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MINUTES

of the

Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children Meeting

held on

August 17, 2022

via

Microsoft Teams

[Meeting Link](#)

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

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions

Margarita DeSantos called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. She reminded Executive Committee members that they needed to inform a Chair of the Executive Committee or a DCFS administrator if they needed to send a proxy or were unable to make the meeting.

Executive Committee members present:

- Kathie McKenna, Pioneer Territory CASA
- Margarita DeSantos, SNHD
- Vickie S. Ives, DPBH - MCH
- Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ
- Misty Vaughan Allen, DPBH - Suicide Prevention
- Jennifer Spencer, Attorney General's Office
- Denise Tyre, Supervisor, Human Services at Washoe County
- Sgt. Laura Conklin, Reno Law Enforcement
- Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety

Executive Committee members absent:

- Nancy Saitta, Retired
- Lisa Sherych, DPBH
- Cindy Pitlock, DCFS
- Stephanie Herrera, DPBH - Vital Records
- Sheri McPartlin, CCSD
- Michelle Sandoval, DPBH - Rural Clinics
- Amber Howell, Washoe County HSA
- Tim Burch, Clark County DFS
- Brian Shoaf, Elko County
- Marla McDade Williams, DHHS Director's Office

Staff and guests:

- Jessica Freeman, DCFS
- Dawn Davidson, NICRP
- Elizabeth Holka, NICRP
- Orjola Merkaj, NICRP
- Maria Janos, DCFS
- Monica Cypher, DCFS
- Melanie Erquiaga, Nevada OHV Commission
- Abigail Hatefi, NV Health
- Richard Egan, Office of Suicide Prevention
- Megan Tingle, DCFS
- Dylan Nall, DCFS
- Matthew Kappel, SNHD
- Rodger Fickel, NV DPS
- Hannah Peters, SNHD
- Kim Murcia, NVORA
- Linda Anderson, NPHF

2. Initial Public Comment

No comments.

3. For Possible Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2022 and June 8, 2022.

- Approval of May 18, 2022 and June 8, 2022 meeting minutes.

Margarita DeSantos asked the Executive Committee if they had any comments regarding the meeting minutes from May 18, 2022 and June 8, 2022. No comments were made.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna, seconded by Christine Eckles, to approve the meeting minutes from May 18, 2022 and June 8, 2022.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

3. 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 that the American Academy of Pediatrics recently updated their recommendations regarding safe sleep environments. Additionally, she notified the Executive Committee that October is Sudden Infant Death (SIDS) Awareness month. The Division of Child and Family Services is collaborating with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to create social media campaigns in order to raise awareness. Resources about safe sleep and safe sleep environments were displayed on the screen.

4. For Possible Action: Update on 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 next item on the agenda was the 2018 Quarter 2 Recommendation. She provided the following updates. The HCQC Subcommittee met on 06/16/22 and 07/28/22 to finalize the tip sheets for medical providers to use if abuse is suspected. Jessica reminded the Executive Committee that the primary audience for the tip sheets is those working at medical facilities that do not have any pediatric specialists at their disposal. The tip sheets were distributed through the networks of subcommittee members, targeting the main hospitals in the state, as well as urgent care facilities. The subcommittee has requested feedback from the facilities that received the tip sheets and has not received any yet. Subsequently, a survey has been developed to assist in getting feedback. The subcommittee will meet again on 09/08/22 to discuss the survey results and to begin developing responses to facilities that provided feedback. The tip sheets are located at <https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/CPS/ChildFatalities/>. Jessica stated that one of the subcommittee's future goals will be for The Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC) to incorporate the tip

sheets into regulations. Kathie McKenna requested that the tip sheets be displayed for the Executive Committee to review. Jessica subsequently briefly reviewed the tip sheets with the Executive Committee. Kathie McKenna offered to share the tip sheets with the CEO of Desert View Hospital in Pahrump to help with the distribution of the tip sheets. Vickie Ives asked if the tip sheets got sent to Medicaid's provider lists, and offered to help with the distribution of the tip sheets as well.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna, seconded by Jennifer Spencer, to approve the progress of the subcommittee thus far and next steps as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

