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# MINUTES

*of the*

## Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children Meeting

*held on*

**November 17, 2021**

*via teleconference*

Microsoft Teams

teams.bjn.vc##105936574#1171407597

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 10:02 AM.

Executive Committee members present:

- Kathie McKenna, Pioneer Territory CASA
- Nick Czegledi, Elko County Sheriff's Office
- Margarita De Santos, SNHD
- Nancy Saitta, Retired
- Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety
- Lisa Sherych, DPBH
- Vickie S. Ives, DPBH - MCH
- Jennifer Spencer, Attorney General's Office
- Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ
- Stephanie Herrera, DPBH - Vital Records
- Megan Freeman, DCFS
- Michelle Sandoval, DPBH - Rural Clinics
- Misty Vaughan Allen, DPBH - Suicide Prevention

Executive Committee members absent:

- Beth Handler, HHS Director's Office
- Breanna Jenkins, Renown
- Amber Howell, Washoe County HSA
- Ross Armstrong, DCFS
- Tim Burch, Clark County DFS
- Jessica Rogers, Las Vegas Metro Police Department

Staff and guests:

- Jessica Freeman, DCFS
- Dawn Davidson, NICRP
- Elizabeth Holka, NICRP
- Carina Rivera, UNR
- Brooke Kizer, DCFS
- Valerie Balen, Belz & Case Government Affairs in Reno
- Morgan Green, UNR
- Lea Case, Belz & Case Government Affairs in Reno
- Elyse Monroy, UNR
- Dominique Rice, DCFS
- Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Denise Tyre, Supervisor, Human Services at Washoe County

## **2. Initial Public Comment**

No comments.

## **3. For Possible Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2021.**

- Approval of August 18, 2021 meeting minutes.

Stephanie Herrera asked the Executive Committee if they had any comments regarding the Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2021. Margarita De Santos stated that she found a few typos. Dr. Megan Freeman requested that the Meeting Minutes include Beth Slamowitz's title of State Pharmacist when it mentions her on page 5.

MOTION: Made by Nancy Saitta, seconded by Desiree Mattice, to approve the Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2021 with the inclusion of the corrections above.

UNANIMOUS 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**

- Updates from our partners at the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (CFRP)
- Sudden Death of the Young (SDY) Program

Stephanie Herrera requested updates from the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (CFRP) and Sudden Death in the Young (SDY) Program. Jessica Freeman stated that the quarterly meeting from the National CFRP will be held on January 19, 2022 and will include coordinators from the local teams. Jessica invited committee members to attend the meeting. She stated that the National CFRP is stressing that CDR teams fill out the data collection tool provided as completely as possible. Additionally, they ask that CDR teams go back and capture any of the COVID-19 information they have available in the data tool. The National CFRP expects to update the data tool and have a new version available by next summer. Jessica also stated that there were no updates from the Sudden Death of the Young (SDY) program.

## **5. For Discussion: Update on the progress of the HCQC Sub-committee regarding the 2018 Quarter 2 recommendation that hospitals should adopt consistent internal policy for assessment of children when they present with suspicious or serious injuries.**

Margarita De Santos summarized the 2018 Quarter 2 recommendation: hospitals should adopt a consistent internal policy for assessment of children when they present with suspicious or serious injuries. Jessica Freeman provided updates on the subcommittee. Jessica stated that the

subcommittee's primary focus is to identify the right medical care for children who are victims of abuse. The Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC) subcommittee met on 10/04/21 to finalize an outline regarding steps moving forward in addition to questions to ask the team of experts. The subcommittee will be reaching out to doctors across the state to ask them to participate and a meeting will subsequently be scheduled.

Per the subcommittee, the following questions will be asked of the panel of experts, and the answers will be included in the policy:

1. What do we want to implement?
2. What findings would trigger an assessment?
3. What would be included in this assessment?
4. When is it necessary to transfer the child to a more specialized hospital?

Jessica also said that the larger Executive Committee would have an opportunity to ask questions to the panel of experts. Once the policy outline is complete, HCQC will finalize the policy, and begin the process to establish the procedure as hospital regulations. Jessica stated that the subcommittee intends to continue to keep the larger Executive Committee updated.

NO MOTION MADE.

**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.
- 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 2- Clark CDR recommends educating medical professionals on when to notify child protective services when a parent/guardian is diagnosed with severe postpartum depression/psychosis.
- 2021 Quarter 2- Washoe CDR recommends the following:
  - Hospitals and drug testing facilities begin testing for Fentanyl as part of their standard drug testing panels.
  - Narcan to be made more accessible to the at-risk teenage population.
  - Hospitals should test for Fentanyl when withdrawal signs are present in mothers and infants.

- 2021 Quarter 2- Washoe CDR recommends that information about safe sleep when traveling be included in the safe sleep education and literature information.

