**MINUTES**

*of the*

**Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children Meeting**

*held on*

**August 26, 2020**

*via teleconference*

Lifesize Software

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Call-in number: 1 (872) 240-3212; Extension: 477-087-413

# 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions

Stephanie Herrera called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Executive Committee members present:

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| * Margarita De Santos, SNHD * Megan Freeman, DCFS * Stephanie Herrera, DPBH - Vital Records * Vicki Ives, DPBH - MCH * Kathie McKenna, Pioneer Territory CASA * Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ * Lisa Sherych, DPBH * Sharon Benson, Office of AG * Misty Vaughn Allen, DPBH - Suicide Prevention * Michelle Sandoval, DPBH - Rural Clinics * Tim Burch, Clark County DFS * Yvette Wintermute, CCSD * Ross Armstrong, DCFS * Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety |  |

Executive Committee members absent:

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| * Nick Czegledi, Elko County Sheriff’s Office * Beth Handler, HHS Director’s Office * Amber Howell, Washoe County HSA * Breanna Jenkins, Renown * Jessica Rogers, Las Vegas Metro Police Department * Nancy Saitta, Retired |

Staff and guests:

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| * Dena Corritore, Washoe Human Services Agency * Dawn Davidson, UNLV * Jessica Freeman, DCFS * Elizabeth Holka, UNLV * Andrea Valenzuela, Carson DCFS |

**2. Initial Public Comment**

No comments.

# 3. For Possible Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2020 and June 15, 2020

# Approval of May 20, 2020 meeting minutes

# Approval of June 15, 2020 meeting minutes

MOTION: Made by Margarita De Santos, seconded by Kathie McKenna, to approve the May 20, 2020 and June 15, 2020 meeting minutes.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

# 4. For Discussion Only: The Executive Committee By-Laws

Jessica Freeman stated that the by-laws were distributed to the committee and asked the committee whether they thought the by-laws were appropriate. She requested feedback from committee members so that the by-laws could become a possible action item for an upcoming agenda. No members raised any questions or concerns. Jessica requested that committee members contact her if they had any questions after the meeting by September 23.

# 5. For Possible Action: Review and approve proposals and recommended funding amounts for SFY 2021 child death prevention public awareness campaigns

# NyE Communities Coalition

* Baby’s Bounty
* Washoe County Human Services Agency
* Renown Health-Child Health Institute
* Nevada Medical Center
* Crisis Support Services

Jessica Freeman stated that, with each fiscal year, DCFS makes grant funding for the prevention of child death available for various programs. She reported that this year the amount made available for funding was $100,000, which was the same amount of funding that was made available last year. They received 6 applications, with the total amount of requested funding coming to $133,000. Jessica stated that she would give a brief synopsis of each program and the amount they requested so that the committee could decide how the funding would be distributed. Jessica reported that DCFS had the ability fund all of the programs at the amounts requested, even though the total is over $100,000, as there was additional funding available in the reserves.

Per Jessica Freeman, the first applicant, NyE Communities Coalition, has not requested funding from this committee in the past. Jessica reported that this agency serves the rural area, specifically, Nye, Esmeralda, and Lincoln County. They have requested $19,584. This agency is reported to assist the public with transportation, prevention and wellness initiatives, after school programs, as well as social workers in schools. This agency partners with community businesses in order to educate the surrounding community about drowning, unsafe sleep, and suicide. This was the only agency to apply for a grant that is currently addressing drowning and near drowning prevention, which is one of the top four causes of child death in Nevada. This agency has proposed to work with community partners to provide education about water safety in addition to media campaigns. This agency also proposed to provide a focus on safe sleep initiatives and suicide prevention. The money requested will be spent on personnel, travel, operating costs, and advertising for these campaigns. Sharon requested that the committee be reminded of the top four causes of child death in Nevada. Jessica reported that the top four causes are drowning, unsafe sleep, suicide, and matters of homicide. No questions were raised on this application.

Per Jessica Freeman, the second applicant, Baby’s Bounty, requested $25,000. This agency serves the Clark County area only and also addresses unsafe sleep. Parents and expecting parents can be referred to them. Baby’s Bounty provides a series of classes about safe sleep. Once parents complete their education regarding safe sleep, they receive a “baby bundle”. This bundle consists of a crib (pack n’ play), baby hygiene items, diapers, and clothing. This agency, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, has expanded to include additional emergency supplies. This agency also provides in-school support groups for teen moms in one school and are looking to expand to two additional schools, which will be determined by CCSD. The funding requested by this agency would be spent on the addition of two staff members. A point of information was raised regarding whether this agency has received funding from this committee in the past, which was confirmed by Jessica. Another point of interest was raised regarding the process of review for the proposals currently in consideration for possible action. Jessica reported that it was determined at the June Executive Committee Review meeting that a subcommittee of volunteers, including Stephanie Herrera and Kathy McKenna, would review the details of the proposals and specific grant information, which they did. Jessica stated that if any Executive Committee member would like to review the specific details of the proposals, she would make that information available after the meeting.

