

— FINAL —

## MINUTES

*of the*

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

*held on*

**November 16, 2022**

*via teleconference*

Microsoft Teams

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDk2Nzk5ZDgtZTEzZC00MWU0LWE4MmQtOWJlMGEyMGRiOGMz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22647aa2df-c565-4e0e-861f-7de24ee069a2%22%7d)

[join/19%3ameeting\\_ZDk2Nzk5ZDgtZTEzZC00MWU0LWE4MmQtOWJlMGEyMGRiOGMz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22647aa2df-c565-4e0e-861f-7de24ee069a2%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDk2Nzk5ZDgtZTEzZC00MWU0LWE4MmQtOWJlMGEyMGRiOGMz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22647aa2df-c565-4e0e-861f-7de24ee069a2%22%7d)

Call-in (audio only): +1 775-321-6111, Extension: 283846425#

#### 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions

Stephanie Herrera called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. She reminded Executive Committee members that they need to inform a Chair of the Executive Committee or a DCFS administrator if they need to send a proxy or are unable to attend a meeting.

- Executive Committee members present:
  - Kathie McKenna, Pioneer Territory CASA;
  - Margarita DeSantos, SNHD;
  - Vickie S. Ives, DPBH – MCH;
  - Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ;
  - Jennifer Spencer, Attorney General’s Office;
  - Cindy Pitlock, DCFS;
  - Denise Tyre, Washoe County HSA;
  - Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety;
  - Brian Shoaf, Elko County;
  - Stephanie Herrera, DPBH - Vital Records;
  - Tim Burch, Clark County DFS;
  - Amber Howell, Washoe County HSA;
  - Lisa Sherych, DPBH;
  - Marla McDade Williams, HHS Director’s Office;
  - Richard Egan, proxy for Misty Vaughan Allen, DPBH – Suicide Prevention;
  - Christine Forsberg, proxy for Sheri McPartlin, CCSD
- Executive Committee members absent:
  - Nancy Saitta, Retired
  - Sgt. Laura Conklin, Reno Law Enforcement
  - Michelle Sandoval, DPBH - Rural Clinics
- Staff and guests:
  - Jessica Freeman, DCFS

- Dawn Davidson, NICRP
- Orjola Merkaj, NICRP
- Elyse Monroy Marcello, OD2A
- Maria Janos, DCFS
- Melinda Rhoades, SAFY
- Lea Case, Belz & Case Government Affairs in Reno

## **2. Initial Public Comment**

Cindy Pitlock made a comment about expanding testing in hospital settings to include fentanyl on a standard drug testing panel. She wants to educate everybody on the possible unintended consequences of fentanyl in the medical field. She explained that fentanyl is the go-to medication for pain management and labor in the epidural process. When the laboring mother or the infant tests positive for that drug, it can be from the medical procedure. However, she agrees that increasing drug testing is a worthy goal.

## **3. For Possible Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2022.**

- Approval of August 17, 2022 meeting minutes.

Stephanie Herrera asked the Executive Committee if they had any comments regarding the meeting minutes from August 17, 2022. No comments were made.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna, seconded by Vickie Ives, to approve the meeting minutes from August 17, 2022.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MARLA WILLIAM'S ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED.

## **4. For Information Only: Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)/ Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP) Child Death Review (CDR) updates.**

Jessica Freeman stated there are no updates.

## **5. For Information Only: Discuss the progress and approve the next steps of the HCQC Sub-Committee regarding the 2018 Recommendation.**

Jessica Freeman stated that the next item on the agenda was the 2018 Quarter 2 Recommendation. She provided the following updates. The HCQC Subcommittee met on 09/08/2022 and 11/03/2022. A survey has been distributed for feedback regarding the tip sheets. Unfortunately, only two individuals have completed the survey, which is not enough feedback to identify any gaps from using the tip sheet. The two survey respondents have not used the tips sheets yet, but both respondents think it would be helpful. Jessica stated the subcommittee is composed of doctors who are busy this season, so there is a temporary hiatus put in place. The team will reconvene in the spring and go over any feedback the team may have received. The doctors on the committee will continue to promote the tip sheets. The survey has been distributed throughout various medical networks at least twice. This survey has gone out to the monthly Nevada AAP Chapter's newsletter and it will be presented during the Pediatric Grand

Rounds at Renown in February. This survey is being advertised and the team is trying to get more feedback to determine the subcommittee's next steps.

The tip sheets are located here: <https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/CPS/ChildFatalities/>.

