



Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
June 26, 2024

Members

Sarah Eagan, Co-Chair, Office of the Child Advocate
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center
Brett Salafia, Assistant States Attorney
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children
Pina Violano, Community Health, Healthcare Consultants, LLC
Liz Corley, Family Strong
Meghan Scanlon, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Jody Terranova, Department of Public Health
Susan Hamilton, DCF

Excused

Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center
Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services
Ivys Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department
Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital

Guests

Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media
Ada Booth CCMC
Kim Karanda, DMHAS
Kelly McVey, DCF
Wendy Gladstone, Child Fatality Review NH
Shayna LaFlam, DPH
Jane Caffrey, NBC CT

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 29, 2024, minutes by Pina Violano, as they are. A second to the motion was made by Brett Salafia.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for May 29, 2024.

CFRP Data/Discussion

There have been 9 cases reported to the OCA for the month of June so far, there are several cases pending further study, one accident and one suicide. The accident was an MVA, that was heavily covered by local media. The pending cases include a possible drowning

and 4 cases in which co-sleeping/ unsafe sleep situation was a possible factor. A breakdown of 2023 cases shows that there were 66 cases for the year, which was less than the 87 cases for 2022. We have 38 cases for the first 6-months of 2024 with 12 cases pending further study. The numbers of Undetermined cases which involve unsafe factors has remained stable for the past decade or so. Safe sleep messaging was discussed. An Accidental Ingestion Workgroup has been established in CT; this collaboration was created based on the Marcello M. fatality report. The AIW group will meet for the first time this afternoon.

Drowning Data/ Discussion

There were 41 drownings in CT from 2014-2023, Manners for most of those drownings were Accidental with a few Homicides. About 9 % of children who drown in CT are not residents but visiting. Demographics of drowning victims were discussed, 30 % white, 30% Hispanic and 40 %Black, black children tend to be older than the other demographics at the time of the drowning. Of CT's children, males drown more often than females which is consistent with the national data. 21 of the drownings occurred in open bodies of water., 14 occurred in pools, 4 in bathtubs and 2 in buckets. Education for older kids about water safety and supervision of younger children were discussed. Mitigation of risks factors were discussed such as water watchers and increasing barriers to accessing bodies of water. Evidence based drowning prevention plans include barriers, data collection to identify groups at risk, increasing access to life jackets, CPR lessons, swimming lessons and supervision.

Adolescent deaths-

Officials have noticed an increase in cannabis impaired driving, field sobriety tests for marijuana have not been developed yet. There are a few special PD units that are trained in detection of cannabis impairment however they are only a few of them in CT. Graduated license program was discussed and its correlation to adolescent MVAs, there is currently no mechanism in place to collect data about accidents involving those who are in the graduated license program vs licenses after age 18. OCA met with stake holders to discuss adolescent SA treatment services, the goal was to integrate SA screening and early intervention into behavioral health screenings and treatment. Panel members discussed giving youths the opportunity to discuss their needs in an open and honest forum. There are gaps in services provided and screening, perhaps using the youth services bureau and juvenile court services to hear more about the kids' experiences. Engagement, case management and a stable living environment could be vital to children in recovery. Interventions at an earlier age and in real time for older kids who need help now are essential.

Executive Session

No Executive Session

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

ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20240626_090317-Meeting_Recording.mp4

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Rogers and Seconded by Ted Rosenkrantz.

Next meeting

July 24, 2024