



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

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
Liz Corley, Family Strong
Jody Terranova, Department of Public Health
Susan Hamilton, Department of Children and Families
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children
Brett Salafia, Assistant States Attorney
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services

Excused

Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Ivys Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Meghan Scanlon, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Guests

Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media
Ada Booth CCMC
Kim Karanda, DMHAS
Kelly McVey, DCF
Shayna LaFlam, DPH
Gerrie Wild CT CADV
Tasha Hunt CCSD
Paul Gacek DPH
Karrol Ann Brown, DCF
Christina Ghio OCA

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the June 26, 2024, minutes by Pina Violano, as they are. A second to the motion was made by Liz Corley. Kirsten Bechtel abstained.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for June 26, 2024.

CFRP Data/Discussion

There have been 6 child fatalities reported to the OCA by the OCME for the month of June. There were two apparent suicides of older adolescents, cause of death for both was asphyxia. Four children are pending further study, there were unsafe sleep components noted for three of those cases. Breakdown of 2024 newly signed out cases were presented to panel members. Lethal means were discussed, there were no firearms suicides reported this month.

Sleep related deaths were explored further, a ten-year case comparison showed that approximately 30% of our child fatalities have been infant deaths with unsafe sleep components noted. Illicit substance exposure deaths were discussed. Homicide classification with regards to ingestion deaths versus accidental was explained. Specific case factors leading to unsafe sleep deaths were looked at using the DASH system. PRAMS room sharing and bedsharing data was mentioned with regards to the ABCs of safe sleep. The criteria for the SIDS death determination have become more stringent resulting in less SIDS determinations. Pacifiers were discussed, as part of safe sleep equipment.

DPH Presentation

Infant Mortality Reivew Program (IMRP), proposed by the Governor in 2023, to be housed in the Department of Public Health to study infant deaths for the overall improvement health disparities as they pertain to maternal care. Program objectives include creating an IMR Committee, determining annual number of infant deaths related to preventable causes, identifying trends to make recommendations and reporting out to stakeholders.

Member Updates / Infant Toddler Report Recommendations

DCF- Creating a practice and policy brief about safe sleep, it will be fashioned after the practice and policy brief created by their national partners the National Partnership for Child Safety. Safety services redesigning IFP and RTFT, continue to work with DMHAS on Fentanyl Senior Advisory group.

[Safely-to-Their-First-Birthday-Practice-and-Policy-Brief-1.pdf \(nationalpartnershipchilsafety.org\)](#)

OCA – Working with CSSD/ Adult Probation to look at the families as a unit. OCA created the Accidental Ingestion workgroup under SEPI-CT.

CSSD- Working with the CT Alliance for Substance Exposed Children to create a memorandum of understanding to prevent child drug exposure.

Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive session made by Pina Violano and seconded by Michael Soltis, to discuss specific case details

Motion to go out of Executive session made by Pina Violano and seconded by Susan Hamilton.

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.

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

Adolescent deaths prevention, interventions, and strategies.

Meeting Recording

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20240724_090320-Meeting_Recording.mp4

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Pina Violano and Seconded by Gerrie Wild.

Next meeting

September 25, 2024