

— DRAFT —

# MINUTES

*of the*

## Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children Meeting

*held on*

**May 19, 2021**

Microsoft Teams Platform

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Call-in number: 1(775) 321-6111; Extension: 603-222-633#

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

Stephanie Herrera called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

Executive Committee members present:

- Megan Freeman, DCFS
- Stephanie Herrera, DPBH - Vital Records
- Vickie Ives, DPBH - MCH
- Kathie McKenna, Pioneer Territory CASA
- Lisa Sherych, DPBH
- Sharon Benson, Office of AG
- Misty Vaughn Allen, DPBH - Suicide Prevention
- Tim Burch, Clark County DFS
- Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety
- Sheri McPartlin, CCSD
- Nick Czegledi, Elko County Sheriff's Office

Executive Committee members absent:

- Beth Handler, HHS Director's Office
- Amber Howell, Washoe County HSA
- Breanna Jenkins, Renown
- Nancy Saitta, Retired
- Margarita De Santos, SNHD
- Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ
- Ross Armstrong, DCFS
- Jessica Rogers, Las Vegas Metro Police Department
- Michelle Sandoval, DPBH - Rural Clinics

Staff and guests:

- Jessica Freeman, DCFS
- Dawn Davidson, NICRP
- Elizabeth Holka, NICRP
- Beth Slamowitz, Pharmacy at Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
- Kagan Griffin, MC epidemiologist
- Jennifer Spencer, Office of the Attorney General
- Dr. Jeremy Matuszak, NV Psychiatric Association

## 2. Initial Public Comment

No comments.

## 3. For Possible Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2021.

- Approval of February 17, 2021 meeting minutes.

No discussion or comments.

MOTION: Made by Misty Allen, seconded by Kathie McKenna, to approve the February 17, 2021 meeting minutes.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

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

- Western Region and National CFRP Updates
- Sudden Death of the Young (SDY) Program

Jessica Freeman stated that there were no updates on the Western Region, but that the National CFRP had recently updated its questionnaire to include a section that captures data regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has affected cases. Jessica also provided an update about the SDY Program. In March, a reverse site visit was held that featured guest speakers from participating agencies that discussed topics such as strategies, how to improve data quality, and prevention initiatives that have been implemented in other jurisdictions. Health inequity was the topic of several presentations, as the current public health crisis has brought long held health access disparities into public view. The majority of the presentations are available on video, and Jessica stated that if anyone was interested in accessing them, they could reach out to Candace Caterer at [Candace.Caterer@clarkcountynv.gov](mailto:Candace.Caterer@clarkcountynv.gov) for the links. Dawn L Davidson also added that there were no updates from NICRP.

## 5. For Possible Action: Discuss and approve response the next steps for the 2018 Quarter 2 Clark Recommendation.

- 2018 Quarter 2 hospitals should adopt a consistent internal policy for assessment of children when they present with suspicious or serious injuries.
- Response from the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC) - They would like to collaborate and have suggested that the Executive Committee reach out to the hospital association.

Stephanie Herrera reminded the Executive Committee that the 2018 Quarter 2 Clark Recommendation was that hospitals should adopt a consistent internal policy for assessment of children when they present with suspicious or serious injuries. At the February 2021 meeting, the Executive Committee approved a written response to the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC). Stephanie stated that a response was received from Paul Shubert, the Bureau Chief (HCQC). The response from Paul Shubert included the following:

Paul thanked the Executive Committee for inquiring about the issue and stated his intent to be sensitive regarding this topic. Paul said he believed in the importance of a consistent, systematic assessment process, especially for children presenting with suspicious or serious injuries. He stated that in order to move forward, the Executive Committee and relevant medical facilities should come to an agreement upon a set of consistent standards for an assessment that should be implemented among the medical facilities. Paul stated that there are a few options available to explore the development of a set of consistent standards, ranging from obtaining an agreement with the hospital associations to modifying current regulations. Paul stated that the former option possibly allows for a faster and more collegial effort to reach a solution, while the later will probably require a lengthy, formal rule making process that may ensure that medical facilities comply with the set standards based on administrative law. Paul stated that at the moment HCQC is very busy with legislative responses, but that he would like to continue communicating with the Executive Committee and requested that a meeting be scheduled. He also encouraged the Executive Committee to reach out to the hospital associations to engage with them regarding this project, specifically, the Nevada Hospital Association and the Nevada Rural Hospital Partners Association.

