

MINUTES
of the
Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children Meeting

held on
February 14, 2024

via teleconference

Microsoft Teams

[Meeting Link](#)

Call-in (audio only): +1 775-321-6111, Extension: 64886010#

1. Call to Order

Melinda Rhoades called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

2. For Information Only: Roll Call

- Executive Committee members present:
 - Kathie McKenna, Pioneer Territory CASA
 - Tami Conn, proxy for Vickie S. Ives, DPBH-MCH
 - Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ
 - Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety
 - Melinda Rhoades, SAFY
 - Misty Vaughan Allen, DPBH – Suicide Prevention
 - Sheri McPartlin, CCSD
 - Megan Soracco, DCFS
 - Kandee Mortenson, DCFS
 - Amanda Haboush-Deloye, NICRP/Prevent Child Abuse NV
 - Cody Phinney, DPBH
 - Jill Marano, Clark County DFS
 - Jorge Montano, Safe Kids
 - Denise Tyre, Washoe County HSA
 - Sgt. Laura Conklin, Reno Law Enforcement
 - Nikki Mead, Office of Vital Records
 - Kaitlynn Rodriguez, DCFS
 - Rhonda Sinclair, DCFS
 - Clayden Porter, DCFS
- Executive Committee members absent:
 - Brian Shoaf, Elko County Sheriff's Office
 - Marla McDade Williams, HHS Director's Office
 - Amber Howell, Washoe County HSA
 - Jennifer Spencer, Office of AG
 - Pete Rubio, DCFS
 - Michelle Sandoval, DPBH – Rural Clinics

- Staff and guests:
 - Dawn Davidson, NICRP
 - Orjola Merkaj, NICRP
 - April Stahl, DCFS
 - Dylan Nall, DCFS
 - Elyse Monroy-Marsala/Lea Case, Belz & Case
 - Beverly Brown, DCFS
 - Debbie Charlton, DHHS, DPBH
 - Geordan Goebel, Attorney General DHHS
 - Joseph Vassallo, Float Like a Duck/Paragon Pools
 - Mary Vail, Float Like a Duck/Paragon Pools
 - Leann McAllister, Nevada Chapter AAP
 - Maria Janos, DCFS
 - Sabrina Schnur, Belz & Case
 - Terence McAllister, Desert Valley Pediatrics

3. For Information Only: Initial Public Comment (Discussion only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting)

Melinda Rhoades 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 648 860 10#.

Amanda Haboush-Deloye stated that the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP) received a grant from the CDC. This grant is called the Essentials for Childhood Data to Action and is in partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno. The first part of the grant is to improve surveillance around adverse childhood experiences and protective factors. The second part of the grant is working to prevent adverse childhood experiences. She stated that NICRP will develop a public campaign around reducing stigma for parental help-seeking behaviors. Monthly group meetings will occur over the next couple of months. She asked the group to contact her via email if anyone was interested in learning more.

4. For Information Only: Purpose of the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children

- a. Provide an overview of the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children

Denise Tyre stated that the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children is a partnership of professionals, organizations, and agencies with the primary goal of preventing child maltreatment and child death by improving upon the recommendations of law, policy, and practice change. The intent is to bring together community-level organizations and agencies that can shed light on the factors that lead to child death, as well as recommendations to prevent similar deaths in the future. The Executive Committee reviews the findings and recommendations to determine what action to take to prevent other child fatalities as well as to

improve the well-being and safety of children and families through prevention campaign messages and education.

5. For Possible Action: Approval of last meeting minutes

- a. Discussion and possible approval of the November 15, 2023, meeting minutes.
 - Public Comment will be allowed during discussion of this action item before a vote is taken.

Melinda Rhoades asked if there was comment or discussion pertaining to the November 15, 2023 meeting minutes. There was no comment or discussion.

MOTION: Made by Megan Soracco seconded by Sheri McPartlin to approve the meeting minutes from November 15, 2023.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

6. For Possible Action: Recommendation to remove member from the Committee.

- a. Consideration, discussion, and vote to approve the recommendation of the removal of committee member, Brian Shoaf.
 - Public Comment will be allowed during discussion of this action item before a vote is taken.

