

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel

Kids Are Worth It! Conference

Central Bank Center

430 West Vine Street

Lexington, KY 40507

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present: Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair; Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Department for Community Based Services; Dr Jaime Pittenger Kirtley, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Dr. Melissa Currie, Chief, Norton Children's Pediatric Protection Specialist; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Dr. Henrietta Bada, Department for Public Health; Victoria Benge, Executive Director, CASA; Judge Libby Messer, Fayette Family Court; Dr. William Ralston, Chief Medical Examiner; Nicole Smith Abbott, LCSW; Nakela Cleveland, ZeroV; Dr. Danielle Anderson, UK MAT Provider; Geoff Wilson, LCSW, Practicing Addiction Counselor; and Olivia McCollum, Boone County Assistant Attorney

Welcome and Introductions

Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone to the September meeting. Chair Harrison introduced and welcomed Nakela Cleveland, who is serving as the proxy for ZeroV. Nakela works with the Batterers Intervention Program with ZeroV and here to learn more about the work of panel. Next item of business is the approval of the Minutes and case reviews from the August meeting. Dr. Jaime Kirtley made a motion to approve the Minutes and Case Review Summaries, which was seconded by Dr. Melissa Currie. With no objections, the August Minutes and case review summaries stand as approved. Lastly, is the quarterly financial report which are available in your folders. If you have any questions, please let me or Elisha know.

Pending Cases:

F-053-24-C will be moved to the October meeting for an update.

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.

Group

Case #

Analyst

1

NF-123-24-C

Cynthia Hildebrandt

2

NF-131-24-C

Cynthia Hildebrandt

3

NF-117-24-C

Cynthia Hildebrandt

4

F-035-24-C

Cynthia Hildebrandt

2	NF-057-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	F-052-24-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-039-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-065-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-134-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-137-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-136-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-139-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-118-24-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-124-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-127-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-133-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-147-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-177-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-159-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-138-24-C	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-179-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	F-042-24-C	Jennifer Burke
2	F-056-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-043-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-062-24-C	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-122-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	F-065-24-PH	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-178-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt

Additional Discussion:

Dr. Currie - Delta 8 is legal, Delta 9 is not legal and many of the THC products contain both products. Any time those packages have a milligram amount listed, we really have no idea what is in that product or how much because they are not regulated. Lack of regulation of those products needs to be explored as a potential recommendation.

Dr. Anderson – Even though Delta 9 is not legal, they are available in smoke shops in Kentucky. They are marketed and sold which creates consumer confusion.

The panel needs to develop a more concrete definition for serial relationships and/or lack of protective parenting capacity. Members agreed to form a subcommittee to investigate how other jurisdictions, including the legal and medical fields define the terms.

Potential recommendation – Birth hospitals and central intake need additional educational around the importance of a newborn child receiving vitamin K at birth. If a parent refuses the medication, it should be reported to CPS as medical neglect.

Dr. Melissa Currie made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dr. Henrietta Bada. With no further discussion we will stand adjourned. Thank you.