

MINUTES
of the
Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children
Citizen Review Panel Subcommittee Meeting

held on
January 12, 2024

via Microsoft Teams

[Meeting Link](#)

Call-in number: 1(775) 321-6111; Extension: 894571081#

1. Call to Order

Beverly Brown called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

2. For Information: *Roll Call*

- Subcommittee members present:
 - Denise Tyre, Human Services at Washoe County
 - Melinda Rhoades, SAFY
 - Sgt. Laura Conklin, Reno Law Enforcement
 - Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Prevent Child Abuse Nevada
 - Jorge Montano-Figueroa, Safe Kids
 - Kathie McKenna, Pioneer Territory CASA
- Staff and guests:
 - Sabrina Schnur, Belz & Case Government Affairs
 - Elyse Monroy-Marsala, Belz & Case Government Affairs
 - Dawn Davidson, NICRP
 - Orjola Merkaj, NICRP
 - April Stahl, DCFS
 - Beverly Brown, DCFS

3. Initial Public Comment

April Stahl stated that to provide public comment, please unmute your microphone before speaking, or you can call into this meeting by using the number 775-321-6111, with passcode number 894571081#. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

There was no public comment.

4. For Possible Action: *Vote of Subcommittee Chairs*

Beverly Brown began discussing the need for a subcommittee chair and co-chair that can facilitate future meetings and report on subcommittee progress at the Executive Committee meetings. Jorge Montano-Figueroa asked if Beverly could elaborate more on what the roles entail. Beverly stated that the subcommittee's primary function is to meet once a year to draft recommendations to improve child welfare practices and take those recommendations to the Executive Committee. The purpose of having a chair and co-chair is to facilitate the subcommittee meetings. That person will present the drafted recommendations at the Executive Committee meeting. They are also responsible for addressing questions and comments the Executive Committee may have regarding the recommendations. Beverly asked the subcommittee if anyone was interested in either position or if anyone wanted to nominate someone for the chair or co-chair position. Kathie McKenna nominated herself for chair of the subcommittee. The team voted to elect Kathie McKenna as chair of the subcommittee.

MOTION: Made by Amanda Haboush-Deloye, seconded by Sgt. Laura Conklin to elect Kathie McKenna as chair of the subcommittee.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED

5. For Information: *Citizen Review Panel History and Purpose of Establishing this Subcommittee:*

- What is the CRP and purpose of this Subcommittee?
- Structure for providing recommendations.

Beverly Brown stated that the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requires states to have a Citizen Review Panel to receive grant funding. Nevada has dual-role panels, meaning the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children is a Citizen Review Panel. Beverly presented, via PowerPoint, the following necessary criteria for establishing a Citizen Review Panel.

- Citizen review panels shall be comprised of volunteer members who are broadly representative of the community, including members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.
- CAPTA encourages the States to give special attention to the qualifications of the panelists to review complex cases of child maltreatment, including a balance among children's attorneys, child advocates and CASA volunteers who are familiar with the difficulties of the child protection system.
- Citizen review panels must meet, at minimum, quarterly (established in NRS 423B.369).
- Examine the policies, procedures, and practices of State and local child protection agencies.
- Review specific cases, where appropriate. In addition, consistent with section 106(c)(4)(A)(iii) of CAPTA.
- Examine other criteria that it considers important to ensure the protection of children, including the extent to which the State and local CPS system is coordinated with the title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance programs of the Social Security Act.
- This provision also authorizes the panels to review the child fatalities and near fatalities in the State.

- Citizen review panels must prepare and submit an annual written report containing a summary of the activities of the panel and recommendations to improve the child protection services system.
- The DCFS provides each panel with an annual report format, requesting a brief summary of the panel's activities and recommendations. Within six months of receipt, of the CRP annual report, the DCFS must respond to each panel's annual report and describe whether or how the state will incorporate the recommendations of the panel.

Beverly stated that the annual report is expected to be 1-2 pages in length and summarize the annual activities of the Executive Committee. She stated they want the subcommittee to be more involved in drafting recommendations to DCFS or individual counties. The goal is to write recommendations to a child welfare agency to improve child welfare practices and bring this up to the Executive Committee for review. Beverly asked if the subcommittee had any questions. Kathie McKenna asked if the recommendations revolve only around Child Death Review or if the focus is on improving practices among DCFS and protection agencies. Beverly stated that recommendations can be based on preventing fatalities or improving practices. Denise Tyre asked what information or data was prompting a recommendation. Beverly stated that she could present recommendations that were made in the past, and the team could get ideas from those recommendations. Beverly presented, via PowerPoint, past recommendations made by the Executive Committee along with the responses.

6. For Possible Action: *Draft and/or Approve 2024 CRP Recommendations*

- Consideration, discussion, and possible action to draft and/or approve 2024 CRP recommendation(s) for the Child Death Review Executive Committee.