Margarita De Santos provided a summary of the 2020 Quarter 4 recommendation as follows: The Clark County Child Death Review Team recommended that health insurance policies should not prevent individuals from filling prescriptions for mental health or physical health issues. Discussion for the recommendation was held at the last two Executive Committee meetings. During the May meeting, Beth Slamowitz, the Senior Policy Advisor of Pharmacy at the Department of Health and Human Services, presented the current policies that Medicaid has in place to protect vulnerable children. During the August meeting, it was suggested to also include asthma medication within the letters. The Clark County CDR team was updated with this information, but they believe the recommendation is still warranted, and is agreeable to add the request that asthma medication be dispensed prior to the patient leaving the hospital. At the February 2021 meeting, it was determined to write letters to the following agencies in response to the recommendation:

- Letter to the Clark Regional Team
- Letter to the State Board of Pharmacy
- Letter to the Insurance Commissioner
- Letter to Medicaid

The response letters have been edited based on discussion from the last meeting and will be sent upon approval from the committee. Margarita asked the Executive Committee if they had any questions or comments regarding the letters; they had none.

Moving on, Margarita De Santos gave a summary regarding the 2021 Quarter 1 Clark recommendation. The Clark CDR team 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. At the May meeting, it was discussed that information provided by DCFS and Office of Suicide Prevention at the beginning of the pandemic be redistributed, with a link to suicide screening tools that are appropriate for children as young as 8 years old. Letters were also written to the following and will be sent following approval from the committee:

- Nevada Medicaid
- Nevada Insurance Commissioner
- Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
- Clark Regional CDR Team

Vickie Ives asked if it would be helpful to have the letters reviewed by subject matter experts at Medicaid before sending them out. She stated that she wanted to make sure that whatever the Executive Committee recommended was conducive to what was the easiest for Medicaid to implement. Dr. Megan Freeman stated that she agreed with this position. Vickie elaborated that she wanted to ensure that any screenings or assessment tools the Executive Committee recommended would be covered by Medicaid's current guidelines and that perhaps it would be beneficial for Medicaid to make suggestions as to which screenings and assessments tools should be recommended. Michelle Sandoval moved to approve the letter as is, and if Medicaid had any suggestions, they could forward the letter back to the Executive Committee for changes to be made.

Moving on, Margarita De Santos provided a summary of the 2021 Quarter 2 Clark recommendation. The Clark CDR team recommends education for medical professionals on when to notify child protective services when a parent or guardian is diagnosed with severe postpartum depression or psychosis, even if there are no explicit verbalizations that threaten the child. Jessica Freeman stated that at the August meeting, it was discussed that this recommendation may deter women from seeking help when needed. It was suggested that appropriate education and resources be provided to medical professionals to provide to women. Additionally, it was suggested to reach out to the pediatricians throughout the state to provide them with appropriate education and resources, as infant doctor's appointments may be kept more often than the mother's own follow up appointments. The Clark CDR team was updated with this information and they felt that in this incident, the medical professionals did provide the family with education and resources. As a result, the Clark CDR team felt that a response from the Executive Committee was no longer warranted, therefore the only response letter to approve is the letter back to the Clark team. There were no additional questions or discussion from the Executive Committee.

Next, Margarita DeSantos provided a summary of the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe recommendation. The recommendation stated that hospitals and drug testing facilities should begin testing for Fentanyl as part of their standard drug testing panels, and that hospitals test for Fentanyl when withdrawal signs are present in mothers and infants. Additionally, the Washoe CDR team recommended that Narcan be made more accessible to the at-risk teenage population. During the August meeting, it was discussed to reach out to the Overdose Data to Action Project and Ms. Stephanie Woodard at SAPTA to see what resources and/or activities that may be occurring in Washoe County. Jessica Freeman stated that she reached out to Stephanie Woodard from SAPTA and Elyse Monroy, who oversees the State's Overdose Data to Action Project. Ms. Woodard suggested that we connect with Ms. Monroy, and no further contact was had with Ms. Woodard. Jessica met with Ms. Monroy on September 30 to discuss this recommendation.

Regarding Narcan being more accessible to at-risk teenagers, Ms. Monroy informed the group that distributes Naloxone in Washoe County of the recommendation. Carina Rivera, who works with UNR, stated that her agency currently has 40 Naloxone/Narcan distribution sites. In the response letter back to the Washoe CDR team, information is provided regarding the passing of AB205, which allows schools to acquire and administer Naloxone as well as linking them to the Overdose Data to Action Website. Carina further stated that further targeting minors becomes tricky because one has to consider parental consent. Currently there is no legislation that provides an age limit on obtaining/using Naloxone and therefore there are no distribution sites that specifically targets this population. However, if an agency wanted to target this population, all they would have to do to become a distribution site is to develop a policy and procedures about how the Naloxone would be stored and distributed and best practice would include information about parental consent.

