

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

MINUTES

Members Present: Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair, Judge Libby Messer, Fayette Family Court; Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub, Department for Community Based Services, Jan Bright, State Child Fatality Review Team; Lori Aldridge, Executive Director, Tri County CASA; Dr. David Lohr, Medical Director, Department for Community Based Services; Betty Pennington, Family Resource and Youth Service Center; Dr. Henrietta Bada, Department for Public Health; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizens Foster Care Review Board; and Dr. Jaime Pittenger Kirtley, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky.

Welcome:

Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair

Judge Murphy welcomed the members and guest to the meeting. She introduced Brittany Nichols, who is the Pediatric Supervisor for Maternal and Child Health with the Department for Public Health. Judge Murphy asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes or case summaries from the January meeting. With no changes, Lori Aldridge made a motion to approve the minutes and case summaries which was seconded by Commissioner Marta Miranda Straub. Minutes and Case Summaries stand as submitted.

Judge Murphy advised the panel the annual report has been published and everyone received an electronic copy. Judge Murphy gave special thanks to Elisha and Joel for all their work compiling the annual report.

Update on SB 97 – Judge Murphy advised the panel that SB 97 has passed favorably through the Senate Chambers and has progressed to the House. A committee sub was added that included the language change to the coroner’s statute that would require them to immediately notify law enforcement, CPS, and DPH when investigating any child’s death.

Home Safety Committee Update:

Joel Griffith

The Home Safety Committee is collaborative between the panel and the Kentucky Safety and Prevention Alignment Network (KSPAN). KSPAN is part of UK’s injury and prevention center. About a year ago we talked to them about creating a committee to focus on unintentional ingestions and unintentional firearm injuries. Initially we received some funding from the CDC to distribute lock boxes for medication and trigger locks for firearm safety. Most recently, we wrote a proposal to the Kentucky Agency for Substance Abuse Policy (KY-ASAP) requesting additional funding to purchase and distribute medication lockboxes to community providers. KY-ASAP approved the request for \$20,000, to purchase additional lockboxes and educational material. We are in the process of ordering those and begin distribution efforts. Our target distributors are the Regional Prevention Councils, MAT providers,

rural hospitals, and family resource centers. We will keep everyone posted on the progress, if any members have any interest in assisting in these efforts, please let us know. We are on a tight timeframe, and these must be distributed by the end of the state fiscal year. Our hope is, if we can demonstrate our ability to get these into the hands of families that need them, we can reapply for additional funding.

Betty Pennington: I'm very interested in getting those out to the coordinators and they can distribute to the families.

Joel: Thank you, Betty. We will reach out to you with additional information. I forgot to mention we are partnering with Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky in these efforts as well.

Dr Salt: I have two suggestions; one would be Voices of Hope and UK Pharmacy. At UK Pharmacy they meet with families after they've been admitted for an overdose. Those might reach populations in need.

Lori Aldridge: I'll contact the KY CASA network and see if they want to send something out for interest and let you know.

Judge Murphy: Thank you, Joel. Thank you all for your work on that, if anyone else has any suggestions please send Elisha and Joel an email.

Pending Case Reviews:

F-046-21 – After reviewing the medical records, there was no missed opportunities. Medical providers educated the family, provided supplemental supplies, and made appropriate referrals.

F-050-21 – After reviewing the medical records, it appears there was a missed opportunity for failing to meet the needs of a high-risk family. There were missed opportunities noted with the judicial process and the in-home service providers.

Judge Murphy: Before we move on to the monthly case reviews, you may notice one of our notable members missing today. Dawn Blair who was previously the Hardin County Assistant Attorney received the call from the Governor appointing her as the new Family Court Judge in Hardin County. We are really excited for her and happy for her because this was what she wanted. However, that means she will no longer be with us on this panel. She was a valuable voice, and we know there may be someone from her office interested in completing her term. Her appointment is made through the Attorney General's Office. So, names will be submitted of prosecutors who can serve in that role. If you have a moment and want to drop her a note and tell her congratulations, we will put her email in the chat box. We will also be taking applications for anyone who is interested in serving as co-chair. Again, we are so happy for her, but we will miss her presence here.

Case Reviews:

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

<u>Group</u>	<u>Case #</u>	<u>Analyst</u>
1	NF-037-21-C	Cindy Curtsinger
2	NF-018-21-C	Cindy Curtsinger
3	NF-033-21-C	Cindy Curtsinger
4	NF-101-21-C	Cindy Curtsinger
3	F-059-21-C	Joel Griffith
2	NF-005-21-C	Joel Griffith
1	NF-030-21-C	Joel Griffith
4	NF-044-21-C	Joel Griffith
2	NF-087-21-C	Joel Griffith
1	NF-040-21-C	Cindy Curtsinger
3	NF-010-21-NC	Joel Griffith
4	NF-026-21-C	Joel Griffith
1	NF-029-21-NC	Joel Griffith
2	NF-045-21-NC	Joel Griffith
3	NF-047-21-C	Joel Griffith

Additional Discussion:

Domestic Violence Discussion: Commissioner Miranda-Straub, I just want to say, sadly enough this is a classic case and most people do not have expertise in domestic violence. This has been identified as an issue by the KCADV. Many counties do not have batterer's intervention, they get referred inappropriately, and there is not a state or national certification. That is a huge systemic issue that KCADV has asked to take leadership for with support from DCBS. So, they would oversee batterers intervention programs across the state and expand services.

National Registry on Child Abuse and Neglect Discussion: Dr. Howard: I always worry about the kids that go state to state. It makes it almost too easy to run from the oversight of one state to another who is not familiar with the families' history. I never understand why there's not a federal level type of TWIST system.

Joel: It's funny you mention that because I put in my notes, perhaps this case is a call for national registry for child abuse and neglect. There's a process for obtaining out of state information but the worker has to call each state and each state's process is different. It's a very time-consuming process.

Dr. Salt: It makes sense it can happen; they've been able to do it with KASPER. So why is not something that's feasible or possible.

Commissioner: Some states cooperate and send all the information and some states don't respond at all. There is no enforcement or oversight. A national database would be crucial. We're missing a five-year-old right now and we can't get any information. This is a huge gap.

Joel: I'll look around and see if I can find anything for a central registry. I know there was talk of one for criminal child abuse but not for CPS involvement.

Dr. Salt: Ideally you would want a flagging system that would notify law enforcement and/or CPS that would trigger a safe child check. If the information just goes into a dataset, and no one is checking it regularly, it won't serve its purpose either. It needs to have a forward-facing flag system that will notify the entities involved to complete the actual checks.

Joel: Yes, and every state is different if they will even complete those checks. It's an inconsistency issue.

Judge Messer: It's almost two different issues. So right now, if you know where the child is going, you can contact law enforcement and CPS in another state and ask them to complete a check. Whether or not they will, remains to be seen. The other big issue is when we don't know where they're going to go. If CPS gets involved in Tennessee and then they could check the central registry and find out this child had previous CPS history in Kentucky. We need the registry so when CPS gets involved, they can find out if the family has history in another state and can figure out, they are a high needs family. Right now, they're relaying on personal disclosure.

Joel: It's a risk assessment issue. This kid went to another state, and we don't know if they received treatment or services.

Judge Messer: Story of my life, Joel. These kids leave the state and I never know what happened to them. Again, if you have cooperation from another state, you might get information but if you don't, you don't get any updates. I think it would take federal law changes and federal interstate compact updates to require states to update. We're going to establish a registry, the child goes in that registry and found in another state, that state is mandated to go check on that child. We're a long way from that and I think that's probably outside of what this group can make happen, but we can try.

Meeting adjourned.