

Joe Lombardo
Governor

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Director



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Cindy Pitlock, DNP
Administrator

Date: <DATE>

To: Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

From: Nevada Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children

Re: Committee Recommendation

The Nevada Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children (Executive Committee) was established in 1994 with the primary goal of preventing child maltreatment and child deaths in Nevada by making recommendations for law, policy and practice changes, staff training, and public education.

Recommendations are submitted to the Executive Committee by state regional multidisciplinary child death review teams. The following recommendation has been reviewed by the Executive Committee and is being respectfully submitted to the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) for consideration.

Hospitals and drug testing facilities begin testing for fentanyl as part of their standard drug testing panels

As fentanyl is becoming more prevalent in our state, there has been an increase in the number of children who have suffered a near-fatal or fatal event due to accidental ingestion of this substance. There is a significant delay in determining fentanyl ingestion as a cause of unresponsiveness in children which leads to incorrect medical treatment, inaccurate assessments, and/or ongoing safety issues. Furthermore, an opportunity to provide assistance and/or resources to the individual or family may be lost as a result. By routinely testing for fentanyl, medical providers can make more informed treatment plans and other community providers can make more informed safety decisions and provide accurate assessments for children and families.

The Executive Committee has already reached out to hospitals in the state encouraging them to begin testing for fentanyl as part of their standard drug testing panels. In addition, the Executive Committee has encouraged health care providers to become familiar with fentanyl educational materials so that they can talk to patients and their families about the dangers of fentanyl. The following links to educational materials were also provided to them.

- [Training/Education - Nevada State Opioid Response \(nvopioidresponse.org\)](https://nvopioidresponse.org/)
- [Resources - Nevada State Opioid Response \(nvopioidresponse.org\)](https://nvopioidresponse.org/)
- [THE FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/press/2017/s170614-fentanyl-facts.html)
- [Drug Fact Sheet: Fentanyl \(dea.gov\)](https://www.dea.gov/enforcement/education-prevention-outreach/drug-fact-sheets/drug-fact-sheet-fentanyl)
- [Heroin, Fentanyl & Other Opioids: A Comprehensive Resources for Families with a Teen or Young Adult Struggling with Opioid Use](https://www.familydrugabuse.com/fentanyl/fentanyl-heroin-other-opioids-a-comprehensive-resources-for-families-with-a-teen-or-young-adult-struggling-with-opioid-use/)

As your mission is to protect, promote and improve the physical and behavioral health of the people of Nevada, suggested potential action on this recommendation could include the following:

- Encouraging hospitals and drug testing facilities to implement this recommendation
- Developing and releasing a technical bulletin for hospitals and drug testing facilities on the topic of fentanyl and drug testing panels
- Putting forth local legislation similar to [Tyler's Law](#) in California
- Collaborating with the Executive Committee to implement this recommendation

The Executive Committee appreciates your consideration of this recommendation. Please contact Jessica Freeman at jfreeman@dcfs.nv.gov or 702-486-7711 to discuss how we can work together to prevent future child deaths in Nevada.

Respectfully,

The Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children