Lisa Sherych stated that she agreed that a meeting between Paul Shubert and the Executive Committee should be held and requested one to be set up soon. Sharon Benson seconded the notion that a small subcommittee of Executive Committee members and Paul Shubert be established in order to further discuss this topic. Vickie Ives suggested that Nevada Hospital Association and Nevada Rural Hospital Partners Association also be invited to the meeting so that they could give input. Sheri McPartlin inquired about the origin of the 2018 Quarter 2 Clark Recommendation to establish a consistent, systematic assessment process for children presenting with suspicious or serious injuries. Dawn L Davidson clarified that the recommendation originated during one of the Clark CDR meetings that are held on monthly basis. Stephanie Herrera then requested volunteers from the Executive Committee for the subcommittee to meet with Paul Shubert.

**MOTION:** Made by Sharon Benson, seconded by Vickie Ives, to approve the establishment of a subcommittee to further discuss the 2018 Quarter 2 Clark Recommendation.

**UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.**

Time was given to the Executive Committee members to decide who was available to volunteer for the subcommittee. Requests for volunteers was postponed for later during the meeting.

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

- 2020 Quarter 4– Clark CDR recommends health insurance policies should not prevent individuals from filing prescriptions for mental health or physical health issues.

Stephanie Herrera stated that it was recommended that health insurance policies shouldn't prevent individuals from filling prescriptions for mental health or physical health issues. At the February 2021 meeting, it was determined that letters would be written to the Clark Regional Team, the State Board Pharmacy, the Insurance Commissioner, and to Medicaid. Stephanie then displayed the letters in a PowerPoint to the Executive Committee so they could be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

Vickie Ives requested that a list of maintenance medications for chronic diseases like diabetes be established in order to further inform the recommendation. Dr. Megan Freeman then stated that she had additional information to offer regarding Medicaid and its prescription policies for children. Dr. Freeman then invited Beth Slamowitz, Senior Policy Advisor on Pharmacy at Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, to inform the Executive Committee about Medicaid's policies. Beth acknowledged that no child should experience any injury or life threatening hindrances by insurance company imposed barriers or policies and that such policies could present accessibility issues. However, Beth did state that Medicaid has specific policies when filling prescriptions for children in place in order to address a few disturbing trends. Namely, Beth stated that there is a concerning trend with children in the 0-6 age group who are in foster care. This demographic of children is at risk of being prescribed unnecessary psychotropic drugs and foster homes have been found to have a heavy use of sedatives for unnecessary or suspicious reasons. In order to protect this demographic, Medicaid has psychotropic policies for authorization in place to ensure safety and proper utilization. Beth stated that there is an additional concerning polypharmacy trend in which children are being inappropriately prescribed several drugs in the same class. Beth then stated that there is a federal standpoint in place where Medicaid can bypass any policies for emergencies for any children within the 0-18 year-old age group. Beth clarified that this policy stipulates that the policy for filling the psychotropic prescription can only be bypassed if the medication was prescribed by a board-certified psychiatrist. Even with the policy in place, an emergency 72-hour supply can be provided to the child pending approval. Beth stated that balance between ensuring protections against excessive medicating and enabling accessibility was of the utmost importance. Dr. Freeman then asked Beth if she thought the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy could provide any recommendations regarding a list of medications that should have no barriers to obtaining them. Beth stated that the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy would most likely decline to provide any recommended lists of medications that should not have barriers in obtaining them because such a list would be difficult to compile and also possibly present safety issues for children who are at risk of polypharmacy and improper utilization.

Misty Allen then made a request that the Executive Committee table the discussion for the next meeting in light of this discussion. This agenda item was tabled.

NO MOTION MADE.