Lisa Sherych raised a point of information regarding the NyE Communities Coalition. She asked whether the agency would serve the whole state, and Jessica clarified that the agency would only serve Nye, Esmeralda, and Lincoln County. Lisa also asked whether NyE Communities Coalition would be the only agency from these proposals that would offer drowning prevention services, which Jessica confirmed. Lisa then asked why none of the other agencies were interested in addressing drowning prevention. Jessica reported that she did not have an answer for that. Jessica elaborated further that in years prior not many agencies offered services for drowning prevention, though she would have to research that to be sure. Jessica stated that drowning prevention is something that the committee would like to make more prominent going forward. Margarita De Santos reported that there is another coalition in Southern Nevada that also provides information regarding drowning prevention, but that they did not request any funding from this committee.

Per Jessica Freeman, the third applicant for funding was Washoe County Human Services Agency. This agency was a prior recipient of funding as well. This agency requested $14,200 in order to serve the Washoe County area. This agency is launching a multi-faceted safe sleep awareness community outreach campaign. They proposed several methods of advertising, including bus ads, billboards, public service announcements, videos on television and social media, and movie theater ads. The funding requested will go towards the contractor who will be overseeing this campaign. A point of interest was raised by Misty Allen regarding the topic of the campaign. Jessica clarified that it is a safe sleep awareness campaign. Dawn Davidson also raised a point of interest regarding the funding requests for the two previous applicants. Jessica clarified that NyE Communities Coalition requested $19,584 and Baby’s Bounty requested $25,000. Vicki Ives reported that Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health program, developed by statewide partners, provides evidenced based messaging that’s available nationally. Jessica reported that, while this funding is primarily focused on Washoe County, it will also provide safe sleep PSAs available statewide. A point of interest was raised regarding the previous year’s youth suicide campaign. There was a concern that the messaging was not explored to its fullest potential. A question was raised asking if there was a way the committee could guide the messaging provided by the proposed campaigns. Jessica clarified that within the applications for funding, applicants must specify details regarding “methods of accomplishments” and how the applicants intend to follow through on their proposals in order to allow the committee to evaluate efficacy. A request was made to have access to the applications so that committee members could be more familiar with details of the proposed methods.

The next applicant was Renown Health-Child Health Institute, also a prior recipient of funding. The agency requested $40,033 for the Washoe County area in order to institute training for the administration of the youth risk behavior survey. The agency reported that the survey was one of the primary sources of information about high school students’ health risk behaviors, such as bullying, depression, and suicide.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE - request to mute microphones if members were not currently speaking. Audio was difficult to understand.

Jessica again clarified that the funding requested by Renown Health-Child Health Institute will be utilized to train medical personnel, school personnel, and parents on suicide prevention.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE- second request to mute microphones if members were not currently speaking. Audio was difficult to understand.

Dawn Davidson asked if the youth risk behavior survey will be made statewide. Jessica clarified that the survey primarily focuses on Washoe County, and if other counties wanted a similar survey they would need to find the funding for themselves.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE - third request to mute microphones if members were not currently speaking. Audio was difficult to understand.

Vicki requested further details regarding Renown’s request for funding. Misty clarified that the funding was for a continuation of two previous years related to working with parents around stigma and suicide prevention to increase focus on training. The application was made visible to all attending the meeting for review. Members were given a moment to read details. There were no additional questions.

The next applicant was Nevada Medical Center. This agency was not a previous recipient of the committee’s funding. They intend to service the Clark County area. They requested $12,500 in order to improve Nevada’s healthcare system by promoting collaboration and innovation in the community. They propose to establish performance metrics and health indicators to identify priorities and measure community success. They will plan to engage in legislation in order to advance and expand access to quality healthcare. This agency has a partnership with several local community providers who are also developing similar initiatives. They requested funding to begin this campaign in addition to another campaign called the “Hashtag Act 5” campaign that will amplify the message of suicide prevention and access to mental healthcare. The funding would go primarily to operating support by means of advertising. This agency is operating as a statewide effort to share individual and in-person mental health and wellness resources. Additionally, while there are other statewide initiatives that provide resources for suicide prevention, this agency is unique in that it partners with various community agencies that have staffed celebrities, for example Lady Gaga. This could help this agency get additional attention as a resource for suicide prevention. Misty requested to see this application as well. Jessica reported that this agency has not received prior funding. Misty reported that, in the past, committee members were able to ask questions directly to applicants. Sharon stated that the purpose of the subcommittee is to review all of the details of the proposals and come up with recommendations to bring to the executive committee in order to facilitate meetings. She also stated that this is the first year that the committee is formalizing the grant process to facilitate the funding process and promote accountability. Ross Armstrong stated that he appreciated the subcommittee’s work and suggested a possible sheet for the executive committee in the future that could include a synopsis of each application in addition to the amount of funding requested. Jessica stated that she had a summary sheet like that and was in the process of sharing it with the committee.

