

Child Fatality Near Fatality External Review Panel

Meeting Summary

March 16, 2015

- Meeting held at Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence Association (KCAVA) in Frankfort
- Justice & Public Safety Cabinet Secretary, J. Michael Brown, addressed the panel regarding preparing for the 2016 general assembly of the legislature. He also provided his comments on the panel's recommendations directly affecting the Justice Cabinet.
- Darlene Thomas, Executive Director of Greenhouse17 (a domestic violence program servicing the Bluegrass Area Development District), conducted a short PowerPoint presentation entitled "Child Abuse in the Context of Domestic Violence."
- A spreadsheet detailing the status of the recommendations made in the Panel's 2014 annual report was presented by staff and updates were provided by various panel members.
- The panel requested staff provide an executive summary of the January meeting minutes and they will vote to approve at the May meeting rather than approving the lengthy transcript style presented.
- Staff provided information related to the status of expanding the analysts' contract(s). An RFP for additional analysts closes at 4:00 pm today (3-16-15). Staff informed the panel the MOA with UofL Forensic Medical Analysts will be modified after the submitted RFP closes to avoid the possibility of confusion between the two.
- Kerry Holleran informed the panel of her conversation with the Michigan child fatality review panel staff.
- Kerry also told of her meeting with Dr. Theresa Hayden from the Kent School of Social Work and the possibility of Dr. Hayden providing assistance with the Panel's data collection tool and data analytics procedures.
- Panel requested staff routinely request law enforcement records for all cases and specifically request written police reports.
- Judge Hall asked panel staff to collect all Dependency Neglect and Abuse (DNA) court case documents to aid with tracking whether judges are adhering to statutory time constraints in reviewed cases.

Cases Reviewed:

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

- **F-18-14-NC** Howard:
- Four week old male; Fayette Co.; Child died from trauma to the head. Father confessed to slamming the child's head on the counter several times. Bruising on the head and the ribs
- Drugs and AHT factors in case

- Law enforcement issue
- Birth hospital and pediatric medical doctor's records not available with case (panel requested staff obtain those records and submit to Dr. Shepherd)

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

- **F-14-14-NC** Howard:
 - Panel requested police investigation records from Laurel Co. (London) to complete data tool responses
- **NF-06-14-C** Neal:
 - Male, one year and three months old; Floyd Co.; Child was brought to ER unresponsive with head injury and bruises to buttocks, head and forehead.
 - Missed opportunity with medical encounter at 3 months of age
 - Benzos/drugs - caregiver

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

- **F-32-14-C** Zelko: (Dr. Melissa Currie presented)
 - Three year old female, Boyd Co.; Child died from blunt force trauma to abdomen and rapid blood loss. Child was found to have old abdominal injuries as well on autopsy and multiple bruising in other areas.
 - Medical neglect
 - Missed opportunity for DCBS based on report being screened out at the time of the child's broken leg
 - Lack of law enforcement coordination of fatality investigation
- **NF-12-14-C** DeJarnette:
 - Eight month old female; Franklin Co.; Child was left alone in bathtub and found not breathing.
 - Panel requested staff obtain a copy of the hearing tape (Franklin Co.) for Judge Hall's review, all family court documents and the written decision to Judge Crittenden

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

- **F-17-14-C** Curtsinger:
 - Two year old female; Whitley Co.; Child found unresponsive in home, taken to Jellico Hospital with suspicious bruises on her body including a bruise under her right eye.
 - Physical abuse
 - Blunt force trauma
 - Substance abuse by caregiver
 - Missed opportunity for DCBS based on neglect report being screened prior to fatal incident
 - No internal review of case by DCBS

