



**Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
September 27, 2023**

Members

Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital
Sarah Eagan, Co-Chair, Office of the Child Advocate
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, Family Strong
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Jodi Hill-Lilly, Department of Children and Families
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
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

Excused

Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services

Guests

Sam Wang, Childrens Hospital of Colorado
Kimberly Karanda, DMHAS
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media
Maggie Adair, OEC
Deanna Nardella, DPH
Nicole Irgens-Moller, YNHH
Amanda Quijano, YNHH
Mirza Salahudeen, YNHH

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the July 26, 2023, minutes by Brett Salafia, as they are. A second to the motion was made by Steven Rogers.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for July 26, 2023.

CFRP Data-

July was an active month (12 reported cases) 6 of those deaths were determined to be Accidental. Accidents continue to be a leading cause for child death in CT, with 29 in 2021, 40 in 2022 and 24 for the current year to date.

Presentations-

Dr. Kirsten Bechtel

- Cannabis exposure data for youths 19 yrs. and under in CT
- CT safe packaging laws that require sellers to limit serving sizes, have clear labeling, child resistant packaging and packaging that does not appear to children.

Dr. Sam Wang- Pediatric Toxicologist -Children's Hospital Colorado, Presentation: *Ingestions, Adverse Effects of Cannabis in Pediatrics*

- Half of the states have allowed medical, retail and or recreational cannabis and can distribution.
- There have emerged different synthesizing methods for cannabis products which have resulted in products with higher concentrations of THC from previous years.
- In Colorado calls to poison center for marijuana exposure increased drastically from 2009. There has also been an increase in hospitalizations due to ingestions, with some children being hospitalized for 24-48 hours with more severe symptoms.
- Research is being done on toxic cannabis edible ingestions and prolonged symptoms associated with larger doses.
- American College of Medical Toxicology recently published packaging guidelines that could prevent accidental ingestions

Discussion-

Marijuana's effects on unborn children have been shown to cause irreversible injury. Marijuana exposed newborns has been compared to FAS, since it will take years to see the detrimental health impacts. Safe storage principles were discussed, and the possibility of penalties associated with accidental ingestion when THC products were not kept out of reach of children. In Colorado there were media campaigns around safe storage of THC products when legalization occurred. Stake holders wondered if perhaps safe storage is something that can be discussed with legislators. In Colorado they have bars that are dedicated to using THC products which could limit child ingestion. The uptick in wrong way crashes in CT that has coincided with legalization was explored, Colorado has a similar experience with cannabis positive drivers, however tests have not been developed that can accurately gauge when the usage occurred or how it impacted the driver.

Participant/ Member Updates-

There will be a gun buyback event in New Haven on October 7,2023.

Related Links

https://portal.ct.gov/cannabis/knowledge-base/articles/education-and-prevention/education-materials?language=en_US

<https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Search/getDocument?guid=20B14589-0000-CF10-B7D2-F730F77F9368>

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/marijuana-education-and-youth-prevention-resources-for-community-agencies>

https://portal.ct.gov/cannabis/?language=en_US

<https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Programs-and-Services/Opioid-Treatment/Opioid-Services>

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 will be scheduled in December.

Executive Session

A recommendation is made by Kirsten Bechtel to go into executive session, a motion to go into executive session was made by Pina Violano and seconded by Ted Rosenkrantz.

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

Meeting Recording

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20230927_090334-Meeting_Recording.mp4

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Rogers and seconded by Pina Violano.

Next meeting

October 25, 2023 @9:00 am via Teams