Marla McDade Williams made a statement that according to the meeting minutes from the last meeting, there was a barrier when it came to moving the survey forward with hospitals. Marla wants to sit down with Lisa Sherych and learn more about the barrier and how it relates to hospitals. She asked if the team has ever had a discussion with the Nevada Hospital Association. They might have a practice group to which the team can extend the survey. Jessica Freeman explained that the doctors who are on the subcommittee have presented it to the Nevada Hospital Association and there was positive feedback. Jessica extended an invitation to Marla to help contribute any of her ideas.

**6. For Possible Action: Discuss and approve the response letters and next steps for the below recommendations.**

- 2020 Quarter 4
  - Discuss and approve the response letters and next steps to the 2020 Quarter 4 Clark recommendation.
- 2021 Quarter 2
  - Update regarding Washoe CDR's recommendation for fentanyl becoming a part of standard hospital drug testing panels.
  - Discuss and approve next steps.
- 2021 Quarter 4
  - Washoe CDR recommends that a Public Service Announcement and community education be developed regarding minors operating ATVs.
  - Discuss and approve response letter and next steps.

Margarita DeSantos stated that the next agenda item was to discuss the 2020 Quarter 4 Clark Recommendation. As a reminder, the Executive Committee has been reviewing the recommendation from the Clark Regional CDR team regarding the removal of the need to obtain prior authorization for filling prescriptions of certain medications. The Executive Committee approved the closure of this recommendation at the August 17, 2022 meeting. This recommendation was listed as a legislative priority of the Nevada AAP Chapter. As a result, the closure letter needs to be approved.

Marla McDade Williams asked if a letter of support needs to be submitted to the AAP if they have legislation coming forward. Jessica Freeman stated they can, if the committee thinks that will be beneficial. Jessica asked Marla if they were to draft a letter of support, would the committee have time to submit and approve the letter by the end of the year, considering that the next meeting won't be until February 2023. Marla stated the team does have time, since we won't see legislation until mid-March. Denise Tyre stated the committee has been supportive of this for years and a letter would be a great way to continue this support. Jessica expressed the letter will be drafted and ready for review at the February meeting.

— FINAL —

MOTION: Made by Stephanie Herrera, seconded by Denise Tyre, to close the approval letters as written.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED. Jessica Freeman stated she will give a verbal update to the Clark team that a support letter will be drafted to AAP.

Margarita DeSantos stated that the next agenda item was the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe recommendation. She provided the following summary. The committee discussed findings that were presented at the August meeting and decided to reach out to hospitals to encourage adding fentanyl testing to their standard drug testing panel. The committee was shown a copy of the letter to hospitals that will need to be approved, a response to the Washoe Team with the action steps that the executive committee is taking, and the educational material referenced in the letters.

DISCUSSION: Vickie Ives wondered about the perinatal health initiative practitioner guides being additional resources for labor and delivery patients. If these two reference guides are listed in the bullet points that have been created around substance use, then that might be of value in framing any testing recommendation, standard of care, and best practices. Jessica Freeman agreed to add those two resources as bullet points if the committee would approve it first. This could potentially address the concern Dr. Pitlock mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. Denise Tyre agreed and Dr. Pitlock agreed.

MOTION: Made by Cindy Pitlock, seconded by Richard Eagan, to approve the letter with resources to hospitals in the state to encourage fentanyl testing in addition to the references.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Since the last meeting, a conversation with the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Committee regarding their public outreach has occurred. They have received a grant for messaging and did an assessment to see what the best media approach would be that would lead to the most behavior change. They also have fentanyl test strips to distribute. Additionally, they have gathered data on fentanyl use throughout the state and are here to present this information to the committee.

Elyse Monroe Marcello, program manager with the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program, spoke to the group and provided the following information. OD2A is Nevada's main source of CDC funding for overdose, mortality, and morbidity surveillance. They work in close partnership with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health office. The team focuses on dissemination and analysis of overdose data. Reports include monthly, biannual, quarterly, and special project reports. The team is working on increasing the amount of data that can be collected on the drug supply. They are hoping to do testing on returned open syringes and partner with hospitals on completing antemortem testing on fluids to test for fentanyl. Elyse presented a five-year data trend from 2017-2021. The statistics are as follows. Nonfatal drug overdoses are up 17%, and there was a steady increase between 2017 and 2021. In 2021, the highest rates of overdose (fatal and nonfatal) were among black, non-Hispanic males, ages 25-34. This reflected a 32% increase in fatal overdoses in 2017-2021. Almost 80% of decedent's had a potential opportunity of linkage to care in the 30 days prior to death, which means they were released from a jail or prison, a treatment facility, or a hospital. People are unintentionally dying by overdoses. Elyse mentioned they looked at Nevada's EMS transports for suspected non-fatal opioid overdoses between January 2021 and November 2021. The report was run in December 2021, and it showed Sunrise Hospital had the highest number of EMS transports of non-fatal opioid overdoses. This report was presented to Sunrise Hospital and the Hospital Association. Spring Valley hospital was the second