Regarding the recommendation of Fentanyl becoming a part of the regular drug testing panels, Ms. Monroy stated that she would like to see hospitals begin conducting fentanyl testing more regularly. Ms. Monroy did express a concern that hospitals were not screening enough for fentanyl, even in cases where the individual presenting to the hospital reports using a stimulant and the overdose is reversed by Narcan. An additional response letter to the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC) was also drafted in support of hospitals regularly testing for Fentanyl. Vickie Ives raised a concern regarding the language of the letters for the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe recommendation, specifically, the language regarding hospitals test for fentanyl when withdrawal signs are present in mothers and infants. Vickie stated that the language seemed to imply that hospitals should implement universal fentanyl screening for any sign of withdrawal and said that she'd like to consult some subject matter experts to ensure the Executive Committee letter wasn't recommending hospitals take any unnecessary measures.

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Elyse Monroy stated that she agreed with Vickie Ives on this matter and suggested possibly reframing the language regarding fentanyl testing. Ms. Monroy stated that the program she works with is in partnership with the Astro Omni (Opioid Use Disorder Maternal Outcome and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome) workgroup in support of the CARA Plan of Care (Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act). Ms. Monroy restated that she believes that the Executive Committee should move forward with this recommendation by reframing the current letter to ensure that it's aligned with current state efforts to address fentanyl use and overdoses. Vickie Ives also clarified that the letters should be reframed to make sure the committee wasn't inadvertently suggesting universal biologic testing. The committee agreed that the letters needed to be revised and brought back to the next meeting.

Lastly, a letter to the Overdose Data to Action Project was drafted to show support for their activities. The response letters will be sent upon approval from the committee.

Jennifer Spencer asked if there would be a motion to approve the letters reviewed. Jessica Freeman clarified that the letters would be approved as a set at the end after the Executive Committee had reviewed them all.

Moving on, Margarita De Santos summarized the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe Recommendation which recommended that information about safe sleep when traveling be included in the safe sleep education and literature materials. During the August meeting, the committee suggested that the Washoe CDR team use approved education material, add "during travel" to their campaign, and perhaps create a press release promoting safe sleep while traveling during the upcoming holiday season. The response letter will be sent upon approval from the Executive Committee. There were no comments or questions about this letter.

Jessica Freeman proceeded to give a recap for the four letters discussed earlier for the members of the Executive Committee to vote on. Jessica stated that the letters for the 2020 Quarter 4 Recommendation regarding asthma and mental health prescriptions was okay for a motion; the 2021 Quarter 1 Clark Recommendation could be approved as written with possible edits from Medicaid to be addressed in the future; a response letter to the 2021 Quarter 2 Clark Recommendation regarding postpartum depression would be sent to the Clark CDR team to decline further action; the letters regarding the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe Recommendation regarding fentanyl testing would be tabled for modification and no motion would be made on it at this time; and the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe Recommendation regarding safe sleep would be okay for a motion as well. There was no further discussion on these letters and Margarita De Santos asked for a motion to approve the letters that had not been tabled at this time.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna, seconded by Misty Allen, to approve the letters for the 2020 Quarter 4 Recommendation, the 2021 Quarter 1 Clark Recommendation, the 2021 Quarter 2 Clark Recommendation, and the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe Recommendation.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

**7. For Possible Action: Review and respond to 2021 Quarter 1 and 2021 Quarter 3 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- Clarification from the Elko CDR team regarding their recommendation.
- 2021 Quarter 3- There were no recommendations for Q3.

Jessica Freeman provided a summary of the 2021 Quarter 1 recommendation. The Elko CDR team 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. As the committee had questions regarding this information when it was presented during the May meeting, further clarification was received from the Elko team and presented at the August meeting. At that time, the committee recommended that the Elko team inform the Executive Committee of the training that they would like to use, the target population and how it would be distributed. When Jessica spoke with the Elko CDR representatives, they stated that they were hoping that the Executive Committee could suggest curricula and, appropriate ages for training, and appropriate trainers, as they did not know of any curricula other than the hunter safety class offered by the Department of Wildlife. Jessica asked the Executive Committee how they would like to respond. She also reminded the Executive Committee that each regional CDR team currently is discussing some sort of gun safety recommendation. Desiree Mattice stated that it would be beneficial to connect with the Department of Wildlife, but it would be important to specifically identify what type of gun safety the team was looking for so that the training could be tailored to what they feel is needed. Jennifer Spencer stated that 4H has a training on shooting sports and it may be beneficial to reach out to them to obtain information on their curriculum; she will provide that information to Jessica after the meeting today. Lisa Sherych suggested that someone research other options online, as a more immediate training option may be found until an in-person option could be located, as in-person training is always preferable for a topic such as gun safety. Jessica Freeman provided a recap of the conversation and stated that a draft of a letter would be ready for the Executive Committee to review encouraging the Elko CDR Team to reach out to the Department of Wildlife and that she and Dawn will research other trainings that may be able to be included in the response letter as well.