Melinda Rhoades stated that Brian Shoaf has not been in attendance and has not returned comments or contact from the Executive Committee. April Stahl stated that there have been attempts to reach Brian Shoaf via email and the emails came back undeliverable. According to the by-laws, the Executive Committee has to vote to remove him and find a replacement. Kaitlynn Rodriguez confirmed that Brian no longer works for the agency and that Don Unruh will replace Brian. April asked Kaitlynn to forward Don's contact information. Beverly Brown stated that since they were not notified of Brian leaving, the Executive Committee has to vote to remove him, which will create a vacancy for another member to represent his membership role. Melinda Rhoades asked if there was discussion or comment to remove Brian Shoaf from the Executive Committee. There was no discussion or comment.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna seconded by Sheri McPartlin to remove Brian Shoaf from the Executive Committee.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

7. For Possible Action: Approval of proposed meeting dates for future Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children Meetings

- a. Discussion and approval to change future Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children meeting dates to be the 3rd Wednesday of each month.
 - May 15, 2024

- August 21, 2024
 - November 20, 2024
- Public Comment will be allowed during discussion of this action item before a vote is taken.

Beverly Brown stated there was an error regarding the 2024 meeting dates that the team voted on and approved at the last meeting. Beverly stated that the team has to re-vote for the above 2024 meeting dates. Sheri McPartlin stated that she already had the above meeting dates on her calendar and asked what changed. Beverly explained to Sheri that she had the correct meeting dates on her calendar because the calendar invite dates that were sent out were correct, but the dates that the Executive Committee approved at the November meeting were incorrect.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna seconded by Sheri McPartlin to approve the meeting dates to occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each quarter.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

8. For Possible Action: Committee review and approval of the 2021 Annual Statewide Death Report.

- a. Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of the 2021 Annual Statewide Death Report.
 - Public Comment will be allowed during discussion of this action item before a vote is taken.

Denise Tyre asked the Executive Committee if there was discussion or comments regarding the 2021 Annual Statewide Death Report. Tami Conn referred to pages 15 and 16, figures 3, 4, and 5. She stated that it shows the number and percent of deaths per race and ethnicity and she suggests displaying it as a rate or comparing it back to the population distribution that could show the disparities by race and ethnicity. Dawn Davidson stated that she could take a look and reach out to Tami or Vicki Ives with any questions. Jorge Montano asked when the 2022 report will be available and if the report process is usually two to three years behind. Dawn Davidson stated that multiple factors contribute to delays with the report. She stated that we have to wait for the coroner's office to finish closing their cases, enter data, clean the data, analyze it, create the report, and send it to DCFS for review.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna seconded by Megan Soracco to approve the 2021 Annual Statewide Death Report as is.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

One unidentified committee member opposed.

9. For Possible Action: Next steps for the below recommendations.

- 2021 Quarter 2
 - Washoe County Child Death Review Team recommendation for fentanyl becoming a part of standard hospital drug testing panels.
- 2021 Quarter 4
 - Washoe County Child Death Review Team recommendation that a Public Service Announcement and community education be developed regarding minors operating all-terrain vehicles.
- 2022 Quarter 4
 - Clark County Child Death Review Team recommendation regarding hot tub safety for hot tubs manufactured prior to 2007.

April Stahl began the discussion about the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe CDR recommendation. She stated that 11 hospitals in Nevada were working towards having fentanyl become part of standard hospital drug testing panels. There was no discussion regarding this recommendation.

MOTION: Made by Laura Conklin seconded by Megan Soracco to close the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe CDR recommendation.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

Next, April Stahl began discussing the 2021 Quarter 4 Washoe CDR recommendation. She stated that there have been several announcements and community engagement through Safe Kids and the Nevada Offroad Vehicle Association. Jorge Montano stated that they were able to support the Nevada Outdoor School to continue to provide hands-on training. They devised a curriculum encouraging parents to talk to their kids about ATV safety. Several outreach events have engaged the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) community to provide education, awareness, and free resources. He stated that 194 youth OHV helmets were given away in Northern Nevada. UMC in Southern Nevada gave out 75 helmets. He stated that their goal for 2024 is to provide more awareness and participate more in outreach events.

