

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present: Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair, Hon. Dawn Blair, Assistant Hardin County Attorney, Co-Chair; Judge Libby Messer, Fayette Family Court; Dr. Melissa Currie, Chief, Norton Children's Pediatric Protection Specialist, University of Louisville; Rep. Kimberly Moser, House Chair Health & Family Services; Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub, Department for Community Based Services, Janice Bright, RN, State Child Fatality Review Team; Lori Aldridge, Executive Director, Tri County CASA; Dr. David Lohr, Medical Director, Department for Community Based Services; Betty Pennington, Family Resource and Youth Service Center; Isela Arras, Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizens Foster Care Review Board; Dr. Jaime Pittenger Kirtley, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; and Steve Shannon, Executive Director, KARP.

Welcome:

Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair

Judge Murphy welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the year. Judge Murphy asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes or case summaries. With no changes, Commissioner Miranda-Straub made a motion to approve the minutes and case summaries which was seconded by Lori Aldridge. Minute and Case Summaries stand as submitted.

REDCap Survey and Analyst Binder

An email was sent to all panel members on the 16th to review and approve the new survey and analyst binder. Has everyone had an opportunity to review the link and documents? Does anyone have any questions or comments?

Elisha: I will just add that we have made a couple of additional changes to the analyst binder. Thanks to Cindy, we have added an additional appendix which includes common medical terms and abbreviations that are often found in the medical records. This will provide additional guidance for any new analyst joining the team.

Dr. Currie: On page 7, section 3(c), does the paramour have a history with DCBS? My question is what happens when we have more than one paramour? Example, mom has a paramour and dad has a paramour. How do we record that?

Joel: That's a good question. My thought was it would be the paramour that was living with the child at the time of incident. Maybe we should define it as living with the index child at the time of the event.

Dr. Currie: We may want to specify the paramour the child was with at the time of the event, as they may not have been living there and just acting as the caregiver at the time. Further definition there would be helpful. On the section right before that, one or more parents have a history of DCBS, do we include stepparents? Or have we before?

Joel: We have not, my thought was just the biological parent, but we have added paramour. So maybe we need to rethink and add stepparent as well.

Elisha: With REDCap we will start tracking the CPS history with the paramour but you're right, we do not have stepparent included. Also with us today is Casey Gill, the epidemiologist with the Department for Public Health. Casey deserves all the recognition on this project for all her hard work. She has been amazing, and we can't thank her enough.

Casey: Thank you. We can add a stepparent category where the other relationships are listed. If a stepparent is selected, it will show the additional questions when applicable.

Dr. Currie: Does anyone have a quick overview of what is new on the survey?

Elisha: We don't have a single document that list out the changes, but we can get that together and distribute to the members. The new survey does mirror the old data tool currently in the SharePoint. The main changes are removing the text boxes and inserting check boxes. The text box data was pulled from the old database to create the check list for each selection.

Jan: Casey, regarding the paramour section, can we differentiate between paramour living inside the home and paramour outside of the home?

Casey: Yes, that's possible. Whatever you all need, I can add. I just need to know the terms and order you would like the information tracked.

Dr. Currie: I wonder if we should specify, mother's paramour and father's paramour because sometimes they live in two homes and it can get confusing. That's all I had on the data tool.

Isela: I have a question about one of the categories, is there a reason we use the term financial issues rather than poverty or something more specific?

Elisha and Joel: No, it's just the terms that's been used for years.

Isela: I'm not suggesting that we change it. I find when I'm listening to the case reviews and financial issues are mentioned, I think it's important to think about it in terms of poverty. Poverty is what's leading some of those decisions or creating some of those conditions that renders families more vulnerable. For me, financial issues make it seem like an individually focused challenge and then it means that the intervention should be the responsibility of the individual and they may or may not have access to remedy that.

Lori: I also want to point out that financial issues does not always mean poverty. If someone loses their job could create additional financial stressors but may not equate to poverty. Maybe we need to track those separately.

