

— DRAFT —

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

August 16, 2023

via teleconference

Microsoft Teams

[Meeting Link](#)

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

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum

Melinda Rhoades called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

- Executive Committee members present:
 - Kathie McKenna, Pioneer Territory CASA
 - Vickie S. Ives, DPBH-MCH
 - Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ
 - Jennifer Spencer, Office of AG
 - Cindy Pitlock, DCFS
 - Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety
 - Melinda Rhoades, SAFY
 - Marla McDade Williams, HHS Director's Office
 - Misty Vaughan Allen, DPBH – Suicide Prevention
 - Sheri McPartlin, CCSD
 - Megan Soracco, DCFS
 - Kandee Mortenson, DCFS
 - Pete Rubio, DCFS
 - Michelle Saldivar, proxy for Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Prevent Child Abuse NV
 - Cody Phinney, DPBH
 - Jill Marano, Clark County DFS
 - Jorge Montano, Safe Kids
 - Denise Tyre, Washoe County HAS
 - Sgt. Laura Conklin, Reno Law Enforcement
- Executive Committee members absent:
 - Michelle Sandoval, DPBH – Rural Clinics
 - Brian Shoaf, Elko County Sheriff's Office
 - Amber Howell, Clark County HAS
 - Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Prevent Child Abuse NV
- Staff and guests:
 - Dawn Davidson, NICRP
 - Orjola Merkaj, NICRP
 - Dylan Nall, DCFS
 - Beverly Brown, DCFS

- Maria Janos, DCFS
- Nikki Mead, Office of Vital Records
- (775) 685-9311,

2. Public Comment and Discussion

- Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting.

Melinda Rhoades stated that in order 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 8646-860-10#.

There was no public comment.

3. For Possible Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2023.

- Public Comment will be allowed during the discussion of this action item before a vote is taken.

Melinda Rhoades asked the Executive Committee if they had any corrections or discussion regarding the meeting minutes from May 17, 2023. No comments were made.

MOTION: Made by Pete Rubio, seconded by Sheri McPartlin, to approve the meeting minutes from May 17, 2023.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

4. For Possible Action: Discuss, approve, and seek nominations for the upcoming co-chair election.

- Nominations for the co-chair position will be sought for the election that will be held at the November meeting.

Dylan Nall presented the State of Nevada Executive Committee To Review The Death Of Children Bylaws, article 3.1, to the Executive Committee (shown below).

The members of the Executive Committee shall elect two Co-Chairs. One Co-Chair shall be elected from the Clark County region because Clark County represents the largest population base in the state and, therefore, the largest number of child deaths. The other Co-Chair shall be elected from the remaining geographic regions of the state. 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 as an interim co-chair. If a member from the vacant geographic region cannot be identified, the interim co-chair can remain in the office of the co-chair until the end of the term as long as there is representation on the committee from both geographic regions. Additionally, if one co-chair position cannot be filled after a period of active recruitment (6 months), the committee can vote to allow for one chair until the end of the chair's term.

Cindy Pitlock recommended that the team bring this agenda item back for a future meeting. Beverly Brown stated that anyone interested in becoming a co-chair can contact her or Dylan Nall for more information. Dawn Davidson commented on Article 3.4, which indicates that co-chair elections should be held at the first regularly scheduled meeting on or after October 1st. Dawn asked if the group would need to vote to postpone elections or how they want to move forward. Jennifer Spencer stated that the team can vote to postpone the elections now or wait until the next meeting if there are no nominations. Given that there were no nominations, Jennifer Spencer suggested a motion to postpone the election for a co-chair position.