MOTION: Made by Sheri McPartlin seconded by Kathie McKenna to close the 2021 Quarter 4 Washoe CDR recommendation.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

Next, Dawn Davidson began discussing the 2022 Quarter 4 Clark CDR recommendation. She stated that drains of pools and spas installed prior to 2007 pose an entrapment risk. This can lead to drowning. Some devices are available that can be retrofitted over the drains to alleviate the entrapment risk. The health district regulates public pools, but private pools are not regulated. She stated that the child's death occurred in a private pool. The Clark CDR team

recommended community education for private homeowners, pool contractors, and home inspectors about entrapment hazards in pools and spas installed before 2007. She stated that at the previous meeting, she mentioned speaking with Mary Vail and inviting her to the February Executive Committee meeting. Mary Vail stated that she and Joe Vassallo are with Paragon Pools and the Float Like a Duck campaign. She stated that Joe is a highly respected pool builder in the state and nationally. He was involved in the BGB Act in Washington DC and with the pool association to help ensure that pool goers and pool homeowners are safe. Joe stated that he has information put together to create public service announcements and services to people so they can be educated on the proper steps they should take. He stated that most state pool contractors must follow the American National Standards Institute #7, which pertains to suction entrapment for water vessels. He stated that some states don't have licensing and pools are being built with little knowledge. He stated that he is here to help and is willing to work with the Executive Committee. Mary Vail asked how they can move forward with the Executive Committee. She stated that she and Joe have ideas and concepts about reaching out to people. Dawn stated that a subcommittee could be formed to determine how to get this information out to the public. Mary asked if there is funding or grants available for this recommendation. Beverly Brown stated that a notice of funding opportunity occurs annually that can be used towards child death prevention. April Stahl stated that a subcommittee would help answer questions, research, and collaborate. Mary stated that she is open to being part of a subcommittee. Sheri McPartlin asked what the purpose was to continue to keep this recommendation open. Dawn stated that the Clark CDR team brought forth this recommendation to help prevent children from drowning. Mary is willing to collaborate and create a campaign to reach out to people to help prevent these deaths. She stated that if this is something that the group does not want to participate in, then that would be the reason for closing the recommendation. Sheri asked whose responsibility it is to look for funding. Dawn stated that if a subcommittee works with Mary, they would come up with ideas and be prepared for when funding is available through this committee to help this campaign. Joe stated that they are interested in getting involved with the Executive Committee through any means and to let Mary know the next steps. Beverly stated that the committee can let Mary know when the notice of funding is available and if the group is interested in having Float Like a Duck present information in the future.

MOTION: Made by Megan Soracco seconded by Kandee Mortenson to close the 2022 Quarter 4 Clark CDR recommendation and revisit it when the notice of funding is available.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

10. For Possible Action: Review and respond to 2023 Quarter 4 Regional Child Death Review Team recommendations.

- a. Consideration and discussion for fatality prevention recommendations provided by regional Child Death Review teams and possible action by the Executive Committee to make these formal recommendations.

- **2023 Quarter 4:**
 - Clark County:

- This team recommends financial support in the recruitment, hiring, placement, and retention of a pediatric abuse specialist in a hospital or clinic in Clark County.
- Rural Counties: These teams recommend the following:
 - Enhancing gun safety awareness, suicide, and resources to assist these efforts, i.e. lock boxes.
 - Providing education related to safe sleep.
 - Large-scale public service announcements including “if you see something, say something” if there is a concern of abuse/neglect happening. This may help with reporting practices from family members and/or bystanders. This recommendation suggests that this message be done through social media, billboards, and ads on local media.
 - Regarding the topic of post-partum depression – May is post-partum depression month and can be part of large-scale public service announcements including targeted interventions with on-going conversations about post-partum depression, possible red-flags and what to do. Continue training medical professionals about the correlation between post-partum depression and child safety, being aware and sensitive of cultural and gender views and stigmas about mental health. Include press-releases and brochures in doctor’s offices and in community resource settings discussing post-partum depression for both men and women.
 - Regarding home construction/renovations – Request that the local fire department partner with the Washoe Tribe regarding fire prevention strategies. Provide the community with education around the risks of making home improvements without trained professionals.
- Washoe County:
 - No recommendations.
- Public Comment will be allowed during discussion of this action item before a vote is taken.