highest in non-fatal overdose transportations with 262 transports. The team put together individualized hospital profiles for Nevada's hospitals where they took their data, collected it, and compared it against the average for the state. The goal of this was to empower hospitals by demonstrating how frequent the individual overdose burden was in their facility. Elyse created a connection between data and burden, data that is tied to cost indicators, and program implementation.

Cindy Pitlock asked if they could filter by zip code to give the team strong data for intervention opportunities. Elyse Monroe Marcello stated they have been doing zip code level analysis now that they have access to the EMS data. As for the hospital reports, Elyse mentioned they can probably run them by zip code, but she does not know how helpful it is to look at it that way only because of how people arrive to the hospital and move across communities to get there. Elyse assured the team that they have started to put out zip code level reports. Lisa Sherych added on to Cindy Pitlock's question and thinks it would be useful to find out where the individual was picked up and why they went to that specific hospital, such as it might be the closest hospital for providing treatment. Elyse mentioned the EMS data is too new for them to be able to incorporate into their analysis. However, they are able to use the data now and are looking to run a report on the number of suspected overdoses in which EMS was called and the individual refused transport. She stated she will research why people are going to Sunrise Hospital to see if there is a correlation around the area regarding overdoses or if it is because there is nowhere else to go. Richard Egan announced he has looked at overdose death by zip codes and compared them to suicide rates in Las Vegas and let Elyse know he was available to talk about data with her. Lisa Sherych asked if toxicology reports show levels of Benadryl in the system and at what point does it tie to an overdose death. Lisa wanted to better understand the tolerance people have with Benadryl or similar drugs. Elyse does not have any information at the moment. She mentioned SUDORS (State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System) has a coding manual to help facilitate the process of data collection. The information is taken from the toxicology report, the death investigation, and medical records. There is a process on how the toxicology report is read and the medical examiner determines if the Benadryl is a contributing factor. Elyse let Lisa know she can get the information to her on how Benadryl is a contributing factor to death.

Next, Elyse presented data on overdose rates by hospitals. The average rate for opioid poisonings in the emergency room department was 10.9 visits per 100,000 visits. She mentioned her team did a profile for all the hospitals and states the lowest rates were in the Carson and Tahoe areas with 1.1 visits per 100,000 visits. Carson Valley showed 1.3 visits per 100,000 visits. The highest rate was in Lovelock with 19.1 visits per 100,000 visits. Saint Mary's Hospital is at 18.4 visits per 100,000 visits. UMC data showed that their hospital was below the average. Lisa Sherych expressed concern about Sunrise Hospital's data in this dataset because it looks like it is lower than what it should be, considering the data given previously on the EMS transports was higher. She was assured by Elyse that it is because this current data included walk-ins while the previous data was only for EMS transports. Desiree Mattice informed the team about the Pershing area. She described the entire town to be within walking distance from the hospital, which is right in the middle of town. Lisa was concerned that Pershing's numbers were high and asked if the numbers are proportionate to each other and if Pershing receives patients from other areas. Desiree Mattice was also curious about Lisa's comment. Marla McDade Williams was confused about the 100,000 rate considering that Pershing County doesn't include 100,000 people, but would be interested to know the demographics around that area. Elyse informed the team that the County level has a rate of 10,000. 100,000 is used for this data because it is both urban and rural. The standard process for the OD2A program is to calculate rates per 10,000. The reason a rate is used is that there needs to be a standard measure. Elyse presented data on inpatient visits which showed UMC has the highest rates for inpatient visits for opioid poisonings, which is almost double the state average. Sunrise

**— FINAL —**

Hospital showed below average rates for inpatient opioid visits. Elyse mentioned that hospital profiles also include data on plans of safe care to be developed on mom and infant when the infant is born substance exposed. DBPH is required to collect data on these plans of care, which is collected by OD2A on a system called Openbeds. Mountain View Hospital had the highest number of care plans between August 2021 and July 2022. Each of the hospital profiles include recommendations about their data, how much of the burden they're carrying, and the kind of programs they should be recommending. Elyse stated that the data are being shared with the hospitals before being presented publicly online. Elyse mentioned she will share the hospital profiles with Jessica Freeman, who will let the team know about these resources.

