

**MINUTES**  
*of the*  
**Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children Meeting**  
*held on*

**February 15, 2023**

*via teleconference*

Microsoft Teams

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_Y2QwYWE0MTetN2IxOC00ZTE5LWJiNzAtMzI0M2ViODM0OTk1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%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_Y2QwYWE0MTetN2IxOC00ZTE5LWJiNzAtMzI0M2ViODM0OTk1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%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: 141966438#

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

Melinda Rhoades 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
  - Vickie S. Ives, DPBH-MCH
  - Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ
  - Jennifer Spencer, Office of AG
  - Cindy Pitlock, DCFS
  - Denise Tyre, Washoe County HAS
  - Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety
  - Melinda Rhoades, SAFY
  - Stephanie Herrera, DPBH – Vital Records
  - Lisa Sherych, DPBH
  - Marla McDade Williams, HHS Director's Office
  - Misty Vaughan Allen, DPBH – Suicide Prevention
  - Sheri McPartlin, CCSD
  - Jorge Montano-Figueroa, Safe Kids
  - Sgt. Laura Conklin, Reno Law Enforcement
- Executive Committee members absent:
  - Michelle Sandoval, DPBH – Rural Clinics
  - Brian Shoaf, Elko County Sheriff's Office
  - Tim Burch, Clark County DFS
  - Amber Howell, Clark County HAS

- Staff and guests:
  - Jessica Freeman, DCFS
  - Amanda Haboush-Deloye, NICRP
  - Dawn Davidson, NICRP
  - Orjola Merkaj, NICRP
  - Maria Janos, DCFS
  - Lea Case, Belz & Case Government Affairs in Reno
  - Dylan Nall, DCFS
  - Meagan Soracco, DCFS
  - Sierra Crandall, UNR

## **2. Public Comment and Discussion**

Amanda Haboush-Deloye introduced herself as the Executive Director from the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP), along with Prevent Child Abuse Nevada. She stated that she or someone from her team will be attending these meetings to determine if there is anything her team can do regarding any child maltreatment prevention efforts.

## **3. For Possible Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2022.**

Melinda Rhoades asked the Executive Committee if they had any comments regarding the meeting minutes from November 16, 2022. No comments were made.

MOTION: Made by Jennifer Spencer, seconded by Sheri McPartlin, to approve the meeting minutes from November 16, 2022.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MISTY ALLEN 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 Updates.**

Jessica Freeman stated there are no updates.

## **5. For Information Only: Discuss the progress of the HCQC Sub-Committee regarding the 2018 Quarter 2 recommendation that hospitals should adopt a consistent internal policy for assessment of children when they present with suspicious or serious injuries and approve the subcommittee's next steps.**

Jessica Freeman stated that the HCQC Sub-Committee has not convened since the last Executive Committee Meeting. Jessica mentioned that the Sub-Committee presented the tip sheets at the

Pediatric Grand Rounds in Reno on 02/08/2023. Jessica asked if anyone had any questions, there were none.

**6. For Possible Action: Review and approve the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) Subcommittee's proposals for the Executive Committee's recommendations for the 2023 Annual Citizen's Review Panel Report.**

Melinda Rhoades stated that each year the Executive Committee makes recommendations as a CRP to DCFS to improve practice. These recommendations are based on the discussions that the committee has during the year. 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. At the November 2022 meeting, the committee decided to form a sub-committee to draft recommendations based on the following topics: safe-sleep, educating the public on the dangers of fentanyl, promoting ATV safety for minors, suicide prevention, and enhancing the functions of the annual report. The sub-committee met on January 9, 2023 and drafted the recommendations.

Jessica Freeman stated that the recommendations would be included in the CRP report that is addressed to DCFS and that they can respond to or reject any of them. The first recommendation was shown on the screen and is below.