**7. For Possible Action: Review and respond to 2021 Quarter 1 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.**

- 2021 Quarter 1- Elko CDR recommends that gun locks and gun safety classes be required for gun owners, particularly those with children in the home. Additionally, they recommend that children receive gun safety classes.
- 2021 Quarter 1- Clark CDR recommends that children younger than 12 years of age be routinely assessed for depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts by mental health and medical professionals.
- 2021 Quarter 1- Clark CDR recommends collaboration with gun shop owners to ensure that individuals who purchase firearms, particularly those with children, receive proper firearms training and are made aware of NRS 202.300.

Dawn L Davidson stated that Elko CDR 2021 Quarter 1 Report recommended that gun locks and gun safety classes be required for gun owners, particularly those with children in the home. Elko also recommends that children receive gun safety classes. Dawn asked the Executive Committee how they wanted to respond. Lisa Sherych asked for clarification regarding the recommendation and how it originated. Nick Czegledi clarified that the recommendation was a result of two cases reviewed during Elko CDR meetings where deaths were the result of firearm hazards and improper gun storage. Lisa stated that the recommendation seemed to require additional clarification. Specifically, she stated that it was unclear whether this recommendation would require new legislation to be passed. She in turn requested that the Elko CDR Team amend and resubmit their 2021 Quarter 1 Report for clarification.

MOTION: Made by Sharon Benson, seconded by Misty Allen, to approve that the Elko CDR Team amend and resubmit their 2021 Quarter 1 Report for clarification.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Dawn L Davidson stated that the Clark CDR Team 2021 Quarter 1 Report recommended that children younger than 12 years of age be routinely assessed for depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts by mental health and medical professionals. She asked how the Executive Committee wanted to respond. Misty Allen recommended that the language of the recommendation be changed to 8 and above. Misty also stated that standardized tools for similar age groups already exist in different states and that the recommendation could be modified to advocate for an existing tool to be used across the board. Megan Freeman concurred with this and informed the Executive Committee that there was an existing screening tool appropriate for individuals age 8-24. She inquired if the Executive Committee would like to modify the recommendation to advocate for this specific screening tool for broad use? Dr. Freeman stated that the recommendation should include language in which the screening tool is

recommended to the board and private insurances. Misty Allen expressed a concern about preventing suicide by hanging, as that seems to be very difficult to prevent through legislation. Misty suggested that public announcements about suicide prevention could be sent out so that parents could be more informed about detecting suicidality in their children. Vickie Ives spoke about depression screening tools and their usefulness in preventing death by suicide. Jessica Freeman asked the Executive Committee if they'd like to make a motion.

MOTION: Made by Misty Allen, seconded by Sharon Benson, to redistribute the suicide prevention information sent out by the Office of Suicide Prevention and/or DCFS at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Dawn L Davidson proceeded with the next recommendation. Dawn stated that the Clark CDR Team 2021 Quarter 1 Report recommended collaboration with gun shop owners to ensure that individuals who purchase firearms, particularly those with children, receive proper firearms training and are made aware of NRS 202.300. She stated that the Clark CDR Team is not requesting any assistance with this recommendation, as they have reached out to the gun shop owners in Clark County, but wanted to make the Executive Committee aware. Dawn also added that, during the most recent Clark CDR Team meeting on 05/18/21, the Clark CDR Team resolved to distribute a trifold pamphlet, which they are in the process of creating, to Nevada gun owners who have children in the home. The Clark CDR Team is in the process of reaching out to gun shop owners for collaboration and distribution of the pamphlet. This pamphlet is intended to be an education tool. Dr. Jeremy Matuszak inquired about whether or not those with Federal Firearms Licenses were included on the distribution list of the letters sent out. Dawn clarified that they were included if they were a gun shop owner in Clark County.

NO MOTION WAS MADE.

**8. For Possible Action: Establishment of Subcommittee to review the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 Public Awareness Funding.**

- Volunteers to be on the subcommittee
- How does the team want to receive the information from the subcommittee?

Stephanie Herrera stated that the Notice for Funding was released on April 1, 2021, and that the deadline to submit applications was May 12, 2021. She stated that subcommittee members will review the applications in depth and score the applications based on a matrix designed by the Grants Management Unit (GMU). The subcommittee will then meet with the Grants Management Unit to discuss scoring, which will occur May 20- June 1, 2021. Stephanie stated that the subcommittee will prepare a presentation for the executive Committee's Special Meeting on June 9, 2021. Stephanie requested that a motion be made to establish a subcommittee to review the Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 Public Awareness Funding applications.