Marla commented she would like to leave the recommendation open in case the state would be able to help move this recommendation forward. Denise Tyre wants to know the hospitals' responses to this recommendation. Jessica Freeman suggested the team can follow up with an additional letter in February, ask for a response on the previous letter, or bring back a different letter to see if there was any feedback. Denise Tyre commented that any of those options would work. Cindy Pitlock agreed as well and is interested in the hospitals' responses.

MOTION: Made by Denise Tyre, seconded by Marla McDade Williams, to approve the first response letter and to send a follow-up letter in February asking for additional feedback, plans, and feedback on barriers.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Margarita DeSantos stated that the next agenda item was to discuss the recommendation regarding a public service announcement for minors operating ATVs by the Washoe Region. Members from the Nevada Off-Road Association, who assist with the facilitation of the OHV Commission, previously presented information to the committee about their role in promoting recreational off-road safety as well as their education and outreach efforts. Based on the information presented, the committee determined that a response letter, shown on the slide, to all CDR teams in the state with the NV Off-Road Association's information would be reviewed at today's meeting. A letter to the Washoe team is also displayed.

Lisa Sherych mentioned she reached out to the Department of Motor Vehicles a few months ago when this recommendation first came out and they referred her to the Off Highway Vehicle program coordinator through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. She stated she did not receive a response. The DMV's only helmet law requires helmets to be worn when off road vehicles are being operated on public highways. Lisa asked if there was any discussion on Nevada's interest in putting forth legislation to require helmets for off road vehicles. Jessica Freeman stated at the presentation, the Off Road Association discussed some of their barriers trying to push safety recommendation to legislation and they receive a lot of opposition.

Richard Egan commented that education is key when it comes to keeping kids and family members safe when riding off road. Many times, he believes the education is not happening. Richard stated that the team still has a lot of work to do when it comes to ATV safety. Denise Tyre seconded Richard's comment on ATV safety. Denise stated we should not close the recommendation and figure out the next steps. Jessica Freeman announced if anyone wanted to assist with any information regarding the recommendation to let the team know. Denise Tyre mentioned a certain license is needed to drive water vehicles, but not off-road vehicles. Cindy Pitlock stated that safety measures are embedded in

schools for seatbelts and helmets, she wonders if it would be possible to partner with someone in the Department of Education in guiding safety in off road vehicles.

MOTION: Made by Richard Egan, seconded by Brian Shoaf, to approve the response letter with the contact information and resources provided by Nevada Off Road.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

**7. For Possible Action: Review and respond to 2022 Quarter 2 summaries of regional CDR team statistics and recommendations and determine if these items need further discussion, ready for formal recommendations, or the item can be considered closed.**

- 2022 Quarter 2
  - Washoe CDR is recommending that local pediatricians provide safe sleep education as recommended by the AAP.
  - Washoe CDR is recommending adding state-specific statistics to Nevada Cribs for Kids brochures and literature.

Margarita DeSantos stated that during the August meeting, the team discussed the recommendation from the Washoe regional CDR team regarding pediatricians providing and discussing safe sleep education at each child visit up to the age of 1 year old. The committee composed a letter encouraging medical providers to do this.

Cindy Pitlock commented that from a clinical perspective, co-sleeping is tied to different cultures and she wondered if the team could incorporate some culturally based recommendations. Desiree Mattice agreed with Cindy's statement. Desiree stated that if the team does not recognize the cultural differences, people may disregard what the actual request is when it comes to co-sleeping training.

**8. For Possible Action: Review and respond to 2022 Quarter 3 recommendations from the Regional CDR teams.**

Margarita DeSantos stated there were no recommendations made to the Executive Committee during the last quarter.

**9. For Possible Action: Discuss, approve, and seek nominations and/or amendments to the bylaws for the upcoming election for the open co-chair position.**

Margarita DeSantos stated the next agenda item will be the recruitment efforts for the upcoming open co-chair position which has continued since the last meeting. A potential nominee from the Clark County CDR Team was found, and the nomination sub-committee met with this individual on November 10,

2022. During this meeting, the nomination sub-committee obtained information from the potential nominee. Based on the information obtained in that meeting, the nomination sub-committee nominates Melinda Rhodes for the open co-chair position.