A motion to approve funding was tabled so that voting members would have additional information needed to properly consider applications.

NO MOTION WAS MADE.

# 6. For Discussion: Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)/National Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP) Child Death Review (CDR) updates

# Western Region and National CDR Updates

* Activities of the Attorney General’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Jessica Freeman stated that there were no updates on the Western Region but that there were updates on the National CDR. There have been additional clarifying questions added to the database tool in addition to the National Manual for CDR operating protocol, though it had not yet been posted.

Jessica reported that the committee was still waiting for further information from the Attorney General’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, who she had reached out to. She suggested that the committee keep this item on the agenda to resolve any outstanding topics being discussed previously.

# 7. For Discussion: Update on Sudden Death of the Young (SDY) Program

Dawn Davidson stated that this update was for Candace Caterer, who Stephanie stated was not on the phone. Jessica stated that Candace said there were no updates but that this should also remain as an agenda item for further discussion.

# 8. For Possible Action: Review the action updates for current in-process recommendations to determine if these items are to remain open for further discussion, ready for formal recommendation, or the item can be considered closed

# 2016 Quarter 2- WIC Provider Breastfeeding Support Toolkit. Last update stated the toolkit is not yet finalized.

* 2017 Quarter 4 – Policy development by Dr. Andy Eisen with the Clark County area hospitals to develop a standardized set of tests to be able to identify abusive injuries. Last update stated that Dr. Eisen was still working on the hospital protocol.
* 2017 Quarter 4 – Mandated reporter training. Last update stated that the training platform was still being finalized.
* 2018 Quarter 3 – Washoe had a task force that completed activities and improved collaboration with the schools for the suicide prevention and post-vention. Last update stated that they were working with DOE to see how the training could be improved and should be finalized in the near future.

Dawn Davidson stated that the following recommendations have been ongoing. She stated that the last 2016 Quarter 2 update was that the toolkit was not yet finalized and raised a question about how to proceed with this recommendation. Vicki stated that she spoke with Candace McDaniels, who oversees WIC regarding this toolkit, and suggested that the group consider dropping this recommendation as it had a very specific focus on breast feeding and substance use. Vicki stated that there are other resources within the community that are closer to being finalized that already address this issue.

MOTION: Made by Margarita De Santos, seconded by Yvette Wintermute, to drop this agenda item.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Dawn Davidson reported that she and Jessica reached out to Dr. Eisen regarding the 2017 Quarter 4 recommendation and he stated that there were no updates. Dawn clarified that the purpose of this recommendation was to obtain standardization in the way hospitals across the valley determine and identify abusive injuries. She stated that there hasn’t been much movement on this recommendation at all and that the COVID-19 pandemic has further impeded any motion for this recommendation. Ross said that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a collapse in child abuse reporting as schools have been closed. Medical and first responder teams are reported to be trying to pick up the slack in child abuse reporting and Ross stated that education to these groups regarding the identification of child abuse would be valuable.

Motion made by Stephanie Herrera, seconded by Yvette Wintermute, to keep item on the agenda.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Jessica Freeman reported that DCFS has developed a mandated reported training and is working on ways to distribute it to the public. They are considering platforms that they could utilize and how they could monitor who is utilizing the training. They are considering partnering with other entities such as the department of education to give access to schools and public health to give access to law enforcement and public safety. She stated Prevent Child Abuse has developed a mandated reporter training as well and DCFS is exploring options to partner together in order to combine training. She recommended keeping this item open to further explore this topic and stated that there might be a request for funding from the committee in the future. Michelle Sandoval said that she would be glad to partner with DCFS in order to help distribute the mandated reported training.

Motion made by Stephanie Herrera, seconded by Yvette Wintermute, to keep item on the agenda.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Jessica Freeman reported that there were no updates on the 2018 Quarter 3 recommendation. Misty Vaughn Allen with the Office of Suicide Prevention stated that this recommendation has been on the agenda for a while and that there are multiple agencies that have been working on suicide prevention since the last legislative session. She said that she felt comfortable stating that this agenda item is complete since the addition of other agencies that are tasked with reporting on suicide prevention in the school district. Ross also agreed that there seemed to be sufficient support within the community in regard to suicide prevention and he recommended closing this recommendation. He suggested that the executive committee regularly reexamine this issue however to ensure that any further prevention measures could be further explored.

