

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present: Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair; Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Department for Community Based Services; Senator Danny Carroll, State Senate; Dr Jaime Pittenger Kirtley, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Dr. Henrietta Bada, Department for Public Health; Victoria Benge, Executive Director, CASA; Nicole Smith Abbott, LCSW; Steve Shannon, Executive Director, KARP, Inc.; Lt. Jonathan Murphy, Kentucky State Police; Dr. William Ralston, Office of the State Medical Examiner; Geoff Wilson, Association of Addiction Professionals; Dr. Melissa Currie, Chief, Norton Children's Pediatric Protection Specialist; Brittany Nichols, State Child Fatality Review Team; Nakela Cleveland, ZeroV; Dr. Danielle Anderson, Director, Addiction Medicine UK; and Olivia McCollum, Boone County Assistant Attorney

Welcome and Introductions

Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone to the October meeting. There are several introductions for new members on the panel. First is the newly appointed Kentucky State Police representative, Lt. Jonathan Murphy. Lt. Murphy introduced himself to the panel and is looking forward to working with the panel.

Dr. Henrietta Bada is retiring, and we want to thank her for her insight, knowledge, and service to not only the panel, but for the state of Kentucky. Dr. Bada introduced her replacement, Dr. Lyndsey Neese. Dr. Neese will be the new MCH Division Director for the Kentucky Department for Public Health. Dr. Neese introduce herself to the panel. Chair Harrison then introduced Brittany Nichols as the proxy representative for the State Child Fatality Review Team. Brittany has participated in these meeting for quite some time, but we wanted to recognize her official role.

Next item of business is the approval of the minutes and case review summaries from the September meeting. Steve Shannon made a motion to approve the minutes and case review summaries, which was seconded by Dr. Melissa Currie. With no objections, the September minutes and case review summaries stand as approved. Next item of on the agenda is the discussion of the 2026 meeting dates. The panel will continue to meet the third Tuesday of every month throughout 2026. In addition, the panel agreed to convert the December meeting to a virtual meeting commencing at 11:00 a.m. until 4:30p.m.

The 2026 Meeting Dates are as follows:

- January 20th – virtual meeting
- February 17th – virtual meeting
- March 17th – virtual meeting
- April 21st – virtual meeting
- May 19th – In-person meeting (9:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.)

- June 16th –virtual meeting
- July 21st – virtual meeting
- August 18th – virtual meeting
- September 15th– In-person meeting (9:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.)
- October 20th – virtual meeting
- November 17th – virtual meeting
- December 15th – virtual meeting

Pending Cases:

NF-057-24-C – Dr. Currie stated that her team did receive two photographs of the zip tie from law enforcement. The recommendation was to remove supervisory neglect and law enforcement issues. Panel agreed to no abuse or neglect determination.

F-052-24-C – There were potential missed opportunities which included violation of parent’s due process rights where a removal petition was never filed. Additional missed opportunities for the court, county attorney, and DCBS include lack of involvement with biological father. DCBS did not report their concern of sobriety for the MGM to the court.

F-053-24-C – Commissioner Dennis stated that DCBS is looking at how the SAR is structured and phases within the SAR. This gives the agency a possibility at additional training regarding marijuana procedure and documenting this through the SAR.

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-039-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-008-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-055-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-100-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-018-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-029-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-068-24-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-093-24-C	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-143-24-C	Cindy Curtsinger
1	NF-165-24-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-089-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-149-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-172-24-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-080-24-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-140-24-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-156-24-C	Jennifer Burke

3	F-019-24-C	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-079-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-110-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-163-24-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt

*Due to time constraints, NF-129-24-C will be reviewed during the November 18th meeting.

Additional Discussion:

F-039-24-C, NF-055-24-C, NF-165-24-NC, and NF-029-24-C – these cases will remain pending while additional records are obtained.

Potential recommendation: Panel members expressed concern that legalizing medical marijuana will increase pediatric ingestions. Perhaps adding overdose and ingestion training to the statutorily required pediatric head trauma training will be the best step to get in front of this issue.

Steve Shannon made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dr. Howard. With no further discussion we will stand adjourned. Thank you.

DRAFT