Dawn Davidson began discussing the 2023 Quarter 4 Clark CDR recommendation. She stated that the Clark CDR team reviewed 39 cases since 2019 in which abuse had occurred. There was a child maltreatment specialist in Clark County up until 2018, but there has not been one since then. Amanda Haboush-Deloye stated that she suggests moving forward with this recommendation, which would benefit the entire state of Nevada. She mentioned that the pediatrician in Northern Nevada who specialized in child abuse cases also retired and that position has not been filled. She stated that other physicians would send Dr. Sandra Cetl, the Clark child maltreatment specialist, images to get her input. The concern was that ever since Dr. Cetl left, where would the funding come from to pay for a child abuse specialist? Amanda stated that she believes it is a three-year process to train a physician in child maltreatment. Jorge Montano stated that he supports Amanda’s stance on this recommendation and believes that the team should move forward with this recommendation. Denise Tyre stated that funding is not the issue, but more of finding a physician willing to complete the training and obtain the certifications. She stated that less than ten physicians across the country have this certification.

She recommended that it would be more realistic to locate a physician for possible contracting. Beverly Brown stated that DCFS could look into what other state child welfare agencies are doing. Desiree Mattice asked if it would be best to have a physician undergo the training instead of contracting someone. Jill Morano stated that a physician in Utah is being paid from the VOCA Grant to review physical abuse cases. She stated that she believes that it would be best to have a physician reside in Nevada to review abuse cases and be able to meet with the team. She stated that she wants to find a way to encourage a physician in Nevada to complete the training. Denise stated that for pediatric physicians to obtain the certification, they must undergo a three-year fellowship with an accredited child abuse pediatrics fellowship program. Desiree stated that even though it is an extensive investment, it is not a negative investment. Jorge suggested reaching out to Dr. Kristina Deeter to help guide the committee through the process. Desiree stated that she is worried that if the team decides to put a physician through the training, they may leave, and the team is back to where they started. April Stahl asked the team if this recommendation is something they want to look further into or create a subcommittee. Sheri McPartlin stated that she would like to look further into the recommendation and create a subcommittee. Amanda stated that the team should look into the recommendation further and see what other states are doing. Beverly suggested amending the recommendation to explore ideas and possibilities in the recruitment, hiring, placement, and retention of pediatric abuse specialists in Nevada. Dawn stated that recommendations have not been amended in the past and suggested voting for what action the team would like to take in response to the recommendation.

MOTION: Made by Sheri McPartlin seconded by Nikki Mead to continue working on the recommendation as discussed.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

Next, the team began discussing the 2023 Quarter 4 rural recommendations. Desiree Mattice stated that “if you see something, say something” is a primary phrase for Homeland Security. April Stahl asked the Executive Committee if anyone from the rural counties wanted to discuss the recommendations further. Kathie McKenna stated that this recommendation did not come from Nye County. April Stahl stated that each bullet point presented to the team is a recommendation from one of the rural death review teams.

Jorge Montano stated that he supports creating a recommendation to enhance gun safety awareness. Kathie McKenna stated that she agreed with Jorge Montano. Denise Tyre stated the team can consider making policy changes regarding providing lock boxes to families. It would be beneficial to have more information regarding what age group of minors are most affected by firearm safety or unsafe firearm storage. Misty Allen stated that the data for rural communities shows that 70% of suicide deaths are by firearms; sometimes, it can go up to 90% for the youth. Denise stated that homicide can be problematic for teenagers having access to guns, so it’s not about control; it’s about prevention.

MOTION: Made By Misty Allen seconded by Kathie McKenna to approve the recommendation to enhance gun safety awareness, suicide, and resources to assist these efforts, i.e. lock boxes.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

Next, Melinda Rhoades began discussing a recommendation to continue educational efforts related to safe sleep. She asked the Executive Committee if there was further discussion. No discussion was made.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna seconded by Laura Conklin to approve the recommendation as is.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

Next, Melinda Rhoades began discussing the large-scale public service announcements including “if you see something, say something” if there is a concern of abuse/neglect happening. This may help with reporting practices from family members and/or bystanders. This recommendation suggests that this message be done through social media, billboards, and ads on local media. Megan Soracco stated that this recommendation came from District 2 from the rural areas. She stated that “if you see something, say something” is not required to be included in any work, but it was an example that the group came up with. She stated that the recommendation is for family members or anyone who does not want to cause problems or get involved.