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

- 2020 Quarter 4
 - Update regarding Clark CDR's recommendation for removal of prior authorization when filling certain medications relating to mental or physical health.
 - Discuss and approve next steps.
- 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 and approve the response letters for the 2020 Quarter 4 Recommendation. She provided the following summary. The Clark CDR Team recommended that health insurance policies shouldn't prevent individuals from filling prescriptions for mental health or physical health issues. The Executive Committee approved a response letter to the Interim Health Committee, finalized at the June 2022 special meeting. Jessica Freeman sent the letter to the DCFS Legislation Liaison, in addition to a representative from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director's Office as is required by legislation from DCFS. A meeting with the Director's Office was held on 06/21/22. During the meeting, it was stated that there wasn't enough information included in the letter about the extent of the issue, and that further research should have been conducted before reaching out to legislation. More specifically, it was requested that context as to how this issue caused and/or could prevent further child deaths be provided; what population is affected by this (such as those covered by Medicaid vs. private insurance); and if there are any other possible barriers to the identified solutions. Furthermore, it was suggested that the Executive Committee reach out to other state agencies such as the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy or the ombudsman for Aging and Disability Services Division Administrative Office, as one of their

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responsibilities is to help people access and understand their medical plan benefits. Lastly, it was stated that the proper way for the Executive Committee to put forth recommendations for changes in legislation is through the annual report. Further research into how the Executive Committee should utilize an annual report for this purpose is being conducted and will be brought back as an agenda item once more information is known. Additionally, Margarita stated that the Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is highlighting the specific issue the recommendation was trying to address as a policy priority during the upcoming legislative period. Margarita asked how the Executive Committee wanted to respond. Vickie Ives stated that the Executive Committee should consider closing the recommendation given that the Nevada Chapter of the AAP is highlighting this as a legislative priority, and therefore it is already being addressed elsewhere.

MOTION: Made by Vickie Ives, seconded by Misty Allen, to close the 2020 Quarter 4 Clark Recommendation as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED. Jessica Freeman stated that a letter explaining the status of the recommendation to the Clark CDR team would need to be approved at the next meeting.

Margarita DeSantos stated that the next agenda item was the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe recommendation. She provided the following summary. The Washoe CDR team recommended that hospitals and drug testing facilities begin testing for Fentanyl as part of their standard drug testing panels. Additionally, Narcan should be made more accessible to the at-risk teenage population. The Executive Committee reached out to HCQC for help addressing this recommendation. HCQC stated that this recommendation was not in their scope to regulate and suggested that if the Executive Committee wanted to pursue this, a legislative change would be required. After further discussion, the Executive Committee determined that further research was needed and decided to pursue information about other work being done across the state to educate the public on the dangers of fentanyl. Based on what was found, the Executive Committee could provide support where there are gaps by creating public service announcements and reaching out to hospitals to encourage them to add fentanyl testing to their standard tests. Slides containing resources were displayed for Executive Committee members to view. Jessica reviewed the resources with the Executive Committee, which included materials from the Opioid Response Team, the National Institute (NIH), Western Health, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Southern Nevada Health District. Kathie McKenna stated that there have been some changes in legislation in that fentanyl deaths will now be considered open murder charges. Margarita DeSantos reminded the Executive Committee that many illegal substances being distributed are laced with fentanyl and therefore numerous individuals are unknowingly ingesting fentanyl. Multiple committee members agreed that additional fentanyl testing would serve to prevent future deaths. Jessica asked committee members if they would like to draft a letter with resources to hospitals to encourage fentanyl testing; Denise Tyre and Sgt. Laura Conklin volunteered to help draft and distribute this letter. Vickie Ives also volunteered to partner with the Nevada Hospital Association to help with outreach.

