

**MINUTES**  
*of the*  
**NEVADA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE DEATH OF  
CHILDREN CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATION SUB-  
COMMITTEE**

*held on*  
**January 09, 2023**

via Microsoft Teams

[Meeting Link](#)

Call-in number: 1(775) 321-6111; Extension: 905495351#

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum**

Melinda Rhoades called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

Sub-committee members present

- Denise Tyre, Human Services at Washoe County
- Vicki S. Ives, DPBH – MCH
- Melinda Rhoades, Southern Nevada Health District

Staff and Guests:

- Vanessa Dunn, Belz & Case Government Affairs
- Dawn Davidson, NICRP
- Orjola Merkaj, NICRP
- Dylan Nall, DCFS
- Jessica Freeman, DCFS
- Richard Egan, Office of Suicide Prevention

**2. Public Comment and Discussion**

No comments.

**3. For Possible Action: Discuss and write recommendations for the 2023 Annual Citizens Review Panel Report to be presented and considered by the Executive Committee**

Jessica Freeman began by explaining that, as a review panel, the Executive Committee (EC) makes recommendations to the Division of Child Family Services (DCFS) with ways to improve their practice. The topic areas for recommendations that have been discussed by the EC include: safe sleep, suicide, ATV safety, fentanyl, medication for mental health, and the annual report. The annual report is not directed toward anyone in particular, but the team wants to start directing it toward DCFS. This is so the team is able to make recommendations for legislation or for legislative change. Jessica asked the sub-committee which topic they want to cover first out of ATV safety, fentanyl, and medication for mental health. Denise Tyre suggested we narrow down the recommendations for those topics that have been prioritized versus the ones that have not been given much attention. Jessica stated that in the last two years, the team focused on suicide prevention, safe sleep, water safety, and general violence.

Denise Tyre asked if there is any data to track the number of deaths for safe sleep, suicide, ATV safety, fentanyl, and medication for mental health. Jessica stated there is no recent data to present, and that the most recent numbers are from 2020. Richard Egan commented that suicide death rates are up to date since the Child Death Review team tracks the suicide rates on each monthly agenda. He also mentioned he looks at suicide data trends every 15 days.

Melinda Rhoades stated that she has been noticing trends during the meetings pertaining to suicide, fentanyl, and safe sleep. Specifically, she has noticed that the adults taking care of these children have experienced developmental and emotional trauma. Melinda indicated that it would be helpful to educate the public about childhood trauma to make sure the children grow up with a healthy mindset. Jessica agreed with Melinda on finding ways to educate or train on ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences). Jessica asked Dylan Nall if her team mandates ACEs training. Dylan responded that there is no training pertaining to ACEs, it is just a discussion. Jessica asked Denise Tyre if her team mandates ACEs training. Denise indicated that they do not.

Jessica presented a list of recommendations the group can discuss as a guide to get started. She stated that if the team wanted to address more of the underlying needs, the team can or they can make simple recommendations. Jessica stated an example such as, "it is recommended that DCFS continue to research or address these topics and conversations and develop ways to support them." Vickie Ives asked if there was anything in the statute that would allow the team to suggest a BDR and if there is any statutory language that needed to be used. Jessica indicated that the EC tried to make a legislative recommendation earlier this year and she was informed by the Director's Office that the EC does not have the legislative authority to do so. Statute indicates that the team can make recommendations through the annual report.

Even though there are recommendations in the annual report that were taken to the EC meetings, the report is not directed towards anyone in particular, it is for the general public. Vickie Ives commented that Jessica's discussion was helpful and answered her previous question. She mentioned she did the Maternal Mortality Review Report and it includes a summary of all of her team's recommendations. Her team made sure the recommendations were achievable in order to meet their goals and expectations. She asked when the next Child Death Review Report gets published. Jessica reported that her goal is to get the 2020 report on February's agenda for the EC to review and approve.

Jessica presented the following: "It is recommended that DCFS Administration review and respond to the Executive Committee's Annual Child Fatality report to determine if there are specific recommendations in the report that need to be considered for presentation to upcoming legislative sessions for regulatory or policy changes, per statute." Vickie Ives commented that the issue with

Jessica's recommendation is that there is a timeline by which they can put forward their recommendations to the Governor's office and the time has passed. Jessica stated they were not going to get anything submitted for this session, but it will be for the next one.

Jessica went back to present the following: "It is recommended that DCFS Administration review and respond to the Executive Committee's Annual Child Fatality report to determine if there are specific recommendations in the report that need to be considered for presentation to upcoming legislative sessions for regulatory or policy changes, per NRS 432B.409." Jessica asked the team if anyone had any comments regarding the statement. She also proposed that she and Dawn Davidson work on the recommendations offline and have a draft ready for February's meeting unless the group wanted to continue to work on them during the current meeting.

Jessica reviewed the list of topics for the recommendations: safe sleep, suicide, ATV safety, fentanyl, and medication for mental health. She crossed off ATV safety and fentanyl since it has been covered. Denise Tyre commented saying that Washoe County does not have any numbers to support the recommendation regarding medication for mental health. Jessica stated if the sub-committee also feels like if they don't have the data, then the team will move on and it will be a topic at the February meeting. Richard Egan agreed with Jessica that the recommendations still have no direction. He stated he doesn't see any recommendations on any policy improvements as of yet due to the lack of specifics on what the team can improve regarding policy and regulatory change. Richard's observation was that it looks like the team is focusing on medication in general rather than mental health medication. Jessica stated that they will bring this recommendation to the February EC meeting for the team to discuss further on removing the focus on mental health medication and focus more on all sorts of medications.

Jessica recapped that the sub-committee is going to make three recommendations to the at-large committee addressing the topics that have been discussed such as the dangers of fentanyl and ATV safety. There will also be a recommendation about addressing childhood trauma.

Jessica asked the sub-committee if they are okay with her and Dawn working on the recommendations outside of this meeting or if the team would want to work on it during the remainder of the current meeting. The recommendations will be ready to be presented in February. The team agreed that they would like for Jessica and Dawn to work on the recommendations offline.

Melinda Rhoades requested a motion to approve that Dawn and Jessica work offline on the recommendations and present them at the February meeting of the Executive Committee.

MOTION: Made by Denise Tyre, seconded by Vickie Ives to approve that Dawn and Jessica work offline on the recommendations and present them at the February meeting of the Executive Committee.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED

#### **4. Final Public Comment and Discussion**

No comments.

#### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 AM.