

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 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; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizen Foster Care Review Board; Judge Libby Messer, Fayette Family Court; Hon. Olivia McCollum, Boone County Assistant Attorney; Dr. Danielle Anderson, MAT Provider; Steve Shannon, KARP, Inc.; Janna Estep-Jordan, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Brittany Nichols, State Child Fatality Review Team; Olivia Spradlin, Policy: Leadership, ZeroV; Ashley Evans-Smith, Executive Director, CASA; Dr. William Ralston, Chief Medical Examiner; and Detective Jason Merlo, Kentucky State Police

Welcome and Introductions

Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone to the July 2024 panel meeting. Elisha sent out the Minutes and the Case Summaries from the June meeting. I need a motion to approve those. Steve Shannon made a motion to approve the June meeting material, which was seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Salt. With no opposition, those are approved.

Next item on the agenda is the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee update. Elisha, Steve, and I presented to the committee last Thursday. We had a lot of discussion and a few questions. I'm very thankful for Steve joining us and Elisha as well. They were definitely able to answer questions, I didn't know the answers to. We very much appreciate them being a part of that. After the meeting adjourned, Sen. Gerald Neal approached Steve concerning wanting to get together with a small group and discussing some things. I'll let Steve give you some additional information on that.

Steve Shannon: Yes, he come to me afterwards. I spend a lot of time at the Annex and I'm a face he recognized. He would like to meet with 4 or 5 people from the panel to discuss how to take some of the recommendations we've made and implement them to see if he can play a role in that. Just an informal conversation and he said he's very flexible about dates he could meet in Frankfort. If you're interested, please contact Elisha and we will go from there. I think it's opportunity to see what happens next and what can we do going forward. This particular legislative panel has to review the panel annually but they are interested in the work that's done. They always have good questions and I think they really want to explore how we get these recommendations implemented or use the information we gather to make substantive changes. I think it's a great opportunity for us to at least have a conversation and move forward from there.

Chair Harrison: I agree, I think this is an important meeting to have. If you are interested, please reach out to Elisha. We never know where this might lead and I suspect the panel is one of those things legislators don't hear much about until the presentation. Thank you Steve. Anything else, Elisha?

Elisha: No, they did request some additional data and those charts have been provided. I will send an email after the meeting to all panel members regarding this meeting, since we have several out today.

Chair Harrison: Appreciate that. Next on the agenda is the discussion of a full day in-person meeting. We briefly discussed it during the May meeting of hosting an in-person meeting in October in Frankfort. Does anyone have any objections or thoughts?

Elisha: We are currently scheduled to meet on October 15th, it would probably be best to keep that day and just extend it to a full day.

Chair Harrison: Yea, if there are no objections, lets go ahead and schedule a full day in-person meeting for October 15th in Frankfort. It's important everyone come so we can have a quorum and conduct business. I think that's been a downfall of the past in-person meetings. Everyone make an effort to be there on October 15th and Elisha will follow-up on the location. Next item of business is the Torture Task Force and I'm going to turn it over to Elisha.

Elisha: I'll probably toss this over for Dr. Salt to discuss in-depth. I think we can set this up similar to what we've done with the Plan of Safe Care Subcommittee. I don't know that the panel has the authority to implement a task force but perhaps we can bring in some partners like the AG's office to spearhead an actual task force.

Dr. Salt: I think that we've talked about this in a host of different angles. So, I think having a subcommittee to talk about this would be a good idea. I think we need to have a charge regarding what are we trying to accomplish with the group. We've identified within the panel that we have some definitional issues with the terminology of child torture. Do we want to come to a consensus on the panel's definition or broaden the scope of the charge to include potential recommendations from the panel to address potential policy change. Similar to the document I shared at the last meeting regarding the recommendations from National organizations that we might want to consider as a panel. So that's my only question, what do we want to get out of the subcommittee?

Elisha: I'll just say, I think step 1 with the subcommittee is establishing the panel's definition. That is something actionable and we can immediately implement that recommendation. Additionally, I think we need to develop a checklist that will assist the analysts. You provided a checklist that I think we can build from. I think step 2 would include a deep dive into broader policy changes and we would need to involve other partners.

Dr. Salt: That sounds good to me. I'm happy to chair or lead as far as facilitating the progression and the work of the group if that's the decision of the panel.

Chair Harrison: I don't know that we necessarily need to do this but let's take a vote on creating a Torture Task Force Subcommittee. Dr. Salt, do you want to make that motion?

Dr. Salt: I would, I'll make that motion.

Steve Shannon: I'll second that.

Chair Harrison: With that, is there any additional discussion? Seeing none, with no objections, we will get that created. Thank you, Dr. Salt for taking the lead on that. We appreciate you volunteering your time. We are now ready for the case reviews.

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>
3	NF-087-23-C	Joel Griffith
2	F-058-23-PH	Joel Griffith
1	F-062-23-PH	Joel Griffith
4	F-059-23-PH	Lori Aldridge
3	NF-143-23-C	Lori Aldridge
2	NF-148-23-NC	Lori Aldridge
4	NF-090-23-C	Joel Griffith
1	NF-099-23-C	Joel Griffith
1	NF-139-23-C	Joel Griffith

Additional Discussion:

Potential Recommendation: Develop a recommendation to address enhanced consistency, oversight, and accountability regarding the use of virtual education, especially regarding children with special health care or mental health care needs. (Dr. Howard included prior CPS history) Members discussed possibly establishing virtual education advocates for these children. It would be beneficial to have someone come speak to the panel about virtual education options. Additional discussion regarding whether teachers are mandated to report bullying of students by staff to their administrator? We need more information regarding policies on faculty and staff and who's accountable for them throughout the school systems. (Kentucky Center for School Safety (John Akers), Kentucky School Board Association, Debbie Sauber (Dr. Howard) and Heather)

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting Tuesday, August 20, 2024.