MOTION: Made by Sgt. Laura Conklin, seconded by Denise Tyre, to approve the letter with resources to hospitals in the state to encourage fentanyl testing.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Margarita DeSantos stated that the next agenda item was to discuss and approve the response letters to the 2021 Quarter 4 Washoe Recommendation. Washoe CDR recommends that a public service announcement and additional community education be developed for minors who are operating ATVs. During the last meeting, the Executive Committee discussed information that was previously researched, which included information located on the Nevada off-highway vehicles program website as well as information on surrounding state laws. After the last meeting, a meeting with Jessica Freeman, Dawn Davidson, and representatives from Nevada Offroad Association, who completes the work for the NV OHV Commission, was held. Mathew Giltner and Kim Murica from the Nevada Offroad Association were present at today's meeting and provided the following information. The Nevada Offroad Association is supporting the Nevada off-road network of motorized outdoor recreation enthusiasts and organizations by promoting club formation and engagement and supporting youth education program development and implementation, the Special Use Permit administration, the Nevada OHV Commission, and the Nevada OHV Registration Program. The Nevada Offroad Association also advocates for multiuse public land access through stewardship and partnership by helping with grant writing and administration; helping with project facilitation and administration; facilitating regional partnerships; and engaging with community partners and stakeholders. Melanie Erquiaga with the Nevada OHV Commission added that one of her agency's priorities was focusing on safety for youth when using ATVs and OHVs. Melanie requested help from the Executive Committee with recruiting participants for their safety programs and eventually passing regulations requiring that youth under the age of 16 take safety courses before operating ATVs or OHVs. Mathew Giltner stated that another big concern that he would like to see addressed is helmet wearing, as children are currently not required to wear helmets when operating an ATV or OHV. Denise Tyre offered to help distribute information and resources to raise awareness and increase participation for the courses offered by the Nevada Offroad Association. Executive Committee members were told to contact Mathew Giltner, Kim Murica, or <https://nevadaoffroad.us> if they had any additional questions. Kim Murica stated that the 2022 Nevada Offroad Summit would be held on October 12-14, 2022 in Minden, Nevada. Margarita DeSantos asked the Executive Committee how they wanted to proceed given this information.

MOTION: Made by Misty Vaughan Allen, seconded by Jennifer Spencer, to approve the response letter providing contact information and resources provided by Nevada Offroad Association back to the regional Nevada CDR teams as written.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

6. 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.

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Margarita DeSantos stated that the next agenda item was to discuss and approved the response letters to the 2022 Quarter 2 recommendations, which were both centered on safe sleep. She asked the Executive Committee how they wanted to respond to the recommendations. Jessica Freeman stated that unsafe sleep conditions continue to be a concern throughout the state and reminded the Executive Committee that unsafe sleep continues to be a leading cause of death for infants in Nevada. A concern was raised that state-specific statistics would need to be updated to ensure that the materials being distributed were current. Sgt. Laura Conklin raised a concern that mothers that did not take their infants to pediatricians regularly would not receive these resources. Denise Tyre stated that, at the very least, hospitals were continuously being encouraged to educate families of a newborn child about safe sleep. Jessica Freeman suggested compiling a letter that would be distributed through Executive Committee members' networks to encourage local pediatricians to provide safe sleep education during appointments in addition to encouraging implementing policies that safe sleep be discussed and documented at specific appointments for parents with children under the age of one year. Jessica requested volunteers to help with the letter; Vickie Ives volunteered.

MOTION: Made by Sgt. Laura Conklin, seconded by Kathie McKenna, to approve writing the response letter and next steps as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

7. For Possible Action: Update on the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Public Awareness Funding and scheduling of special meeting.

Margarita DeSantos provided an update on the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Public Awareness Funding and scheduling of the special meeting. She stated that the funding amounts for the subawards were decided at the special meeting held on June 8, 2022. The award letters were sent to the agencies shortly after the meeting. The Las Vegas Center for Spiritual Healing was awarded \$15,000 for the purchase and distribution of gun locks and medication safes to families in crisis. After receiving the award letter, the agency decided they no longer wanted to participate in the process due to a loss of members and revenue, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Margarita stated that the funds can still be used for the purchase of these safety items and this can be done via a direct purchase. A representative from the Office of Suicide Prevention would obtain the three quotes and work directly with the provider to obtain the items, store them, and distribute them throughout the state, still utilizing Mobile Crisis. They would still be required to submit a report to the Executive Committee next May as to how the money was used and how the items were distributed. Margarita asked the Executive Committee if they were agreeable to the direct purchase of the items and with the reallocation of these funds to purchase the safes and locks.