Motion made by Misty Vaughn Allen, seconded by Stephanie Herrera, to recognize this item as complete but to continue to reexamine suicide prevention as an agenda item.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion returned to the tabled motion to approve funding proposals and recommend funding amounts for SFY 2021 child death prevention public awareness campaigns. Jessica made a summary sheet of funding proposal visible for everyone to see. This sheet included a brief summary of all of the funding requests, which all the committee members read. Sharon asked Jessica to clarify the exact total of the funding requested. Jessica stated that the exact total was $133,306.74. NyE Communities Coalition requested $19,584, Baby’s Bounty requested $25,000, Washoe County Human Services Agency requested $14,200, Renown requested $40,033, Nevada Medical Center requested $12,500 and the Crisis Support Center requested $21,989.74.

Motion made by Sharon Benson, seconded by Margarita De Santos, to approve the full amount of $133,306.74 and approve the full amount each agency requested.

UNANIMOUS VOICE ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

# 9. For Possible Action: Review and respond to 2019 Quarter 4, 2020 Quarter 1, and 2020 Quarter 2 summaries of regional CDR team statistics and recommendations and determine if these items need further discussion, ready for formal recommendation, or the item can be considered closed

# 2019 Quarter 4 – Washoe recommended adding dresser straps to their home safety kits. They were going to assist parents in requesting landlords/maintenance staff to install as well as partnering with local coalitions to help fund the purchase of the straps.

* 2020 Quarter 1 – No recommendations from the regional teams.
* 2020 Quarter 2 – No recommendations from the regional teams.

Dena Corritore reported that the 2019 Quarter 4 recommendation originated from the Washoe County bimonthly community death review and that she has been the coordinator of this team as of January of this year. She said that the team was able to make progress with the home safety kits. They are intended for families who’ve had reports of neglect and supervision issues of younger children and contain medical lockboxes, dresser/furniture straps, cabinet/door latches, cabinet locks, and window blinders. The Washoe team was able to obtain funding for these kits, specifically $3,000 for 150 kits to be put together. She stated that Washoe would keep 100 and provide SafeKids with 50 and that they would provide the kits to families as new reports come in. She stated that their human services support specialists would provide support assistance to help families utilize theses kits. They have recently finished obtaining all of the materials they need to construct these kits and are about to begin assembling them. Dawn Davidson asked if there are any other similar initiatives in other counties or within the state. Kathie McKenna reported that she hasn’t seen other similar initiatives or kits in Nye County or the Nevada Outreach Resource Center. Dawn asked the committee if anyone would be interested in implementing a similar program in any other parts of the state. Michelle Sandoval stated that the office of suicide prevention provided prescription safes approximately a year ago to families with anyone at risk throughout the state. She stated that these safety kits seemed very valuable in the rural area. Tim Burch from Clark County echoed this sentiment, reporting that his agency provides safety measures to his community as well, such as safety ladders, fire extinguishers, and items of a similar nature. He said that he was very interested in providing safety kits for the urban area as well. Dawn raised a point of interest regarding how to obtain funding for resources like this. Dena stated that the funding source was SafeKids and that the human services support specialists obtained the materials from stores such as Walmart and Lowes using the funding. Jessica stated that it was this executive committee that provided funding for the prescription safe boxes and asked whether the committee would like to provide additional funding for resources like these. Misty clarified that they received the safes as part of public awareness campaign that the committee voted on to work with public health providers. Jessica clarified that she was asking the committee if this was a topic that they wanted to research and fund in the near future, possibly the next funding cycle or the next fiscal year. Dena displayed an image of a safety kit so that the committee would have an idea of what a kit looked like. Margarita made a point of information regarding the number of families that could benefit from safety kits and an estimated cost of the kits. Jessica stated that it could get rather expensive. Vicki inquired how the safety kits would help prevent child death in relation to the highest causes of mortality and to focus funding on evidence based research. Due to a need for further discussion, this item remained on the agenda.

NO MOTION WAS MADE.

# 10. For Possible Action: Review and approve the 2017 Child Fatality Annual Report.

Jessica Freeman reported that this report provides statistics for child deaths that occurred in Nevada in 2017 and that it was distributed in July 2020 to committee members in order to request feedback. Margarita requested that the comment about drowning be removed from the document. Dawn stated that she agreed with removing the comment regarding recommendations and that it would be beneficial for the committee to incorporate some recommendations in future reports within sections in order to highlight prevention measures. Jessica suggested a separate section for recommendations in future reports and Dawn agreed that it would be useful. Jessica requested input on how to improve the functionality of the format of the report be sent to her.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE – fourth request to mute microphones if members were not currently speaking. Audio was difficult to understand.

Sharon and Dawn agreed that the functionality of the report should be improved and suggested that it could become an agenda item in future agendas. No further comments or questions.

Motion made by Yvette Wintermute, seconded by Sharon Benson, to finalize the comments and finalize the draft of the 2017 Child Fatality Annual Report.

UNANIMOUS VOICE ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

# 11. Final Public Comment

No comments.

# 12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.