MOTION: Made by Vickie Ives, seconded by Sharon Benson, to establish a subcommittee to review the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 Public Awareness Funding applications.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Stephanie Herrera then asked the Executive Committee if there were any volunteers for the subcommittee. The volunteers included Misty Allen, Vickie Ives, and Kathie McKenna. Additionally, Sharon Benson stated that she may be able to volunteer for this subcommittee.

At this time, Stephanie Herrera also asked the Executive Committee if there were any volunteers for the subcommittee meeting with Paul Shubert from HCQC. The volunteers included Lisa Sherych and Stephanie Herrera. Vickie Ives also stated that she may be able to volunteer for this subcommittee.

**10. For Possible Action: The Executive Committee's recommendations to DCFS for the annual Citizen's Review Panel Report.**

- Discuss and review possible recommendations to submit for the CRP.

Stephanie Herrera stated that it was recommended that DCFS identify ways in which wraparound services can be provided to families who have a youth that may have suicidal ideation. Additionally, it was determined that best practice would be to refer families for services as soon as possible in order to prevent the siblings of juvenile suicide victims from dying by suicide. Stephanie stated that it is recommended that DCFS partner with sister agencies to provide education to parents and caregivers regarding how to identify signs of suicidal ideation in their children and prevention measures if suicidal ideation is detected. This includes but is not limited to information about prevention measures such as proper firearm safety and storage and proper medication safety and storage. Misty Allen stated that she approved of the recommendations and suggested that the Executive Committee move forward with this recommendation. Vickie Ives inquired about why the recommendation only included prevention measures for suicide, but no recommendations for the other leading causes of death in children. Jessica Freeman explained that there was no specific reason for the recommendations mostly consisting of suicide prevention measures, except that suicide prevention has been the main focus of the Executive Committee's most recent meetings. Jessica then asked if the Executive Committee would like to make any additional recommendations for the annual Citizen's Review Panel Report. Jessica also stated that it is recommended that DCFS partner with other agencies for drowning prevention and safe sleep practices. Vickie Ives requested that the recommendations include evidence-based language and advocate for standardized practices. Lisa Sherych concurred with this statement. Jessica asked if the following recommendation was okay: It is recommended that DCFS partner with sister agencies to promote evidenced-based safe sleep practices and water safety in addition to promoting the standardization of these practices. Sharon Benson asked if the Executive Committee could also include a Public Service Announcement about homicide. Jessica stated that effective prevention might require additional examination since homicide is already a criminal act. Sharon requested that a future homicide recommendation be explored in August.

MOTION: Made by Vickie Ives, seconded by Misty Allen, to approve the two written recommendations and one stated recommendation.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

**11. For Possible Action: Review and approve annual regional CDR Team membership per CDR regulations in NRS 432 B 405 (1) (b) and 432.B.409 (2) (d).**

- Update on submission by each regional CDR Team of 1) Region covered 2) membership lists, 3) statewide confidentiality agreements, and 4) frequency of meetings.

