

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

MINUTES

Members Present: Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair; Lori Aldridge, Co-Chair, Tri County CASA; Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Department for Community Based Services; Representative Samara Heavrin, House of Representatives; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of 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; Steve Shannon, KARP, Inc.; Judge Libby Messer, Fayette Family Court; Detective Jason Merlo, Kentucky State Police; Janna Estep Jordan, Director of Operations, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Dr. William Lohr, Medical Director, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Janice Bright, State Child Fatality Review Team; and Olivia Spradlin, ZeroV.

Welcome and Introductions

Lori Aldridge, Co-Chair

Lori welcomed everyone to the March meeting and advised them she will be starting the meeting until Judge Murphy can join us later. We are still waiting on a few members to join before we can vote on our minutes and case review summaries. So, we will skip that on the agenda for now and come back when we have additional members present. With no introductions, I'll pass it over to Elisha for a budget update, case analyst update, and LOIC evaluation.

Budget Update – Case Analyst Update – LOIC Annual Evaluation

Elisha Mahoney

Let me share my screen, here is the quarterly update on our budget. As of March 1st, here is the total personnel cost, medical analyst cost, COT, and miscellaneous. Our total operation cost for FY 2024, is around \$210,000. Our projected March expenditures are around \$35,000 with the remaining budget around \$175,705. For the epidemiologist contract, we received a \$50,000 grant and we've expended \$4,421.25. Does anyone have any questions regarding the budget?

As everyone saw in the email, we have posted the position for another case analyst. That register has closed, and we had around 20 applicants. We are hoping to start scheduling interviews sometime next week. I did speak with our HR department and if panel members are interested in participating in the interview process, they are welcome. It is not recommended panel members be scoring members of the interview panel. However, it is highly recommended if you attend one interview, you attend them all. So, if any members are interested, please reach out to me, and let me know. Interviews have not been scheduled yet, so hopefully we can accommodate your schedules.

The Legislative Oversight Investigation Committee has started their annual evaluation of the panel. Everyone saw the initial set of questions and we anticipate there will probably be some additional questions. This year they advised they will be focusing on the operations and procedures part of the

panel. I don't have a date yet of when they will conduct their presentation to the committee but as soon as they get it scheduled, I will pass it along to everyone. Keep in mind, I will need some volunteers.

I also have an update on the torture data that Dr. Salt requested during the last meeting. However, she emailed and said she was going to be late. So, if you don't mind Lori, we will circle back around to that piece as well. Does anyone have any questions about the budget, staffing, or legislative piece? With none, I will pass it back.

Case Review Summaries and Minutes

Judge Murphy

Thank you so much, Lori! She's the best co-chair ever. We did not have quorum earlier to do the minutes and case review summaries. Elisha has sent out the minutes, if everyone has had an opportunity to review, I will entertain a motion to approve those minutes. Steve Shannon moved to adopt the minutes, which was seconded by Judge Messer. With no objections, the minutes and case review summaries are approved. We will turn it back over to Joel.

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>
4	F-013-23-C	Joel Griffith
3	F-032-23-C	Joel Griffith
1	F-041-23-C	Joel Griffith
2	NF-027-23-NC	Joel Griffith
1	NF-028-23-NC	Joel Griffith
2	NF-065-23-C	Joel Griffith
3	NF-024-23-C	Cindy Curtsinger
4	NF-057-23-C	Cindy Curtsinger
4	NF-107-23-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
3	NF-034-23-C	Cindy Curtsinger
2	NF-126-23-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
1	NF-039-23-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
1	NF-141-23-C	Joel Griffith
2	NF-055-23-C	Joel Griffith
3	NF-015-23-C	Joel Griffith
4	NF-119-23-NC	Joel Griffith
1	NF-049-23-C	Joel Griffith

Additional Discussion:

Potential recommendation: Given the proliferation of fentanyl in Kentucky, CPS staff and medical providers need additional training and encouragement to specifically request drug testing that includes screening for synthetic opioids.

Last meeting Dr. Salt requested data regarding torture cases with out of state CPS history:

Year	Torture Cases	Out of State CPS hx
2023	10	1
2022	11	1
2021	7	1
2020	6	1
2019	3	0

Next meeting Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Meeting adjourned.