*It is recommended that DCFS continue to collaborate with statewide organizations, including but not limited to, DPBH, Hospital Association, and the Statewide Overdose Data to Action Team, to address the ongoing concerns of fentanyl related overdoses and accidental ingestions by: providing education to the families we serve about the dangers of fentanyl; staying informed about the resources provided by the Statewide Overdose Data to Action Team.*

Marla McDade Williams asked why the recommendations are directed toward DCFS. She mentioned that the Department of Public Behavioral Health (DPBH) is responsible for the education of substance abuse and that DCFS has nothing to do with that. Jessica Freeman responded with letting the committee know that they have the opportunity to make changes and suggestions to these recommendations. Marla stated she doesn't want to move forward with the recommendation without Dr. Cindy Pitlock's input. Amanda Haboush-Deloye commented that she believes it would be important for DCFS to be involved along with DPBH because DCFS is advocating to be the authority for mental health.

Next, the recommendation about off-road vehicles was shown to the group and is below.

*It is recommended that DCFS continue to collaborate with statewide organizations, to include but not limited to, DPBH, and Nevada Off-Road Association, to address the ongoing concerns of off-road vehicle accidents involving minors by: providing education to the families we serve about the importance of proper off-road vehicle safety; partnering with the Nevada Outdoor School to facilitate safety training.*

After this recommendation was presented to the group, Jorge Montano-Figueroa introduced himself as the Injury Prevention Specialist at Renown Health and the Safe Kids Washoe County Coordinator. Jorge presented to the Executive Committee issues that are associated with OHVs

(off-highway vehicles). He presented to the committee statistics regarding data from 2021 on OHV crashes for those under the age of 18. He mentioned those that were un-helmeted were almost twice as severely injured compared to those who wore helmets. Jorge informed the team that he looks at the ISS (Injury Severity Score) which indicates the severity of the injuries. Jorge asked the Executive Committee if they had any questions. Lisa Sherych asked if there were data that showed the age of the children who were injured in OHV crashes. Jorge presented on the screen the average ages along with the average ISS for helmeted and un-helmeted individuals under the age of 18. Desiree Mattice asked Jorge if his team receives information on the skill level of the individuals driving or riding these OHVs. He stated that mostly everyone thinks that because it is a quad vehicle, it has more stability, but that is not the case. He mentioned that most of the vehicles that the children are driving are meant for adults, but kids still drive them. Jorge mentioned that his team got approved to start distributing youth helmets to kids. He mentioned that he is working with the Nevada Outdoor School because of the curriculum they offer on how to ride off-road safely. Lisa Sherych asked if there were programs that refurbish helmets. Jorge answered by stating helmets have expiration dates and the history of the helmet has to be known. He wants to start asking or partnering with manufacturers on trading in or recycling helmets.

Next, the recommendation about providing training to the child welfare workforce was shown to the group and is below.

*It is recommended that DCFS provide training to the child welfare workforce and partner agencies, including, but not limited to, CASA, CAP Attorneys, and other court professionals on: understanding the impacts of childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on parental behavior; and understanding how childhood trauma and ACEs may negatively affect parent's ability to safety care for their child(ren).*

Jessica Freeman stated that this recommendation has been completed. There was a resource guide that came out regarding ACEs training that is waiting to be shared with everyone.

Next, the recommendation (shown below) about DCFS reviewing the recommendation on the annual report was shown to the group.

*It is recommended that DCFS Administration review each recommendation detailed in the Executive Committee's Annual Child Fatality report and respond with:*

- 1. Details regarding any opportunities for regulatory and policy change per NRS 432B.409;*
- 2. Guidance on additional actions that the Executive Committee could take on the recommendation; or*
- 3. Acknowledgement that the action taken by the Executive Committee was sufficient.*

Jessica Freeman stated that the Executive Committee has the ability to make recommendations for policy and practice change, but it needs to be completed through the annual report. She mentioned that the current annual report is not directed towards anyone in particular and does not give any room for responses. Marla McDade Williams stated that if something needs to be changed in the statute, then the team needs to have a conversation regarding the changes, and move forward to the legislative session. Marla commented that if the team has the authority to make a regulatory change, then to do so. Jessica stated this recommendation is not needed if it

doesn't have to go through the annual report. Jessica asked the Executive Committee if they wanted to drop this current recommendation and move on with the first three.