Stephanie Herrera stated that the next agenda item was to review and approve the memberships for the regional CDR Teams. Jessica Freeman stated that the Clark CDR Team had a total of 12 Core Members and 22 At-Large Members representing the following agencies: DFS, Law Enforcement, CCSD, Medical professions, the Southern Nevada Health District, the Office of Suicide Prevention, Medical Examiner, DJJS, Local Fire Departments, and Mental Health Representatives. Jessica stated that confidentiality agreements are signed yearly by Clark CDR Team members in the months of April and May. Clark CDR Team members meet monthly. Jessica then stated that the Washoe CDR Team had a total of 49 members representing WCHSA, Law Enforcement, the Washoe County School District, Medical professions, DJJS, DPBH, the Office of Suicide Prevention, Medical Examiner, and Mental Health Representatives. Confidentiality forms are signed yearly during the month of June. Washoe CDR Team members meet every other month. Jessica stated that Rural Region 1 consists of the Elko CDR team, which has 6 members from DCFS, Law Enforcement, the Medical profession, the District Attorney's Office, and the Coroner. Rural Region 1's CDR Team request signed confidentiality forms yearly in the month of January and team members meet quarterly. Jessica said that Rural Region 2 consists of two CDR teams, Lyon County CDR Team and Carson City Team. Lyon County Team has 5 members from DCFS, Law Enforcement, the Medical profession, the District Attorney's Office, and the Coroner's office. Confidentiality forms for the Lyon CDR Team are signed yearly in April and team members meet quarterly. The Carson City CDR Team consists of 6 team members from DCFS, Law Enforcement, the Medical Examiner, and the District Attorney's Office. Confidentiality forms for the Carson City CDR Team are signed annually and team members meet quarterly as well. Rural Region 3, per Jessica, includes separate CDR teams- Pershing County CDR Team, Humboldt County CDR Team, Churchill County CDR Team, and Mineral County CDR Team. As stated by Jessica, the Pershing County CDR Team has 5 team members from DCFS, Law Enforcement, and the District Attorney's Office. Confidentiality forms for the Pershing County CDR Team are also signed yearly and team members meet quarterly as well. The Humboldt County CDR Team has 5 members from DCFS, Law Enforcement, the Medical profession and the District Attorney's Office. Confidentiality forms for the Humboldt County CDR Team are also signed yearly and team members meet quarterly. The Churchill County CDR Team consists of 6 members from DCFS, Law Enforcement, the Medical Profession, and the District Attorney's Office. Churchill County CDR Team members also sign confidentiality forms annually and members meet quarterly. The Mineral County CDR Team consists of 4 members from DCFS, Law Enforcement, and the District Attorney's Office. Confidentiality forms for the Mineral County CDR Team are signed yearly and members meet quarterly as well. Per Jessica, the last regional team in need of approval was Rural Region 4. The Rural Region 4 CDR Team has 18 members from DCFS, Law Enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, the Health Department, CASA, the Fire Department, Mental Health, NV Outreach, Nye County School District, the Office of Suicide Prevention, and DPBH. Confidentiality forms are signed yearly in the month of April.

MOTION: Made by Vickie Ives, seconded by Kathie McKenna, to approve the membership lists for the regional CDR teams.

## **12. For Discussion: Top four manners/causes of death in children in Nevada.**

- Unsafe Sleep
- Suicide
- Drowning
- Homicide

Stephanie Herrera stated that the next agenda item up for discussion was the top four manners/causes of death in children in Nevada. Per Stephanie, the top four top manners/causes of death are unsafe sleep, suicide, drowning, and homicide. Stephanie stated that, as of May 3, 2021, there were a total of 9 youth suicides of Nevada residents, including 8 males and 1 female. Stephanie also listed several suicide education tools and resources, including Nevada Children's Mobile Crisis Response Team and Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention. Misty Allen also offered to send additional resources to anyone who requested it. Stephanie continued to say that the WCSD held its annual School Safety Forum for parents on May 12, 2021.

Kagan Griffin and Vickie Ives then presented information on unsafe sleep related deaths among those under 1 year of age. Kagan, an MC epidemiologist, presented 2018-2020 data of Nevada residents, but qualified her statements saying that 2020 data was preliminary. Kagan stated that the data were collected through a CDC tool called the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Survey. Vickie Ives asked Kagan about PRAMS' capabilities and stated that effective prevention strategies for unsafe sleep could include statewide social media campaigns. Kagan went on to list resources, including REMSA and Baby's Bounty. Jessica Freeman asked the Executive Committee if they would like details and recent trends in the top four causes of death to be included in future Executive Committee meetings. Sharon Benson and Kathie McKenna stated that they would like this information to be included in future meetings.

NO MOTION MADE.

## **13. Final Public Comment**

No comments.

## **14. Adjournment**

It was stated by Stephanie Herrera that the next meeting for the Executive Committee would be held on June 9, 2021 at 10am. During this meeting the allocation of SFY2022 public awareness funds will be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.