



**Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
January 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
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
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Ivis Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department
Tonya Johnson, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Excused

Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

Guests

Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media
Jaelyn Meserole- OCME
Ada Booth CCMC
Susan Hamilton, DCF
Alison Jacobson, First Candle CEO
Neveen Al-Said, CCMC
Michael J Cull, University of Kentucky
Lindsey Garcia, YNHH
Elliann Sylvester, DPH

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the November 15, 2023 minutes by Pina Violano, as they are. A second to the motion was made by Stephen Rogers.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for November 15, 2023.

CFRP Data

January has had 12 fatalities making it the highest number of deaths in month for the past couple of years, this was compounded by the house fire in Somers in which 4 children died. There were two MVAs and some deaths involving unsafe sleep environments. A

look back at recent years indicates that 2023, showed an overall decreased in deaths reported to the OCA by the OCME. There are 16 cases pending further study for 2023. DPH will begin Fetal Infant Mortality Review, causes reviewed will be prematurity, sepsis, congenital and natural deaths.

Discussion

Correlation between birth rates and unsafe sleep related deaths was discussed to craft messaging for families at risk. First Candle focuses on risk mitigation strategies and engaging fathers and how they support nursing moms. Access to prenatal care with regards to uninsured mothers could play a role in lack of safe sleep education. Engaging providers and stakeholders in a more meaningful to include some sort of accountability was discussed. Looking at social determinants for unsafe sleep practices could prove useful when educating parents about safe sleep.

Presentation- Improving Child Protection with Safety Science by Dr. Micheal Cull

- Safety Science model applies Patient Safety Model to Child Welfare systems.
- Child welfare fatality review teams work with the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention's CDR teams.
- Review teams learn from and create systemic changes based on data collected through the review process.
- Standardizing child fatality review within child welfare systems, data collected includes child-level variables, family-level variables and systems influences.
- Model uses Safety science to develop a safety culture, engaging leadership and working from the top down.
- Identifying stressors that lead to burnout of child welfare staff (Unrealistic expectations, economic and operational constraints).

Discussion

System and personal accountability are difficult to balance and those who are tasked making those determinations are put in a difficult position. Staff requirements, caseloads and increased expectations are stressors that are placed on new staff which leads to burn out. The fact that this model assumes burn out will make it helpful to those who do not they are experiencing burnout.

Infant/ Toddler Summit review, feedback, and next steps

Naloxone use, messaging could be made more easily accessible. Rapid screening fentanyl tests have been approved by the federal government and will roll out in CT in a few weeks. Messaging that reduces stigma and encourages naloxone use is needed.

Executive Session

Executive was deemed necessary to discuss case specific details. Motion to go into Executive session was made by Pina Violano and seconded by Brett Salafia.

Motion to go out of Executive session made by Pina Violano and TJ Michalski.

Related Links

[First Candle: Committed to ending Sudden Infant Death Syndrome \(SIDS\)](#)

[NPCS Highlights Progress Toward Integrating Safety Science into Child Welfare Systems | College of Public Health \(uky.edu\)](#)

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 deeper look at adolescent deaths will be conducted by the panel.

Suicide PHA.

Meeting Recording

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child Fatality Review Team-20240124_090222-Meeting Recording.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child%20Fatality%20Review%20Team-20240124_090222-Meeting%20Recording.mp4)

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Pina Violano and seconded by TJ Michalski.

Next meeting

February 28, 2024