Judge Murphy: I agree, I think it should be two separate indicators. We've reviewed both types of cases and would have to track separately to differentiate between the two types.

Commissioner: I agree, I think there are lots of families that have financial issues, e.g., loss of job, gambling, health issues but those are not necessarily means of systemic and structurally living with poverty. We have a

case today that's a classic case of poverty. We see that all the time at DCBS and I agree that separating financial issues and living with poverty would be beneficial marker.

Jan: I think we need a very clear definition that will help the analysts differentiate between a one-time financial decision and living with poverty.

Commissioner: I think we can help with creating that definition and would be glad to help.

Jan: Joel, as you're reviewing the cases are you able to look at the income to determine the levels of financial insecurities?

Joel: We do not get income information in these cases. We try to be consistent on marking financial issues based on the services the family is receiving, e.g., Medicaid, WIC, SNAP or they make a statement in the investigation regarding their lack of financial means for providing a standard of living. It's relatively subjective in terms of how we measure financial issues.

Isela: Is it possible for some of those markers to be referenced with regards to poverty. I think that giving a little bit of that contextual aspect of what poverty can bring to the conversation or to looking at the scenario that caused harm to a child. I think it's really important because at that point we can come up with alternative solutions or interventions that can be more helpful. I think it would be great to come up with some specific markers but at least be intentional about identifying the risks.

Judge Murphy: If anyone has any additional comments or concerns regarding the analyst binder please feel free to email those. One of our guests did make it, we'd like to welcome Senator Carroll and thank him for joining us. Elisha and I had the privilege of meeting with Sen. Carroll on some language we are wanting to add in some statutes to benefit the work that we do. Sen. Carroll and his staff have been very helpful.

Sen. Carroll: I appreciate it and it's good to be here. I've enjoyed learning about the work that you all do, and I was a little surprised with the make up of this group that there were no requirements for follow up on the recommendations you make. That's what we're looking at as far as legislation. Just to put a little more teeth into what you do and making sure there's some accountability for the follow up that you all recommend. From having a law enforcement background, I know the value of what you all are doing and how it can change the system and make it better. I think that's something the Commonwealth needs to take seriously and I'm hopeful we can help make the panel stronger and make sure your recommendations are being followed up on. We're learning with each case and that's what it's all about. So, thank you, I appreciate it very much.

Judge Murphy: Elisha will send an email to the panel members with a voting option, for your review regarding the additional confidentiality language. Just a reminder, the meetings for next year will take place on the third Tuesday of the month starting at 1:00 p.m.

Case Review:

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-026-20-C	Joel Griffith
2	F-019-20-C	Joel Griffith

3	F-071-20-PH	Joel Griffith
4	F-073-20-PH	Joel Griffith
1	F-075-20-PH	Joel Griffith
2	F-076-20-PH	Joel Griffith
3	F-051-20-C	Joel Griffith
4	NF-087-20-C	Joel Griffith
1	F-072-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
2	F-053-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
3	F-067-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
4	NF-116-20-C	Cindy Curtsinger
1	F-074-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
2	F-077-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
3	NF-019-20-C	Cindy Curtsinger
4	F-059-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
1	NF-046-20-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
2	NF-096-20-NC	Joel Griffith
3	F-070-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
4	NF-106-20-C	Joel Griffith

Additional Discussion:

Coroner Issue: Dr. Currie wanted to mention regarding the issue of “coroner’s case”, where child lives in one county but dies in another county. A few years ago, we had approached the Coroner’s Association regarding that issue and requesting they vote to agree the child’s death would be reviewed in both counties. Unfortunately, that never came to fruition even though it seemed they were on board. It may be time to reapproach that issue if we are going to have a coroner joining the team.

Dr. Currie: Kentucky is in desperate need of co-parenting therapy resources. The chronic conflict, the kids are the ones that burden the blunt of the stress.

Meeting adjourned