Jessica Freeman mentioned Melinda is a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Nevada. Melinda is the clinical director who oversees the treatment and therapy at SAFY, which is a specialized foster home system. Melinda also works at Positively Kids in Clark County. She has served on the Clark County Regional team and provides feedback and insight on discussions.

Richard commended Melinda on her positive impact on suicide prevention in foster care youth across Clark County.

MOTION: Made by Denise Tyre, seconded by Stephanie Herrera, to approve the nomination and election of Melinda Rhodes for the open co-chair position.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

**10. For Possible Action: Begin developing the Executive Committee's recommendations for the 2023 annual Citizen's Review Panel report based on topics discussed/trends seen over the past year.**

Stephanie Herrera stated that each year the Executive Committee makes recommendations as a CRP to DCFS to improve practice. The recommendations are drafted and submitted in the annual CRP report, which is normally submitted in May. Once submitted, DCFS administration reviews the report and determines how to respond to the recommendations. Last year, the Executive Committee submitted two recommendations. This year, the EC has been discussing recommendations surrounding the general public's knowledge of safe sleep, the dangers of fentanyl, and off-road vehicle safety. Additionally, it was discovered that the proper way to submit recommendations for potential legislation is through the EC annual report.

Jessica Freeman commented that the team can make recommendations based on what was talked about during this meeting. She recommended directing the annual report to the administrators in DCFS and DHHS to see if the team can get some recommendations into legislation that way. She asked the team if they would want to come up with recommendations at the current meeting or wait until the February meeting. The team decided to draft recommendations for the February meeting. Jessica asked the committee for two to three volunteers to help with the recommendations. Denise Tyre, Vickie Ives, and Richard Egan agreed to help with the recommendations. The team agreed to add suicide prevention and prescriptions for mental health, alongside safe sleep, dangers of fentanyl, and off-road vehicle safety to the list of recommendations.

MOTION: Made by Richard Egan, second by Margarita DeSantos, to approve the recommendation topics as discussed.

## **11. For Information Only: Review budget and application for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 Public Awareness Funding.**

Stephanie Herrera stated the committee was asked to go over the Review of Death of Children account twice a year. This is in preparation for the sub-award process. Stephanie stated that Jessica Freeman met with the DCFS Fiscal Team to go over the status of the budget of the Review of Death of Children Account so that the committee can determine the amount of funding that can be awarded for the SFY2024 Sub-awards. Jessica Freeman stated the reserve was approved in February and March of 2022 for \$100,000. She commented that in the last couple of years, they spent down the reserves so that more could be awarded while still maintaining the budget. Jessica explained the beginning budget of this fiscal year from July 01, 2022 to June 30, 2023 was \$285,215 which was balanced forward. There were three recipients who did not use all of their funding. The Children's Cabinet spent only 63%, Nye County Coalitions spent 92%, and Suicide Prevention spent 89% of their funding. A draft of the Notice of Funding of State Applications for SFY24 with proposed revisions was attached to the meeting invitation email. Jessica informed the committee that if they had any revisions to let her know now or wait until the February meeting.

Vickie Ives asked if the team can have an equity call out or standardized templates to tell the story of outreach from funded partners. She stated, "we saw disparities across mortality categories and this might be an opportunity to ensure funded partners have a component on that." Jessica Freeman stated there is a part in the application process where it talks about the targeted population and a caveat can be added about an equity call out or providing services to disproportionate populations. Denise Tyre asked if there is merit to having a conversation around the funding priorities for suicide, safe sleep, and injury prevention. Jessica commented saying the priority topics will be discussed in February.

## **12. For Information Only: Top four manner/causes of death in Children in NV.**

Stephanie Herrera presented the following statistics. In 2021, 16 male youths and 6 female youths died from suicide in Nevada. In 2022, 9 males and 2 females died from suicide. 2022 data are preliminary and are subject to change. Desiree Mattice asked if it would be possible to get a breakdown of the suicide rates by month. Stephanie assured her she will get those and present it to the committee.

## **13. For Possible Action: Review and approve the 2023 Meeting Dates.**

Stephanie Herrera proposed that the team meets on:

- February 15, 2023
- May 17, 2023
- August 16, 2023
- November 15, 2023

MOTION: Made by Richard Egan, seconded by Cindy Pitlock, to approve the dates as discussed.

## **14. Final Public Comment**

No public comments made.

## **15. Adjournment**

It was stated by Stephanie Herrera that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on February 15, 2023 at 10AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.