

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

MINUTES

Members Present: Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair; Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Department for Community Based Services; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Hon. Olivia McCollum, Boone County Assistant Attorney; Jan Bright, State Child Fatality Review Team; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizen Foster Care Review Board; Detective Jason Merlo, Kentucky State Police; Heather McCarty, Regional Program Manager, Family Resource and Youth Service Center; Dr. Henrietta Bada, Department for Public Health; Dr. Danielle Anderson, MAT Provider; Dr. William Ralston, Chief Office of the Medical Examiner; Dr. Jaime Pittenger Kirtley, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Victoria Bengé, Executive Director, CASA; Steven Shannon, Executive Director, KARP and Geoff Wilson, LCSW, Practicing Addiction Counselor.

Welcome and Introductions

Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone to the December panel meeting. He expressed his gratitude for everyone joining us today during this busy time of year. First item on the agenda is to approve the Minutes and Case Reviews from the November meeting. Motion to approve was made by Steve Shannon and seconded by Victoria Bengé. With no objections, the Minutes and Case Review Summaries from the November meeting are approved as submitted.

We have one new introduction to make, Jennifer Burke, who is the new case analyst for the panel. Jennifer introduced herself to everyone and is happy to be a part of the team. Chair Harrison welcomed Jennifer and looks forward to working with her in the coming years. Next up on the agenda is the Data Update and 2024 Recommendations. I will turn it over to Casey Reed for her presentation.

Data Update

Casey Reed, Epidemiologist

First slide, as of November 25th the panel has reviewed 171 cases. This next slide, this metric and the breakdown of each percentage has remained the same even though the numbers have increased. The majority of the cases have a neglect categorization with the rest closely clustered. Next slide, this shows the breakdown of the panel determination. As you can see here, Neglect (general) is the primary determination for the majority of panel cases. Next slide, this demonstrates the age per category as determined by the panel. As you can see, abusive head trauma, neglect, overdose/ingestion all affect younger ages. The gunshot cases appear to affect the older age children. Next slide is a continuation of the age breakdown. The gunshot regardless of which type; accidental, homicide, or suicide primarily affect older children. Same applies for suicide (child) category. Next slide, this shows the breakdown of the top family characteristics. None of these percentages have shifted dramatically despite the increase in cases reviewed. Only a slight 1-2% change over time. This next slide demonstrates a few of the characteristics that have been increasing overtime. Education/childcare issues and environmental neglect

have steadily increased throughout the last few fiscal years. The chart on the right demonstrates the specific percent of environmental neglect cases with overdose/ingestion cases. As you can see, usually over half of those cases with environmental neglect have some type of overdose or ingestion criteria involved. Next slide, while some of the family characteristics have increased, this slide indicates those that have decreased over the years. Neglectful entrustment and impaired caregiver have both decreased since SFY18. There is not a graph indicating this but supervisory neglect decreased from 52% in SFY18 to 18% in SFY23. That does not include every case, as there are still several to review, but that is a positive decrease. This next slide show mental health issues of the caregiver, it indicates the actual number and the percentage. When evaluating this chart, we are seeing an overall decrease in the percentage of mental health issues in a caregiver even though the total number of cases have increased since SFY18. You can clearly see it peaked in SFY21 with 119 cases. This is the last slide indicating the panel determinations among the cases. As you can see, neglect general is usually one of the highest found determinations. However, in SFY20 supervisory neglect peaked but it's typically neglect general which encompasses a broader range of cases. I know that was brief but if anyone has any questions, please let me know. I'm also available offline if anyone has any questions.

Chair Harrison- Thank you, Casey. Again, Elisha has shared that PowerPoint with everyone and if you want to dig into those numbers outside the meeting. With nothing else, we will start the case reviews. Unfortunately, I will be in and out of the meeting today. In the absence of our Vice Chair and myself, I'd like to designate Steve Shannon to serve as temporary chairman in order to facilitate any type of discussion.

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>
2	F-046-23-NC	Joel Griffith
4	F-023-23-C	Joel Griffith
3	NF-076-23-C	Joel Griffith
1	NF-044-23-C	Joel Griffith
2	NF-043-23-C	Cindy Curtsinger
2	NF-071-23-C	Cindy Curtsinger
4	NF-047-23-C	Cindy Curtsinger
1	NF-050-23-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
1	NF-048-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-074-23-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-080-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-085-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-095-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-108-23-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-130-23-C	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-146-23-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-054-23-C	Joel Griffith
4	NF-106-23-C	Joel Griffith

2	NF-116-23-C	Joel Griffith
2	NF-110-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-067-23-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	F-016-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-014-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-037-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-056-23-C	Joel Griffith
3	F-026-23-C	Joel Griffith
4	F-038-23-NC	Joel Griffith
2	NF-118-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-079-23-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
1	NF-097-23-NC	Joel Griffith
1	NF-105-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-096-23-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-046-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-138-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt

The following cases were reviewed by the Panel virtually to close out the SFY23 cohort. 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-133-23-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-092-23-C	Joel Griffith
3	NF-086-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-117-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-073-23-C	Joel Griffith
2	NF-060-23-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-127-23-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-101-23-C	Joel Griffith
1	NF-145-23-C	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-114-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-078-23-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-135-23-C	Joel Griffith
3	NF-121-23-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt

Additional Discussion:

Dr. Anderson – I think one of our biggest recommendations has to be continued push for safe storage of all medications, including medical marijuana. To my knowledge, it's required for physicians prescribing medical marijuana to provide information about safe storage but it's not standardized information. Maybe we need to focus on making sure there is standardized information that everyone is receiving.

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Shannon and seconded by Commissioner Dennis. With no objections meeting adjourned.

Next meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2025.