

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

MINUTES

Members Present: Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair; Lori Aldridge, Co-Chair, Tri County CASA; Lesa Dennis, Commissioner, Department for Community Based Services; Janice Bright, State Child Fatality Review Team; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizens Foster Care Review Board; Dr. Henrietta Bada, Department for Public Health; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Dr. Melissa Currie, Norton Children's Pediatric Protection Specialist, University of Louisville; Dr. Jaime Kirtley, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Steve Shannon, Executive Director, KARP, Inc; Dr. David Lohr, Medical Director, Department for Community Based Services, Detective Jason Merlo, Kentucky State Police; Dr. William Ralston, Chief Medical Examiner; and Isela Arras, Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Welcome and Introductions

Judge Murphy, Chair

Judge Murphy wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed them to the meeting. She asked for a moment of silence in honor of Joel's wife, Janet Griffith. She asked everyone to keep Joel and his family in their thoughts and prayers during this time.

Jan Bright introduced Matt Belcher to the panel members. Mr. Belcher is the MCH Title V block grant coordinator. He is responsible for the annual block grant data report and he's trying to get a better knowledge of all the different pieces that inform that report. He's trying to obtain a better understanding of the day-to-day work. We are grateful for Matt's work and glad he was able to join us today. Title V is very near and dear to maternal child health department. That's how we fund a lot of the child injury, maltreatment, and safe sleep programs and other preventative activities.

Dr. Salt has some student guest with her for today's meeting as well. We would like to welcome them.

Everyone should have the Minutes and Case Review Summaries from the December meeting. If everyone has had an opportunity to review those, we will entertain a motion. Dr. Elizabeth Salt made a motion to adopt the minutes and case review summaries which was seconded by Steve Shannon. With no objections, the December Minutes and Case Review Summaries stand as submitted.

Annual Report Draft

Judge Murphy

As you all know, one of the big things we got accomplished last year is moving our annual report deadline to February 1st. Elisha was hoping to have the final draft to the members by today's meeting, but you should receive it by tomorrow. Please conduct a thorough review of the report and submit any changes back to Elisha as soon as possible. Another quick update, we have received approval on the

epidemiologist contract from DPH. We are so grateful for Dr. Bada assisting the panel with that contract.

Safe Sleep Workgroup

Dr. William Lohr

Each of you should have the PDF of the final report from the meeting and I'm going to share some slides for the meeting. From several cases, we came to notice some time ago that we were still having safe sleep concerns from these meetings. I was encouraged to round the troops up and rethink the safe sleep messaging. As you know, the Department for Public Health has an ongoing program for Safe Sleep and have been working on this for many years. We were charged with how we can help improve safe sleep practices. Many of us from this group, including Dr. Bada and Jan Bright, met many times over the last year to evaluate what's been done and can we improve.

Since 2015, there has been an increase in SUID deaths. There was a decrease in cases in 2019, which the group attributed to programming but due to the pandemic a lot of the programming was interrupted. That may be a reason the number of SUID deaths increased since 2020. We took the approach any death was more than we could tolerate. We know safe sleeping practices are being discussed with families, but the gaps are they don't seem to be followed. So, what can we do to increase the uptake and the behavior change? We also established there are many programs in the state involving this, including those run by DBH DID in their residential SUD treatment programs. KY MOMs is present in all 14 Community Mental Health Centers and has safe sleep guidelines in their curriculum.

The group worked to update the training on Safe Sleep to ensure its being offered to DCBS social workers and foster parents. We also worked to make sure the Plan of Safe Care policies within DCBS, that is working with young mothers at risk, that those guidelines include the latest information on Safe Sleep. So, when there is a Safety and Risk Assessment at the home, those workers would have up to date guidance. Safe Sleep materials were shared with Community Action partners and liaisons were established for future collaboration. Materials were also shared at this year's Kentucky State Fair. We worked on getting training updated for foster parents and DCBS workers and Eastern Kentucky created a new training module using the Safe Sleep information from the website.

Further recommendations include, DPH will continue to pursue methods to increase the impact of their Safe Sleep guidelines with at risk populations. This will include resuming in-person conferences, examining gaps and interruptions when infants are discharged home. DPH will continue to update the Safe Sleep "packages" or modules and increase the use of social media platforms. Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS) will continue to offer opportunities for assessment of the home environment for safety and promote Safe Sleep practices. DPH MCH will continue to collaborate with DCBS Division of Child Care to maximize continuity of the Safe Sleep message. We want to ensure counselors and staff at statewide residential SUD programs have ongoing Safe Sleep training. The workgroup recommends the training they developed for foster parents and DCBS workers be required training for initial and ongoing certification. Division of Child Care personnel should review this training as well. Discussions will continue between the Citizen Foster Care Review Board and DCBS Division of Protection and Permanency Out of Home Care Branch services for earlier identification and review of high-risk neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) infants for Safe Sleep Guidance. Managed care organizations will continue to offer and improve impact of Safe Sleep

Programs for new mothers. That's the major highlights from the annual report and happy to take any questions at this time.

Judge Murphy: Thank you for that presentation and your leadership and for those on the panel that joined Dr. Lohr in this work. We are grateful. Does anyone have any questions? With no questions, we will begin our case reviews.

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-009-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger
2	F-013-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger
3	NF-134-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger
4	NF-136-22-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
1	F-015-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger
2	NF-007-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger
3	NF-076-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger
4	NF-099-22-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
4	F-032-22-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
3	F-011-22-C	Cindy Curtsinger

Additional Discussion:

Melanie Taylor introduced the new Assistant Director of the Child Fatality and Near Fatality team, Vanessa Hunter. Vanessa has been with DCBS for more than 20 years and she'll be the point person for all records and questions regarding DCBS.

Meeting adjourned.