

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present: Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair; Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Department for Community Based Services; Senator Danny Carroll, State Senate; Dr. Danielle Anderson, UK MAT Provider; Dr. Lyndsey Neese, Department for Public Health; Dr. Melissa Currie, U of L Pediatric Forensic Medicine; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizen Foster Care Review Board; Judge Libby Messer, Fayette Family Court; Victoria Benge, Executive Director, CASA; Heather McCarty, Regional Program Manager, Family Resource and Youth Service Center; Nicole Smith Abbott, LCSW; Steve Shannon, Executive Director, KARP, Inc.; Lt. Jonathan Murphy, Kentucky State Police, Post 9; Brittany Nichols, State Child Fatality Review Team; and Geoff Wilson, Association of Addiction Professionals

Welcome and Introductions

Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone to the December meeting. First item of business is the approval of the Minutes and Case Reviews from the November meeting. Heather McCarty made a motion to approve the Minutes and Case Review Summaries, which was seconded by Dr. Danielle Anderson. With no objection, the November Minutes and Case Review Summaries stand as approved.

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-046-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-019-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-050-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-115-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	F-041-24-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-101-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-135-24-C	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-144-24-C	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-153-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-167-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-174-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-176-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-119-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-103-24-C	Jennifer Burke

1	NF-109-24-C	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-142-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-182-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-126-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-154-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-072-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-094-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-091-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	F-064-24-PH	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-097-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-155-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-166-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	F-062-24-PH	Cindy Curtsinger

Additional Discussion:

Lt. Murphy asked if the agency that investigated NF-115-24-C has unwritten rules within their jurisdiction not to bring a case to the commonwealth or county attorney unless it meets a certain criteria. He pointed out the number of cases we see within this region with the same issue of these cases not making it past the law enforcement level.

Dr. Salt and Steve Shannon brought up concerns about a lack of prosecution in NF-135-24-C. Law enforcement records are pending. This case will be brought back up in January once those records have been received.

NF-154-24-C - Dr. Melissa Currie requested to review the case file and talk with the diabetes educator since this is very different than the normal protocol at this facility.

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Shannon and seconded by Nikki Abbott. With no objections meeting adjourned.