NO MOTION MADE.

Next, Margarita De Santos stated that there were no recommendations to the Executive Committee by the regional CDR teams for the third quarter of 2021.

NO MOTION MADE.

## **8. For Possible Action: Review and approve the 2018 Child Fatality Annual Report.**

Margarita De Santos stated that the 2018 Annual Report was provided in the meeting invitation. She asked the Executive Committee if they had any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the report. The Executive Committee had none.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna, seconded by Stephanie Herrera, to approve the 2018 Child Fatality Annual Report. Misty Allen abstained from the vote, as she stated that she did not read the report.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

## **9. For Possible Action: Top four manners/causes of death in children in Nevada.**

- Unsafe Sleep
- Suicide
- Drowning
- Homicide- Review data parameters and determine how to proceed. Is a sub-committee warranted?

The following was stated by Stephanie Herrera. Per the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Analytics, there were a total of 15 youth suicides that were Nevada residents in the year of 2021.

Jessica stated that during the Executive Committee meeting held in May, a request to address homicide deaths was made by Executive Committee members. Jessica stated that homicide trends in Nevada were similar to national trends. Jessica Freeman provided the following statistics regarding homicide 2018 data. With regard to age, 33.3% of child homicide deaths occurred among those 1-4 years of age, 29.6% among those 15-17 years of age, and 25.9% of those under one year of age. Concerning race, 59.3% of the child homicide deaths occurred among African American children, 37% occurred among white children, and 3.7% among multi-racial children. Concerning the types of weapons used, 37% of the homicides were the result of a firearm and 37% were the result of a person's body part. Biological parents handled the weapon in 10 of these cases, the mother's partner in 5 of the cases, and rival gang members in 5 of the cases. Jessica instructed Executive Committee members to refer to pages 58-70 of the 2018 Annual Report for more detailed information. Jessica suggested that potential recommendation topics could center on firearm safety and choosing your partner carefully. Given this information, Jessica asked the Executive Committee if they felt more information or action was needed. Dr. Megan Freeman stated that she had some concern regarding the Choose Your Partner Carefully campaign and wanted clarification on the Executive Committee's approach. Dr. Freeman stated that, by its name, the campaign seemed highly patriarchal and also seemed to place blame on victimized partners. Dr. Freeman stated that the Executive Committee could pivot the conversation to instead address how someone might know if they are in an unhealthy relationship and how that relationship could negatively affect their child. Margarita De Santos stated that she had access to resources regarding intimate partner violence and domestic violence that the Executive Committee could include in a recommendation. Lisa Scherych stated that she was in agreement with Dr. Freeman and Margarita



and said that any recommendations generated from this conversation should be informed by established practices in promoting safety in domestic violence situations. Vickie Ives stated that she wanted to add that the Choose Your Partner Carefully campaign has already been pivoting to a more risk and protective framework. She stated that it would be helpful to compile a list of existing statewide resources in order to identify where gaps in services might be for the prevention of the top four causes of manners of death. This way, areas where a gap is identified can be highlighted for the next funding opportunity and addressed at that time. Jessica Freeman stated that she thought this was an excellent idea and agreed that a review of statewide services should be included in a future recommendation addressing these issues. For the benefit of anyone newly attending the meeting, Jessica recapped that the Executive Committee functions as Citizen’s Review Panel, which is a federal requirement. Annually, the Citizen’s Review Panel submits recommendations to the Division of Child and Family Services on ways to improve best practices in order to enhance and improve services offered to the community. Jessica stated that a recommendation to identify gaps of services in programs addressing domestic violence would be beneficial. Jessica asked if the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention captured any data regarding domestic violence in homicide cases; Dawn Davidson and Elizabeth Holka stated that there were, but that they could look into it further if needed for additional details. Jessica Freeman stated that there was no motion at this time, as no action was currently being taken.

NO MOTION MADE.

#### **10. For Possible Action: Review and Approve 2022 Meeting Dates**

- February 16, 2022
- May 18, 2022
- August 17, 2022
- November 16, 2022

Stephanie Herrera provided the following dates to the Executive Committee as proposed meeting times and asked the committee if there were any major conflicts with anyone’s schedule. Hearing no comments, Stephanie asked for a motion to approve the dates as is.

MOTION: Made by Desiree Mattice, seconded by Nancy Saitta, to approve the February 16, 2022; May 18, 2022; August 17, 2022; and November 16, 2022 meeting dates.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

#### **11. Final Public Comment**

No public comments made.

#### **12. Adjournment**

It was stated by Margarita De Santos that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on February 16, 2022 at 10 AM. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM.