Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel  
Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, June 15, 2021  

MINUTES  

Members Present:  Hon. Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair; Hon. Dawn Blair, Assistant Hardin County Attorney, Co-Chair; Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub, Department for Community Based Services, CHFS; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Betty Pennington, Family Resource and Youth Service Center; Dr. William Ralston, Chief Medical Examiner; Janice Bright, RN, State Child Fatality Review Team; Lori Aldridge, Executive Director, Tri County CASA; Isela Arras, Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Detective Jason Merlo, Kentucky State Police; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizens Foster Care Review Board; Dr. Henrietta Bada, Department for Public Health; and Dr. David Lohr, Medical Director, Department for Community Based Services  

Welcome:  

Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair  

Judge Murphy welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new members and guest. Isela Arras is the new representative from the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Ms. Arras is the COO at KCADV and her work closely aligns with the mission of the panel. We also have special guest from Maine’s Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel and Chief Epidemiologist Tracey Jewell from the Department for Public Health, observing today’s meeting.  

Judge Murphy asked if anyone had any changes to the Minutes or Case Review Summaries from the previous meeting. If not, she’ll entertain a motion to accept those into the record. Dawn Blair made a motion to accept the Minutes and Case Review Summaries from the May 18th meeting. The motion was seconded by Lori Aldridge and the Minutes and Case Review Summaries will stand as submitted.  

Judge Murphy advised the panel that due to the Governor’s recent lifting of the COVID restrictions, several members have inquired about returning to in-person meetings. Most of the members preferred the monthly half-day virtual meetings. At this time, the panel does not have any meeting space secured and will continue virtual until meeting space can be reserved. There was discussion about conducting in-person meetings one to two times a year but remaining virtual monthly.  

Judge Murphy reminded panel members about the subcommittee meeting on June 24th at 3:00, to discuss law enforcement protocols, coroner issues and potential legislative proposals.  

Case Review:  

The following cases were reviewed by the Panel. A case summary of findings and recommendations are attached and made a part of these minutes.  

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Meeting adjourned