MOTION: Made by Marla McDade Williams, seconded by Kathie McKenna to adopt three out of the four recommendations as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

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

- 2020 Quarter 4
  - Discuss and determine next steps Clark CDR's recommendation for the removal of prior authorization when filling certain medications relating to mental or physical health.
- 2021 Quarter 2
  - Discuss and determine the next steps regarding Washoe CDR's recommendation for fentanyl becoming a part of standard hospital drug testing panels.
- 2021 Quarter 4
  - Discuss and determine the next steps regarding Washoe CDR's recommendation that a Public Service Announcement and community education be developed regarding minors operating ATV's.
- 2022 Quarter 2
  - Review response letter and determine the next steps regarding Washoe CDR's recommendation that local pediatricians provide safe sleep education as recommended by the AAP and adding state-specific statistics to Nevada Cribs for Kids.

Stephanie Herrera stated that the Executive Committee has been reviewing the 2020 Quarter 4 recommendation from the Clark Regional CDR team regarding the removal of the need to obtain prior authorization for filling prescriptions of certain medications.

This recommendation was approved for closure during the August 2022 meeting as it was listed as a priority recommendation to legislation from the NV AAP chapter. At the November 2022 meeting, the Executive Committee approved the closure letter to the Clark CDR team regarding this recommendation. At that time, the team discussed writing a letter of support to the NV AAP chapter and presenting it at today's meeting. However, it was discovered that while it was originally on the NV AAP's list of legislative priorities, it

did not make the final cut as it was determined there were other topics that took priority (gun safety, tobacco use, and continuous insurance for all kids).

The committee was asked if they felt that there were additional steps that can be taken to advance this recommendation. Does the committee feel that the past attempts were sufficient and the recommendation can remain closed?

Desiree Mattice stated that she is not opposed to exploring this recommendation further and it should not be dismissed. Stephanie asked the Executive Committee who would be able to assist on coming up with ideas to advance this recommendation. Lea Case stated that she is a contract lobbyist representing the Nevada Psychiatric Association and the National Alliance on Mental Illness Nevada Chapter. She mentioned that she can take this recommendation to them to see if they would want to move forward with it with regard to mental health medications. Sheri McPartlin stated that the physical health is too broad and should be narrowed down to specific physical health problems. She suggested that the team discuss this with Medicaid and Medicare and suggest making it the standard of care. Jessica Freeman stated that the EC sent out a letter encouraging this recommendation to the Nevada Board of Pharmacy, the Insurance Commissioner, and Medicaid. She stated that the only response that was received was from the Insurance Commissioner in February 2022. She reminded the EC that they also drafted a letter to send to one of the health committees in legislation, but that did not get approved to send.

MOTION: Made by Sheri McPartlin, seconded by Laura Conklin to approve re-opening the recommendation as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Stephanie Herrera stated that with regard to the 2021 Quarter 2 recommendation from Washoe's CDR, the committee approved the letters to hospitals encouraging them to add testing for fentanyl to their standard drug test panels. The letters were approved and sent. As a result of the letters, there was a brief news story by Fox5 that highlighted the committee's recommendation. The link to the news article was shared with the committee members via email on January 5th. There was discussion during the November meeting about sending follow up letters to the hospitals asking if they had plans to implement this recommendation or what, if any, barriers were found potentially preventing the implementation of this recommendation. However, Stephanie asked if a better approach would be to send a letter to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) encouraging the implementation of this recommendation, releasing a technical bulletin, and/or putting forth a recommendation to legislation similar to Tyler's Law in California? As DPBH is the public health state agency, this may be the best agency to ask these questions and make the additional recommendations as opposed to our committee. A letter could include all of the educational resources that were provided in the last letter as well. It could also include some of the information received from the Overdose Data to Action team with regard to the hospital profiles, as tying the recommendation to hospital data may strengthen the case.

Desiree Mattice stated she would like to take this to DPBH so that efforts are not being duplicated. If DPBH has a similar recommendation, it shows that the Executive Committee is collaborative and supportive of the recommendation. Jessica Freeman stated the letters

of recommendation that the Executive Committee draft are only from the committee. Jessica also stated that the Executive Committee cannot send letters to agencies asking why the recommendation did or did not get implemented.

Stephanie Herrera asked the Executive Committee if anyone would like to bring back the letters for the next meeting for DPBH and for the hospitals. Denise Tyre made the statement that she thinks that it would be the best course of action.