MOTION: Made by Christine Eckles, seconded by Vickie Ives, to approve the reallocation of funds as discussed.

MAJORITY VOTE; MISTY ALLEN ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED.

8. 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 that the next agenda item was to discuss and approve the amendments to the bylaws for the upcoming election for the open co-chair position. At the last meeting, Article 3.2 of the bylaws was amended to allow qualified members from regional CDR teams to be nominated for the co-chair position in the event that the nomination cannot come from the Executive Committee. As there will soon be a vacancy in one of the co-chair positions, specifically someone from Clark County, Jessica Freeman has been working with the members of the Clark County Regional CDR team to see if anyone is interested in becoming a co-chair for the Executive Committee. However, no one has come forward to voice their interest.

Margarita DeSantos stated that Article 3.2 of the bylaws was amended at the last meeting to allow for potential nominees to be drawn from other regional CDR teams if nominees were unable to be drawn from Clark County by the Executive Committee. Attempts to gain nominees from the Clark Regional CDR team have not been successful. As the term for one co-chair will soon be coming to an end, further amendments to the bylaws were possibly needed. Article 3.1 currently states that there shall be two co-chairs, one from the Clark County region, and one from the remaining part of the State. Article 3.3 currently states that each officer shall serve until the election of the successor. Article 3.4 currently states that elections for the offices shall be held at the first regularly scheduled meeting on or after October 2 at the end of the current officer's two-year term. Jessica Freeman went over what the proposed amendments to the articles of the bylaws were. The proposed amendment to Article 3.1 includes the following statement:

"In the event that a co-chair cannot be elected from the corresponding geographic region, a nominee from the other geographic location can be sought; regardless of which region the nominee is from, if elected, they will remain a chair/co-chair until the end of their two-year term. Additionally, if one co-chair position cannot be filled after a period of active recruitment, the Executive Committee can vote to allow for one chair until the end of the chair's term."

Jessica Freeman and Margarita stated that the Executive Committee needed to determine what the period of active recruitment would be in the proposed amendment. Sgt. Laura Conklin and Denise Tyre stated that 6 months or two meetings would be an appropriate amount of time. Jessica Freeman reiterated the need to have a representative from Clark County, as it is the most populous region in the state. Desiree Mattice agreed that it was important, but that the Executive Committee needed to continue to function, therefore it was important to have an interim from another regional CDR team until that position could be filled by a representative from Clark County. The amendment was revised to include that the period of active recruitment would be 6 months and that an interim co-chair could be utilized until a representative from Clark County was found.

Jessica Freeman continued on to the proposed amendment for Article 3.3:

"In the event that a successor cannot be found, and as long as there is at least one other co-chair, the Executive Committee can vote to allow for a co-chair to step down as long as the other co-chair is able to remain in their office. If there is only one chair in office, they must remain in their role until a successor is found."

Jessica Freeman continued on to the proposed amendment for Article 3.4.

“...unless the Executive Committee votes to postpone the election until an appropriate nominee/nominees can be recruited”.

MOTION: Made by Misty Allen, seconded by Denise Tyre, to approve revisions to the bylaws as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

9. For Information Only: Provide an update on the response from DCFS regarding the Committee’s recommendation(s) for the 2021 Annual Citizen Review Panel Report.

