

# Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Judge Melissa Murphy, Chair; Lori Aldridge, Co-Chair, Tri County CASA; Dr. Melissa Currie, Norton Children's Pediatric Protection Specialist, University of Louisville; Lesa Dennis, Commissioner, Department for Community Based Services; Jan Bright, State Child Fatality Review Team; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Geoff Wilson, LCSW, Practicing Addiction Counselor; Janna Estep-Jordan, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Dr. William Ralston, Chief Office of the Medical Examiner; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizen Foster Care Review Board; Heather McCarty; Family Resource and Youth Service Center; Hon. Olivia McCollum, Boone County Assistant Attorney; Dr. Danielle Anderson, MAT Provider; Rep. Samara Heavrin, House Representative; Steve Shannon, KARP, Inc.; and Olivia Spradlin, ZeroV.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

*Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair*

Judge Murphy welcomed everyone to the October meeting of the Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel. We have a few introductions today. Rep. Samara Heavrin will be our new legislative appointee to the panel. We will officially welcome her when she joins us a little later but that is good news for us. We are grateful for her for serving in that capacity. Also, from Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky we've got Janna Estep-Jordan that will be filling in for Dr. Pittenger temporarily. We are grateful you are here as well.

If everyone has had an opportunity to review the minutes and case review summaries from the September meeting, we will entertain a motion to approve. Lori Aldridge made a motion to adopt, which was seconded by Steve Shannon. With no objections, the September Minutes and Case Review Summaries are approved.

Before we discuss our 2024 meeting dates, we currently have an in-person meeting scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup>. As much as we enjoy seeing everyone in-person, we have better attendance when we can meet virtually. With no objections, the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held virtually.

At this time, my official appointment as Chair has expired but I will continue to serve until the Secretary of State either reappoints me or appoints someone new. With that in mind, I do not want to be the lead on picking the dates for the 2024 meetings. After additional discussion, the panel will continue to meet every month virtually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday starting at 1:00 p.m. throughout 2024.

Rep. Heavrin has now joined us, thank you so much. We had a brief introduction earlier, but please feel free to introduce yourself to the team. We are so grateful to have a legislative member joining us.

**Rep. Heavrin** – I am honored for the opportunity. I apologize for being late – I had to join a committee meeting but again honored for the opportunity and seeing the difference we can make in Kentucky’s children’s and families lives.

**Financial Update – 2022 Case Updates**

**Elisha Mahoney**

Elisha shared the quarterly financial update with the members. The panel was allocated \$420,000 for this state fiscal year. The budget document breaks down the monthly expenditures and the projected expenditure through October 2023. Please note this was balanced as of October 6<sup>th</sup> and the highlighted areas indicate the projections. Does anyone have any questions about the budget?

Seeing none, we will review the state fiscal year 2022 case load. The panel is projected to review 201 cases, with 57 fatalities and 144 near fatalities. The panel still needs to review a total of 28 cases to close out the 2022 data. The analysts currently have 11 cases assigned pending review and we are waiting for DCBS to upload the remaining 17 cases. That should leave the panel with approximately 14 cases to review in November and December. We should be able to wrap our cases reviews on time this year and that’s very exciting. I do want to give the DCBS team a shout out for getting those cases to us in a timely manner. If there are no questions on the budget or caseloads, I will turn it over to Joel to address the pending cases.

**Pending Cases**

F-021-22 – Joel Griffith – An in-home service provider issue was identified after additional records were received and reviewed.

NF-025-22-C will be moved to November agenda.

**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	F-053-22-C	Joel Griffith
2	NF-116-22-C	Joel Griffith
4	NF-128-22-NC	Joel Griffith
3	NF-089-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger
4	F-012-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger
1	F-035-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger
2	F-022-22-NC	Joel Griffith
3	NF-004-22-C	Joel Griffith
3	NF-139-22-C	Joel Griffith

\* Cases F-008-22-C, NF-057-22-C, F-034-22-C, NF-140-22-NC, NF-038-22-NC, and NF-019-22-NC will be reviewed during the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Additional Discussion:**

Potential Recommendation: Lack of social work support when handling medically complex children. Should be encouraged to work closely with the Pediatric Forensic Medical providers throughout the state. Perhaps develop a social work certificate for the management of medically complex children.

Potential Recommendation: Need for extensive evidence-based systematic training for all school staff on suicide.

**Next meeting Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Meeting adjourned.**