



**Child Fatality Review Panel**  
**Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams**  
**April 24, 2024**

**Members**

Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital  
Sarah Eagan, Co-Chair, Office of the Child Advocate  
Jody Terranova, Department of Public Health  
Susan Hamilton, DCF  
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center  
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services  
Ivis Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department  
Brett Salafia, Assistant States Attorney  
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
Tonya Johnson, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**Excused**

TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children  
Pina Violano, Community Health, Healthcare Consultants, LLC  
Liz Corley, Family Strong  
Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

**Guests**

Rosemary Wieworka, DCF  
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media  
Jaclyn Meserole, OCME  
Ada Booth CCMC  
Tasha Hunt, CSSD  
Kim Karanda, DMHAS  
Eric Jackson, UCONN  
Alison Jacobson, First Candle  
Meghan Wilson, SCAN CCMC  
Shayna LaFlam, DPH  
Kelly McVey, DCF

**OCA Staff**

Brendan Burke  
Lucy Orellano

**Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the March 27, 2024, minutes by Brett Salafia, as they are. A second to the motion was made by Susan Hamilton.

**Virtual Packet**

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for March 27, 2024.

### **CFRP Data**

There were 4 cases reported to the OCA by the OCME for the month of April. Two of the deaths were determined to be accidents, one MVA involving a 17-year-old female and a go-kart accident involving a six-year-old. There was a 17-year-old who sustained a gunshot wound and succumbed one week later. There is one case that is pending further study, an infant who was found in a burning apartment with his parents. The accidents and the fire were heavily covered by various media outlets.

National and State MVA child fatality data sets from different years dating up to 2022 via the DASH system was shared. Data showed the prevalence in death of teens between the ages of 15-17 yrs. in MVAs, males dying at twice the rate of their female cohorts. OCA's complete data set for Connecticut from 2021-2024, had an N of 50 youth deaths caused by MVAs. In 2024 there have been a higher number of younger child deaths resulting from MVAs, the OCA will monitor these numbers and report out as needed.

### **Presentation-Connecticut Crash Data Repository (CTCDR) Presentation by Eric Jackson, PhD. CTSRC / UCONN**

- CTCDR is designed to provide easy access to select crash information, tool is available for public use.
- The Connecticut Crash Data Repository (CTCDR) is a web-based centralized repository of most crashes that occur in CT, crash data has been collected since 1995 and it is updated on a nightly basis.
- Standardized crash report form was implemented in 2015, crashes reported include injuries, fatalities, and property damages over 1000.00.
- Funded by DOT, data is collected by both local and state police departments, verified, and then entered daily by UCONN students.
- Fatal crashes are reported to NHTSA, and FARS
- DOT uses the system to track accidents relating to tractor trailers. <https://www.ctcrash.uconn.edu/>

### **Discussion**

Driving while impaired by cannabis was discussed, there is no test that can measure a level of THC quickly and accurately. Recent data shows that there is an increase in speeders in CT. Automated enforcement was discussed, CTCDR data can be used to select implementation locations to hopefully quell some of these speeders. There is a trend in teens waiting to get their drivers licenses after they turn 18, avoiding the GDL requirements. Raising the age of the GDL was discussed as well as holding parents accountable for when their children fall out of compliance with GDL requirements.

### **Related Articles**

<https://portal.ct.gov/teendriving/legislative-recommendations/legislative-recommendations/new-laws-for-16-and-17-year-old-drivers>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38324628/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37718045/>

### **Legislative Update**

There is a bill pending that contains recommendations from the Liam Rivera Fatality Investigation report.

[C G A - Connecticut General Assembly House bill 5382](#)

Recommendations from the Marcello Meadows Fatality Investigation report will be adopted without legislation, through the creation of a committee to address the prevention of ingestion deaths of children whose parents are in recovery. This will be a collaboration between OCA, ADPC, DCF and will be established under SEPI-CT. <https://www.sepict.org/>

The fencing around swimming pools act passed the House and is on the Senate calendar now.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2024/BA/PDF/2024HB-05169-R01-BA.PDF>

Childrens MH and Suicide Prevention bills - There is a funding issue across the board with regards to adolescents and MH services, inpatient care, community services and Suicide prevention. Community providers are needed. Recently Wheeler Clinic announced that it will be pulling out of the IICAPS program.

### **Executive Session**

Motion to go into Executive session made by Kirsten Bechtel to discuss case specific data and was seconded by Brett Salafia.

Motion to go out of Executive session was made by Sarah Eagan and was seconded by Ted Rosenkrantz.

### **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 possible summit to discuss adolescent deaths may be conducted by the panel at a future date.

Look at the curriculum for CT High School students on safe driving and the GDL program.

**New Business**

PSA on teen driving death and GDL program.

DPH's Infant Mortality Review Program is in development, how this will affect the CFRP will be discussed.

A Suicide Mortality Review Panel is being provided federal (SAMHSA/VA) technical assistance for consideration of development in CT and the CFRP is providing support.

**Meeting Recording**

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child\\_Fatality\\_Review\\_Team-20240424\\_090221-Meeting\\_Recording.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20240424_090221-Meeting_Recording.mp4)

**Motion to Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Eagan and Seconded by Brett Salafia.

**Next meeting**

May 29, 2024