Beverly Brown asked the subcommittee if they were ready to draft a recommendation or if they wanted to look at recommendations submitted to the Executive Committee in the past year. She also asked if there was any data they wanted to look at. Kathie McKenna stated that she is not ready to complete a recommendation at this time, but that it would be best to look over data and past recommendations. Amanda Haboush-Deloye stated there should be a discussion on topics or ideas on what improvements could look like. This would help determine what kind of data to pull or what data are available. Denise Tyre stated that she agreed with Kathie and Amanda. Beverly stated that she could create a packet that includes last year's Citizen Review Panel report and recommendations. The packet would also include the funding received and how it was spent, recommendations made from the CDR regional teams, and data that she and April Stahl have seen while reviewing fatality reviews across Nevada. Amanda asked if the team could include specific requests. Beverly stated that it was fine. Amanda suggested that the subcommittee should review the past two years of child fatalities that have open CPS cases and look to see if child abuse or neglect played a role. She stated that it would help narrow down trends that are specific to child welfare and know who the perpetrators are. The data can help the subcommittee come up with a recommendation. Beverly Brown stated that is a good starting point and asked the team if anyone had any other ideas. Kathie McKenna stated that Nye County has an issue of babies being born who are exposed to drugs. She stated that no legal actions were taken against the parents. She stated that she would like an intervention geared towards the parents before their baby is born to help with this problem. Amanda asked Kathie if pregnant women in Nye County are receiving prenatal care. Kathie stated that most pregnant mothers are not receiving prenatal care due to the lack of

specialty doctors. She mentioned that at-home births happen so that the parents do not get in trouble if their baby is born drug-exposed. Denise Tyre stated that having CPS involvement prior to a child's birth is not allowed. Beverly Brown stated that if this is something that CDR teams are seeing often, a recommendation to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) could be drafted to have regulations changed and to be able to intervene sooner in substance use-related deaths. Amanda stated there could be better interventions with the parents to ensure they get help. She stated that CPS is called if an infant is born with exposure to substances, but not necessarily taken away. The interaction between mother and infant can determine the next steps to see if the mother is open to getting help for herself. Beverly stated that she would have April share the link from CARA regarding their perinatal substance use treatment network.

Jorge Montano Figueroa stated that guns are the leading cause of death among children across the United States. He suggested that the team focus on data pertaining to firearm safety and propose a recommendation limiting access to firearms among children. Denise Tyre stated that none of the recommendations that were shown to the subcommittee, were related to suicide. She mentioned that there should be an increase in the amount of individual conversations that happen between professionals in the community and families. Denise stated that there was a past recommendation that required social service agencies in Washoe County who had a child under the age of one to talk about unsafe sleep. She stated that since then, there has only been one documented fatality in Washoe County. She mentioned that this past year, she focused on extending these conversations and building relationships with first responders. She wants them to educate and provide training to community members. Amanda Haboush-Deloye asked if the recommendations were meant for DCFS. Beverly Brown stated that the funding would be geared towards DCFS or individual counties. Amanda stated that she wasn't sure if Denise's recommendation was appropriate because the recommendations were meant for child welfare policies. Beverly stated that it seemed as though Denise wanted the recommendation to be for the child welfare agencies and build relationships with community partners to help people understand that these issues are more public health-related, not just child welfare issues. Denise stated that she would want the recommendation to be focused on building relationships with first responders and have them have a better understanding of unsafe sleep and suicide. Amanda stated that she would like to see data on child welfare among children removed from their homes based on their race and age. She stated that she's conducted several focus groups regarding children being removed from their homes, and recommendations have been made. She stated that she could put those recommendations together by the next subcommittee meeting. Beverly asked Amanda to send April Stahl the focus group recommendations before the next meeting. Beverly stated that she would send material to the team in advance to review and get ideas going before the next meeting.

Melinda Rhoades stated that people with addiction problems were often exposed to adverse childhood experiences. She stated that providing education through community providers about substance treatment could help identify the trauma that has impacted a person. She stated that when death is caused by parental child abuse, co-sleeping, or substance abuse of a parent, it seems as though there is a mental health component involved. Beverly Brown asked if anyone had additional comments. No one replied. Beverly stated that they will not be drafting a recommendation, but that DCFS will compile all the information/recommendations that were listed so everyone can analyze and come up with possible recommendations to bring back.

MOTION: Melinda Rhoades, seconded by Kathie McKenna to table this agenda item for the following meeting.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

7. Final Public Comment

April Stahl stated that to provide public comment, please unmute your microphone before speaking, or you can call into this meeting by using the number 775-321-6111, with passcode number 894571081#. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name.

Elyse Monroy-Marsala provided public comment. She stated that she wanted to provide information for pregnant people who are having pregnancies complicated by substance use. There is a program in Las Vegas, NV called the Mother Program. This program supports mothers who are pregnant and who are in active addiction throughout their pregnancy. She stated that the Empowered program is a program that helps mothers with babies who were born substance-exposed. This program will be expanding to the North.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM.