

# Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair; Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Department for Community Based Services; Senator Danny Carroll, State Senate; Representative Samara Heavrin, House of Representatives; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Dr. Danielle Anderson, UK MAT Provider; Dr. Jaime Pittenger Kirtley, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Dr. Lyndsey Neese, Department for Public Health; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizen Foster Care Review Board; 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.; Geoff Wilson, Association of Addiction Professionals; Lt. Jonathan Murphy, Kentucky State Police, Post 9; Tisha Pletcher, CEO, ZeroV; Brittany Nichos, State Child Fatality Review Team; and Olivia McCollum, Boone County Assistant Attorney

### **Welcome and Introductions**

*Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair*

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone to the January meeting. A couple of introductions today, first Emily Neal, who is the panel's new pediatric forensic case analyst. Emily introduced herself. She is currently a nurse practitioner working for an emergency department. Prior to that, Emily worked with PPS for approximately ten years and previously worked with the panel on numerous cases. Chair Harrison welcomed Emily and looked forward to working with her. Next introduction is Tisha Pletcher, she is the new CEO of ZeroV. Tisha introduced herself. She has been with ZeroV for about a month but started her career there approximately 30 years ago. For the last ten years, she spent her time with the University of Louisville running the Peace Center. Chair Harrison thanked both for joining today.

Next item of business on the agenda is the approval of the Minutes and case reviews from the December meeting. Steve Shannon made a motion to approve the Minutes and Case Review Summaries, which was seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Salt. With no objections, the December Minutes and case review summaries stand as approved.

We have a few cases pending we need to review on the agenda. Dr. Currie is unable to join us today, so we're going to skip the first case on the agenda.

### **Pending Cases:**

**F-041-24-C** – Jennifer Burke provided an update on the Commonwealth Attorney records. After reviewing the records, it was determined law enforcement issues and commonwealth/county attorney issues will remain for this case.

NF-135-24-C – Jennifer provided an update on the law enforcement records. Panel agreed to remove law enforcement issues and changing the case from a triage 1 to triage 2.

**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-020-25-NC	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-010-25-C	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-013-25-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-067-25-NC	Jennifer Burke
4	F-001-25-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-079-25-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-084-25-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-100-25-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-027/028-25-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-016-25-NC	Jennifer Burke
4	NF-073-25-NC	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-021-25-NC	Jennifer Burke
3	F-019-25-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-110-25-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-114-25-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-003-25-C	Jennifer Burke

**Additional Discussion:**

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