MOTION: Made by Denise Tyre, seconded by Laura Conklin to approve the next steps as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Next, Stephanie Herrera began the discussion about the 2021 Quarter 4 Washoe CDR's recommendation. She stated that, at the last meeting, the committee approved letters that were sent to all of the CDR teams about the NV Off-Road Association's safety courses. The committee also voted to keep the recommendation open to explore further opportunities, including potentially partnering with schools to promote off-road vehicle safety. She asked the EC what further action they wanted to take regarding this recommendation.

Denise Tyre asked if this would be listed as a priority when discussing child death funds for the next fiscal year. Jessica Freeman stated that they have not decided on the funding priorities yet. Denise stated that this recommendation should be brought back to the Regional CDR teams based on the fact that ATV/UTV usage is varied depending on the region.

Stephanie Herrera asked the committee if they are ready to close the recommendation. Desiree Mattice asked, if the committee were to keep the recommendation open what would the committee be looking for and how would that look? Jessica Freeman stated that the team can provide updates at meetings, extend the meeting invite to the Nevada Outdoor School or the Off-Highway Commission, or get into the specifics on what the EC wants to do with this recommendation. Misty Allen stated that she would want to monitor and have updates on a regular basis on the statistics. Jorge Montano-Figueroa stated that he will have the 2022 data for off-highway vehicle crashes and injuries by the next meeting in May to compare and contrast the trends.

MOTION: Made by Misty Allen, seconded by Jennifer Spencer to continue to monitor the recommendation as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Next, Stephanie Herrera began the discussion about the 2022 Quarter 2 Washoe CDR recommendation. She stated that at the November meeting, the committee wanted to include culturally based recommendations to the response letter before sending. This information has been added, and the letter is shown on the screen. Jessica Freeman stated that it was difficult to find the information that the committee asked to include. The letter included updates that referenced materials on languages, different races/ethnicities, and generational differences. The letter also included links to the websites with resources regarding safe sleep. Amanda Haboush-Deloye stated that it is important to address everyone's concerns and come up with strategies

that are fit for the family while also keeping the infant safe. Jessica mentioned that the recommendation includes links to REMSA and Baby's Bounty for individuals that need access to a safe sleep environment.

MOTION: Made by Denise Tyre, seconded by Kathy McKenna to approve the letter on the screen along with the links.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Next, Stephanie Herrera asked the EC if they feel that the previously discussed recommendation can be closed. Denise Tyre stated that no further action is needed and can be closed.

MOTION: Made by Denise Tyre, seconded by Laura Conklin to approve to close the recommendation.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

**8. For Possible Action: Review and respond to the 2022 Q4 summaries of regional CDR team statistics and recommendations to determine if these items need further discussion, if ready for formal recommendations, or if the item can be considered closed.**

This item was tabled and will be placed on the May agenda.

**9. For Possible Action: Review, discuss, and approve parameters for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 Public Awareness Funding.**

Stephanie Herrera stated that the Notice of Funding Application was attached to the meeting invitation and needs the approval of the Executive Committee. Stephanie stated that the application has been updated based on previous suggestions from the EC. These updates to the application were shown on the screen.

Once the application is approved, the committee will need to approve the timeline of the application process and the funding amount/areas of focus.

The proposed timeline was shown on the screen and included the following:

- The application will be released March 1, 2023.
- The deadline for applications to be received will be April 28, 2023.
- The sub-committee, which will be determined today, will meet in the month of May to review the applications to propose funding amounts to the larger committee.
- A special meeting will be held in June for the EC to vote on funding



recommendations.

- Approved funding amounts will be provided to applicants by July 1, 2023.

Stephanie stated that the EC will need to decide if they want to focus on particular prevention areas or if they want to open it up to be broader. For example, last year the committee decided to focus on the areas of suicide prevention, safe sleep, and injury prevention. In prior years, the areas included suicide prevention, safe sleep, drowning prevention, and other preventative efforts.

Stephanie asked the EC for volunteers for the Sub-Committee that will be meeting in May. Kathie McKenna, Misty Allen, Denise Tyre, and Sheri McPartlin volunteered to be a part of the Sub-Committee. Stephanie stated that a meeting will be held in June for the EC to vote on the funding recommendations.

