

Child Fatality Near Fatality External Review Panel

Meeting Summary

January 26, 2015

- Meeting held at Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence Association (KCAVA) in Frankfort.
- Judge Crittenden noted that the numbers of fatalities and near fatalities on page 17 in the annual report were transposed, but have been adjusted and the corrected versions sent to archives and posted to the website.
- Dr. Sabrina Jo Grubbs and Sen. Julie Adams were introduced as new members of the panel.
- Justin Lawson was introduced to the panel as the new Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU) Intern.
- Forensic medical Analysts Cindy Curtsinger, Ashley DeJarnette, Sue Hilburn, Christina Howard, Emily Neal, and Vicky Zelko were introduced to the panel.
- Regarding implementation of the panel's recommendations, it was suggested that a spreadsheet be created listing all panel recommendations and the implementation progress and/or the response from the directed entity.
- Voted and agreed to expand the current MOA with Univ. of Louisville by \$30,000 to fulfill FY2014 case review by the Forensic Medical Analysts.
- It was requested that Kerry Holleran submit a summary of information she learned from the Michigan panel to this panel along with options for attending a meeting of the Michigan child fatality review panel.
- Panel approved submission of an RFP to hire forensic medical analysts to study FY2013 cases.
- Panel approved submission of an RFP to hire/contract a data analyst to determine types of data to be gathered, sufficiency of current data tool, and provide analysis of 2013 and 2014 case data.
- Panel members were requested to send any adjustments or suggestions for the modified data tool to Dr. Currie within two weeks of this meeting.
- The minutes from the September 8th and November 17th meeting were approved.
- The panel voted to unanimously accept the financial report.

Cases Reviewed:

Group 1: (Burch, Corey, Currens, Jones, Johnson)

- F-01-14-NC: Two-month old baby died, Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID), in unsafe sleep conditions on the couch with his intoxicated mother.
 - Neglect was substantiated because of the mother's intoxication and the condition of the older child in the home.

- F-05-14-C: Fifteen year old female with a history of drug abuse and prostitution, was found drowned in a creek after running away from home.
 - A week prior to her death DCBS recommended that she be put in a group home, but the judge denied their recommendation.
 - Commissioner James suggested that schools be taught how to help families with children as early as elementary school age, so it is not too late by the time they reach middle school/high school.
- F-09-14-C Two year old child drowned in a swimming pool after being put down for a nap. The child woke up, went outside, and got into the swimming pool where she drowned.
 - The mother had two visits from DCBS prior to the child's death.
 - Death was concluded as an accidental drowning.
- F-13-14-NC Three month old baby died after co-sleeping with intoxicated mother. After the death the mother tested positive for THC. Dad said he was surprised that the mother would co-sleep with the baby because they both knew better.
 - Death concluded as a result of co-sleeping with an intoxicated parent.

Group 2: (Adams, Currie, Crittenden, Goins, Mayfield, Taylor)

- F-02-14-NC Newborn child found dead in department store women's restroom. Mother delivered the baby in the stall, placed the baby in the trash can, cleaned herself up at home and went back to work. Witnesses heard grunting, baby crying, and many toilet flushes.
 - Department store employees were able to identify the mother quickly and the police met her when she arrived at work and arrested her.
- F-06-14-C Five week old infant whose death was caused from unsafe sleeping conditions and overlay from a parent. Both parents had been drinking the night before but denied being intoxicated.
 - CPS had been involved with this family since 1998, and had intended on opening a case with this baby but the baby died before they could open a case. The baby was born THC positive.
- F-10-14-NC Two month old infant died from unsafe sleep conditions and SUID. The baby had been sleeping in a bean bag chair and then placed in a crib with several articles inside it.
 - Police immediately closed the case and said the death was caused by a heart mummer before the autopsy was even finished.
 - Conclusion was death by unsafe sleeping conditions and drug testing was delayed significantly.
- F-14-14-NC Nine day old baby died while co-sleeping with mother. The baby was found not breathing and died a couple of days later in the hospital.
 - Mom had CPS assistance with older child, but appeared to be doing very well.
 - Death was concluded as a co-sleeping death without impairment.
 - Law enforcement investigative pictures were requested.

Group 3: (Griffith, Hall, James, Reid, McClanahan)

- F-03-14-C Tabled until March meeting.
- F-07-14-NC Four month old baby died due to unsafe sleeping conditions. Baby was under the care of an Aunt and Uncle and young babysitter. Found face down on the bed under the supervision of the babysitter.
 - Death concluded as a result of unsafe sleep conditions.
- F-11-14-NC Thirteen year old child died after falling off of his sister's moving car and hitting his head. He died a couple of days later at the hospital
 - Conclusion was there were no preventable measures to this case.
- F-15-14-C Three month old baby died in the middle of the night after dad covered the child's mouth and nose with blanket in order to keep the pacifier in the baby's mouth.
 - Mother and father were both charged with neglect because of covering the baby's mouth and their drug use.
- NF-02-14-NC Two-month old baby had spontaneous bleeding from mouth and nose while with family at a restaurant. No signs of trauma were found on the baby.
 - Conclusion was this was a medical issue not caused by any trauma or neglect.
- NF-07-14-C
 - Previous child's death records were requested by the panel.

Group 4: (Oldham, Shepherd, Jeffries, Grubbs, Pittenger)

- F-04-14-C Five month old baby died from drowning while taking a bath with its intoxicated mother. Mother had substance abuse problems and a criminal history.
 - DCBS substantiated the case and the mother was charged with reckless homicide.
- F-08-14-C Five month old was found dead in a foster home and was said to have been recently given Dimetapp. The autopsy toxicology screen showed negative for Dimetapp and the baby was in a safe sleeping environment.
 - In conclusion, there were no preventable measures that could have taken place.
- F-12-14-NC Four month old female baby was found dead after co-sleeping with her mother. The child was a twin and her twin brother had died a couple of months earlier from co-sleeping as well.
 - There was no drug test issued to the mother.
 - The panel is requesting law enforcement records of both deaths for further review.