



Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
Sept 25, 2024

Members

Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital
Sarah Eagan, Co-Chair, Office of the Child Advocate
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Brett Salafia, Assistant States Attorney
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children
Liz Corley, Family Strong
Meghan Scanlon, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services
Ivys Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department
Jody Terranova, Department of Public Health
Susan Hamilton, Department of Children and Families

Excused

Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Pina Violano, Community Health, Healthcare Consultants, LLC

Guests

Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media
Jaclyn Meserole, OCME
Ada Booth CCMC
Kim Karanda, DMHAS
Kelly McVey, DCF
Kevin Burns DOT
Stephanie Bozak DCF
Fran M Rabinowitz, CAPSS
John Frassinelli, SDE
Christina Ghio OCA
Francis Gregory DCF
Shayna LaFLam DPH
Thea Montanez OTG
Diana Palmer DOT
Taylor Tantaquidgeon OCA Intern
Laura Tillman, CT Mirror
Candy Osborne
Andrea Deyo, CCADV
Jeff Vanderpool, CHDI

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the July 24, 2024, minutes by Brett Salafia, as they are. A second to the motion was made by Michael Soltis.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for July 24, 2024.

CFRP Data/Discussion

There were 18 cases reported to the OCA by the OCME for the month of August and 4 cases for the month of September. August saw an unusual spike in Suicide deaths with 6 total, there were 7 cases that are still pending determination, 4 accidents and 1 death caused by therapeutic complications. September cases include 3 cases pending determination and one suicide. An in-depth look at 2024 suicide death data (N-12) was broken down, data indicated that more males than females died by this manner, white children were more represented than other races noted, average age ranged between 16-17 years, and most of the teens lives in Suburban designations. Data from 2011 through 2024, showed that there were an average of 10 suicide deaths per year. CT does not currently have a mechanism in place to conduct psychological autopsies, limiting the scope of information regarding the preceding circumstances in suicides. CTSAB is currently receiving technical support to explore the potential of establishing a suicide review panel in CT, specifically regarding veteran suicides to start. Suicidal ideations or self-harm data was shared by the OCA. Recently there was a roundtable meeting held by the governor's office to address the uptick in suicides for the state. Mental health services and systems improvements were discussed. DCF is has been sharing Columbia Suicide Severity raring scale with school districts, and staff that work directly with students. CCMC has screened 75,000 kids in aged 10 years and older over the past 5 years.

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. 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

It was the Child Advocate's last CFRP, she was recognized for her efforts by panel members. She will be missed.

Meeting Recording

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child Fatality Review Team-20240925_090153-Meeting Recording_rev.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child%20Fatality%20Review%20Team-20240925_090153-Meeting%20Recording_rev.mp4)

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Kirsten Bechtel and Seconded by Steven Rogers.

Next meeting

October 23, 2024