Stephanie stated that the primary areas of prevention also need to be determined. She asked the EC if there were any areas that anyone wanted to look at. Sheri McPartlin recommended that the team look at mental health and suicide prevention. Jessica Freeman stated that the team can mimic last year's primary areas such as mental health, suicide prevention, and injury prevention. Desiree Mattice agreed with Jessica on keeping it broad.

Stephanie stated that they need to determine the total amount that will be awarded and it will need to be approved. It is projected that the committee will be able to award \$150,000, with the possibility of going up to \$175,000, but we will not know until it gets closer to the fiscal year. Jessica Freeman stated that legislation has to approve the budget first. She stated that the projection is based off of last year and it can fluctuate. Denise Tyre asked Jessica Freeman to summarize the areas of focus. Jessica replied that the areas of focus are suicide prevention, mental health, and injury prevention. Denise Tyre indicated that she is worried that these topics are too specific and that not every issue would be accounted for such as safe sleep. She mentioned that it is important that the team covers all related deaths without being too specific on the categories and reduce deaths all across the board. Jessica commented that they can go about it by stating applicants can focus on areas such as mental health and suicide prevention. While also including the promotion of safe sleep environments and injury prevention, but it is not limited to those areas. Misty Allen stated that since the funding is not a big amount, she suggested the focus be on the access to lethal means and that would impact overdoses, firearms, suicides, and homicides. Jessica asked the EC if they want to include everything discussed such as mental health, suicide prevention, access to lethal means, safe sleep, injury prevention, but not limit it to those areas. Denise and Stephanie agreed with Jessica.

MOTION: Made by Misty Allen, seconded by Sherri McPartlin to approve the application, the timeline, the subcommittee members, the funding areas, and the funding amount as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

**10. For Possible Action: Review and approve the 2020 Child Fatality Annual Report.**

Melinda Rhoades stated that the 2020 Annual Child Fatality Report is complete and was attached to the meeting invitation for review. She asked the EC if they had any questions, comments, concerns, or if they feel that edits are needed. Marla McDade Williams asked if the Office of Analytics looked at the numbers. Jessica Freeman stated that they work with the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP) and the numbers come from the database that has all of CDR's regional information inputted. NICRP is responsible for looking at the data, cleaning up the data, and creating the report based off the numbers from the database. Marla stated that she recommends citing the source of who pulled the data and have an internal discussion with the Office of Analytics about future reports. Kathie McKenna stated that it would be helpful to see the disparity information included on what the population distribution and disparity ratios are. Jessica Freeman asked if having a conversation with the Office of Analytics and adding the population to highlight the disparities would be useful for this report or if it should be added in the 2021 report. She mentioned that if the EC wants to add it on the 2020 report, it will not be added today. Jessica stated that it can delay the 2020 report by three years instead of two years and also there is a possibility of the 2021 report being delayed. She mentioned that the report can also be delayed by not having all of the deaths at the regional team reviewed. Misty asked if the report can be approved and add an amendment with the health disparities information later on. Desiree Mattice suggested that the 2021 report show the difference in the disparities from this year into the next year. Misty and Jessica agreed with Desiree's recommendation.

MOTION: Made by Desiree Mattice, seconded by Misty Allen to approve the 2020 Child Fatality Report as written.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

**11. For Information Only: Top four manners/causes of death in children in NV**

Stephanie Herrera presented data that were shown on the screen regarding the number of 2022 Youth Suicides between the ages of 0-17 in Nevada. She stated that data are preliminary and are subject to change. The data are provided by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Analytics. The data that was presented was as follows: 14 male suicides, 3 female suicides, with a total of 17 youth suicides for 2022.

**12. Final Public Comment and Discussion**

Amanda Haboush-Deloye stated that NICRP is hosting Children's Week at the Legislature on March 13-16. NICRP is providing education and updates to legislators about different issues impacting children. She mentioned that Prevent Child Abuse Nevada will be having their annual conference in Southern Nevada on June 13, 2023 and the location is unknown at the time.

**13. Adjournment**

— **DRAFT** —

It was stated by Stephanie Herrera that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on May 17, 2023 at 10AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

DRAFT