

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present: Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair; Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Department for Community Based Services; Judge Libby Messer, Fayette Family Court; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Jan Bright, State Child Fatality Review Team; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizen Foster Care Review Board; Dr. Henrietta Bada, Department for Public Health; Dr. William Ralston, Chief Office of the Medical Examiner; Nicole Smith Abbott, LCSW; Victoria Bengé, Executive Director, CASA; Steven Shannon, Executive Director, KARP; Dr. Jaime Pittenger Kirtley, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Dr. Melissa Currie, Chief, Norton Children's Pediatric Protection Specialist; Hon. Olivia McCollum, Boone County Assistant Attorney; and Olivia Spradlin, ZeroV.

Welcome and Introductions

Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone to the February meeting. A few announcements before we start the case reviews, we do have a new panel member from the Board of Social Work, Nicole Smith Abbott. Mrs. Smith Abbott introduced herself to the team. She's been in the field of mental health for over 25 years and social worker for approximately 15 years. She has worked in several different areas of social work and is excited to join the panel. Chair Harrison welcomed her to the team.

Chair Harrison reminded members the March 18th meeting will be in-person in Frankfort. We have not secured the location at this time but will send an email to all members as soon as the location as been confirmed. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Sadly, this will be Joel's final meeting. He is officially retiring at the end of this month. Joel does great work, we're sorry to lose him but happy he's retiring. Elisha has planned a retirement gathering and will send an email to everyone with the details. There will be a retirement luncheon on Thursday, February 27th at 11:00a.m. Be on the lookout for that email. Again, thank you Joel for everything you do and your years of service to the children of the Commonwealth.

Final item on the agenda is to approve the Minutes and Case Reviews from the January meeting. Motion to approve was made by Jan Bright and seconded by Judge Messer. With no objections, the Minutes and Case Review Summaries from the January meeting are approved as submitted.

Seeing no additional business we will move onto the pending cases.

Pending Case Updates:

NF-002-24-NC – PPS had not reviewed the video footage of the incident and determined the injuries were concerning but not diagnostic. Add law enforcement issues for not sharing the video footage with PPS.

F-010-24-C – Reported additional information on the rib fractures. Additional missed opportunity for DCBS for failing to consult with forensics on the injuries identified during the autopsy.

NF-004-24-C – We received the law enforcement records, and the caregivers were indicted regarding ingestion. Law enforcement issues will be removed.

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	NF-005-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-028-24-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-015-24-NC	Jennifer Burke
4	F-007-24-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-006-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-010-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-054-24-C	Joel Griffith
3	NF-035-24-NC	Joel Griffith
1	F-009-24-C	Jennifer Burke
4	F-014-24-NC	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-020-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-012-24-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-025-24-NC	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-058-24-NC	Joel Griffith
3	NF-066-24-NC	Joel Griffith
4	NF-071-24-C	Joel Griffith

Additional Discussion:

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Shannon and seconded by Dr. Currie. With no objections meeting adjourned.

Next meeting Tuesday, March 18, 2025.