MOTION: Made by Laura Conklin seconded by Sherri McPartlin to approve the recommendation as is.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

Next, Melinda Rhoades began discussing the recommendation regarding the topic of postpartum depression. Melinda displayed the recommendation for the Executive Committee. Megan Soracco stated that this recommendation relates to postpartum depression. The education regarding postpartum depression will be targeted towards different cultures. April Stahl stated that from her own experience, doctor’s offices have flyers, pamphlets, posters, etc., with different types of information. She asked what other efforts are being made in the medical community. Cody Finney stated that she can have the Bureau of the Chief Medical Officer share how that information is relayed to the community at a future meeting. April stated that she does not want to duplicate any existing information. Cody stated that the best way to proceed with this recommendation is to connect the team with the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. April asked the Executive Committee if the team would be interested in learning more about this in future meetings. Desiree Mattice stated that she would be interested in hearing about those efforts Tami Conn stated that her office would be willing to give a presentation on postpartum mood and anxiety disorder (PMAD).

MOTION: Made by Megan Soracco seconded by Misty Allen to table the recommendation until further information and presentations are provided.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

Next, Beverly Brown began the discussion regarding home construction and renovations. Beverly displayed the recommendation. Megan Soracco stated that the recommendation is to ensure that tribes receive the same information regarding fire prevention strategies. This is

sometimes related to unsafe home improvements. April Stahl asked about the relationship between local fire departments and tribes. Tribes have exclusive jurisdictions and can do whatever they want regardless of the group's decision. Megan stated that the recommendation is to ensure that information is available to anyone and not necessarily telling people what to do. April stated that this recommendation is geared only towards one tribe and it seems they are being targeted. She suggested that the language on the recommendation should be rewritten. Desiree Mattice suggested creating a public service announcement with the Department of Emergency Management. Denise Tyre suggested that the CDR teams in Nevada could invite or include tribal representatives. Amanda Haboush-Deloye stated that the recommendation should be considered a partnership and that information should be offered to the tribal community. Tami Conn suggested that the recommendation can remove Washoe and include something about tribal partnerships. Dawn Davidson stated that recommendations come from the CDR teams and the Executive Committee decides what actions they want to take, not necessarily focusing on the language. If there is a piece of the recommendation that the team wants to move forward with and not others, then that can be discussed. Megan stated that she was not sure how an identifying tribe was added to the recommendation and that is not how the recommendation was proposed. Denise asked what prompted this recommendation. Megan stated that a child's death occurred in a home fire that was undergoing renovations. The incident occurred on tribal land. The recommendation was to provide general education on fire safety when undergoing home renovations. Denise stated that this recommendation may be more effective for anyone completing home renovations, not just on tribal land.

MOTION: Made by Megan Soracco seconded by Sherri McPartlin to close the recommendation.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

11. For Information Only: U.S. Department of Education New Resource for School Administrators on Importance.

- a. Discuss new safe and secure firearm resource released by the U.S. Department of Education.

April Stahl stated that in January, the U.S. Department of Education worked to develop a message about securing firearms. A letter template was sent out to schools that can be distributed to families. The letter contains resources and why it is important to store a firearm properly. She told the team that if anyone wanted the letter, she would email it. Jorge Montano asked how the letter would be sent to the Nevada school districts. April stated that the U.S. Department of Education had already distributed the letters to all the school districts nationwide. The schools are responsible for sending the letter to parents and family members.

12. For Information Only: Citizen Review Panel Subcommittee update.

- a. Provide update on the status of the Citizen Review Panel Subcommittee and next steps.

April Stahl stated that the subcommittee for the Citizen Review Panel Subcommittee met in January. There was a discussion about the Citizen Review Panel's purpose and how to create recommendations. The subcommittee meets in March and will have recommendations to be brought back to the Executive Committee.

13. Final Public Comment and Discussion

Melinda Rhoades 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 648 860 10#. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name.

There was no public comment or discussion.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.