tasha Hunt, CSSD  
Andrea Asnes, YNHH  
Ada Booth CCMC  
Susan Hamilton, DCF  
Micheal Williams DCF

**OCA Staff**

Brendan Burke  
Lucy Orellano

**Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the October 25, 2023 minutes by Pina Violano, as they are. A second to the motion was made by Brett Salafia.

**Virtual Packet**

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for October 25, 2023.

**CFRP Data**

There were 4 deaths reported to the OCA since our last meeting, all under the age of 2 years. Two of these deaths involved unsafe sleep environments. All cases are currently pending further studies. There were 3 suicides this previous October, which coincides with a statewide uptick in suicides for the young adult population (18-21 yrs.).

### **Discussion/ Public Health Alert re: Teen Suicides**

Given the uptick in suicides for teens, young adults and in geriatric populations panel members will be getting together and compiling a PHA that will include statistics and resources. PHA will be released by the end of the month. In CT hanging/ asphyxia is the most common method used by those who suicide. Lethal means were discussed, the correlation between states with strict gun laws and suicides via hangings were discussed. Motor vehicle crashes and Homicides are causes that affect adolescents were discussed and will be reviewed in more detail after the Infant Toddler Summit. Panel members are interested in looking at MVC and homicide death data.

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

Will provide opportunity for stakeholders, national partners, and community providers to discuss infant mortality rates and causes. Speakers include community providers and national partners.

### **Liam report overview/discussion- DCF**

- Presentation on the processes used for oversight at DCF with regards to how the department learns and develops strategies in response to child fatalities and near fatalities.
- Quality improvement, audits and oversight in place, systems both inside the state and on a federal level. Child and family services, looks at national standards for safety, permanency, and wellbeing. Federal government does a comprehensive audit.
- Participation in National Partnership for Child Safety-about child safety is a quality improvement a (32 jurisdiction collaborative). Nexus on safety culture to improve work force retention through the creation of a safety culture.
- Pre-pandemic staff turnover rates were 10-12%, recently upwards of 20-30% and is not just a CT issue, but a national one.
- Practice improvement process- gather data (regional QI), conduct ongoing reviews, and have recently created a quality improvement leadership team, that will meet monthly with key leaders and putting focus on understanding the data, creating strategies to improve performance and then follow up and tracking of changes.

### **Related Links**

<https://ct-aap.org/youth-suicide-prevention-cme-series/>

[ABCD-Child-Safety-Practice-Model-and-Safety-Planning-Practice-Guide-Final-092623.pdf](#)

[https://ukth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltf-usrT4oHde7uzS0\\_sC-sXX1\\_jYLMZf6](https://ukth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltf-usrT4oHde7uzS0_sC-sXX1_jYLMZf6)

### **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.

A deeper look at adolescent deaths will be conducted by the panel.

Suicide PHA will be released soon.

### **Meeting Recording**

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child\\_Fatality\\_Review\\_Team-20231115\\_090316-Meeting\\_Recording.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20231115_090316-Meeting_Recording.mp4)

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Brett Safalia and seconded by Steven Rogers.

### **Next meeting**

Infant-Toddler Summit- December 13, 2023, 9:00-12:00 via Teams