Margarita DeSantos provided a reminder that the Executive Committee also functions as a Citizen Review Panel. Jessica Freeman gave the following summary of three recommendations on the 2021 Annual Citizen Review Panel Report. The first recommendation is that DCFS identify ways in which wraparound services can be provided to families that have a youth that may have suicidal ideation. Additionally, it was determined that best practice would be to refer the family to services and that the services started as soon as possible to prevent more youth from dying by suicide. The response to the recommendation was that DCFS accepts this and will partner with other agencies, develop a list of providers, and recommend that local child welfare jurisdictions establish procedures when a youth may have suicidal ideation to ensure the youth’s safety and that the youth is referred to services in a timely manner. DCFS Child Welfare Services will partner with DCSF Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) to learn about their process for referring families to service providers; partner with Wraparound in Nevada to learn more about what the program offers and if they can be a service provider for families with youth with suicidal ideation; develop a list of providers who are able to provide services to families on an emergency basis; and request the child welfare agencies develop procedures for child welfare staff to follow when a youth may have suicidal ideation. Per Jessica, DCFS staff have met with MCRT and Wraparound in Nevada (WIN). MCRT provides telehealth services for rural regions, and in person for other areas. They also have an assessment process. The vast majority of their work is spent conducting safety planning. They are able to recommend acute care and links to long term care, in addition to reaching out to current providers. WIN has two level of targeted case management. Both are family driven processes, and they bring services and providers together to ensure that all is going as it should. They have an intensive step-down program and engage with MCRT. Each agency’s staff are certified to do WIN’s intake process which makes the process quicker. DCFS staff also reached out to each agency to see if they had a policy and or procedure in place. MCRT staff will begin to update their list of service providers from 2018. The 2021 Annual Citizen Review Panel Report also recommended that the DCFS partner with sister agencies to provide education to parents/caregivers on how to look for signs of suicidal ideation and keep their child safe once suicidal ideation has been identified. This includes, but is not limited to, appropriate firearm safety/storage, medication safety/storage, and other potential means. Per Jessica, this had been completed in November 2021 by sending a letter to Medicaid asking them to send information out to providers. The 2021 Annual Citizen Review Panel Report also recommended partnerships with sister agencies and other community providers as appropriate to increase evidence based public awareness around Safe Sleep and Water Safety in an effort to prevent unsafe sleep and drowning deaths. Per Jessica, this has been completed through the NOFA process, and

through partnerships with DPBH for safe sleep awareness month via social media posts and a governor's proclamation. There was no further discussion.

10. For Information Only: Provide an update on the response from DCFS regarding the Committee's recommendation(s) for the 2022 Annual Citizen Review Panel Report.

Jessica Freeman provided the following summary of the two recommendations from the 2022 Annual Citizen Review Panel Report. The report recommended that DCFS partner with sister agencies and other community providers as appropriate to enhance the Choose Your Partner Carefully campaign to ensure the language used in the brochure uses the appropriate, inclusive language and is on par with the current research, to help people identify when they may be in an unhealthy relationship that may impact their children, including placing their children in an unsafe situation. DCFS responded by accepting the recommendation. DCFS will partner with Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, as they are the agency who releases the Choose Your Partner Carefully brochure to ensure appropriate and inclusive language is used in the brochure. Furthermore, DCFS will ensure that each Child Welfare Jurisdiction has the updated pamphlet to distribute as appropriate. Per Jessica, the brochure was reviewed to ensure language was inclusive, and the suggestions were sent back to PCA on 07/06/22. The report also recommended that DCFS perform a statewide analysis of current programs that are working with children that may provide prevention around the top four causes/manners of death to identify where the systematic gaps may be so that preventative funding can be more precisely targeted. DCFS responded by also accepting this recommendation. DCFS will partner with each Child Welfare Agency to gather information about their community service providers who provide prevention services around the top four causes/manners of child death to identify any found systemic gaps so that preventative funding can be more precisely targeted during the annual notice of funding process. The NOFA is released and promoted via multiple pathways to reach as many agencies as possible and prioritizes services that prevent the top four manners and causes of death. The difficulty is finding services that focus specifically on this as many services focus on a broad range of services, including prevention services. There was no further discussion.

11. Final Public Comment

No public comments made.

12. Adjournment

It was stated by Margarita DeSantos that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on November 16, 2022 at 10 AM.

MOTION: Made by Christine Eckles, seconded by Sgt. Laura Conklin, to adjourn the meeting.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.