MOTION: Made by Kathie McKenna, seconded by Pete Rubio, to postpone the elections for a co-chair position.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

5. For Possible Action: Discuss and approve the response letter(s) and next steps for the below recommendations.

- 2021 Quarter 2
 - Review response letter and determine the next steps regarding Washoe CDR's recommendation for fentanyl becoming a part of standard hospital testing panels.
 - 2021 Quarter 4
 - Discuss and determine the next steps regarding Washoe CDR's recommendation that a Public Service Announcement and community education be developed regarding minors operating ATVs.
 - 2022 Quarter 4
 - Review response letter and determine the next steps regarding Carson City's CDR recommendation for community education opportunities regarding safe sleep environments.
 - 2022 Quarter 4: Discuss response letter and determine next steps for Clark CDR's recommendation regarding hot tub safety for hot tubs manufactured prior to 2007.
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- Public Comment will be allowed during discussion of this action item before a vote is taken.

Melinda Rhoades began the discussion about the 2021 Quarter 2 Washoe CDR recommendation. Melinda stated that the letter has been sent and there are no updates from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH).

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Next, Melinda Rhoades discussed the 2021 Quarter 4 Washoe CDR recommendation. Dylan Nall presented to the team the letter that will be sent to the Nevada Off-Road Association regarding minors operating ATVs.

MOTION: Made by Misty Allen, seconded by Megan Soracco to approve the next steps of sending the letter out as presented.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Next, Melinda Rhoades discussed the 2022 Quarter 4 Clark CDR recommendation. Dylan Nall asked the group if they would prefer to send the letter to the Safe Sleep Advocates or the Nevada Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (NVAAP). Megan Soracco asked why only one letter had to go out. Dylan asked Dawn Davidson for clarification. Dawn indicated that a letter can be sent to both agencies. Dawn pointed out that the letter presented on the screen needed an edit. Specifically, the letter to the safe sleep advocates referenced NVAAP in the body, but should have referenced Baby's Bounty and Cribs for Kids. Megan Soracco stated that she wants to make a motion to send the modified letter to the safe sleep advocates, noting the correct agency and make the motion to send the letter to the NVAAP as written. Vickie Ives stated that the Executive Committee should include Baby's Bounty and Cribs for Kids as resources for the NVAAP. She stated it would benefit families to have access to their safe sleep program at no cost.

MOTION: Made by Vickie Ives, seconded by Kandee Mortenson to amend the letters to include resources for Baby's Bounty and Cribs for Kids and have those sent out to the NVAAP.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Next, Melinda Rhoades discussed the 2022 Quarter 4 Clark CDR recommendation. Melinda stated that at the Executive Committee meeting on May 17, 2023, the team voted to send a letter to local health departments; however, in reviewing this letter, Dawn Davidson and Jessica Freeman realized that the health departments already oversee public pools. This recommendation is focused on preventing deaths in private pools and spas. Dawn Davidson stated that the Clark CDR team reviewed a case where a child got their hair caught in a spa drain, drowned, and died. She stated that Clark CDR recommends community education, through public service announcements and/or a campaign, geared toward private homeowners, pool contractors, and home inspectors about 1) entrapment hazards in pools and spas installed before 2007 and 2) the importance of retrofitting older pools and spas with devices to alleviate these hazards. Dawn asked the team if they had any ideas on how to move forward on reaching the target audience. Desiree Mattice suggested mailing pool safety flyers to homeowners and developing ways to post flyers in swimming pool stores. Dawn Davidson asked if the Executive Committee could reach out to the Southern Nevada Child Drowning Prevention Coalition and see if they want to collaborate or guide the team in the right direction. Christine Eckles and Misty Allen stated that contacting the Southern Nevada Child Drowning Prevention Coalition would be a good first step.

MOTION: Made by Christine Eckles, seconded by Misty Allen to reach out to the Southern Nevada Child Drowning Prevention Coalition as the first step.

UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

6. For Possible Action: Review and respond to the 2023 Quarter 2 summaries of regional CDR team statistics and recommendation to determine if these items need further discussion, if ready for formal recommendation, or if the item can be considered closed.

- Dylan Nall stated that there were no recommendations made, this item will be skipped, but kept for future agenda items.

7. For Information Only: Provide update on the response for the DCFS regarding the Executive Committee's recommendations for the 2023 Annual Citizen Review Panel Report.

Dylan Nall stated that each year, the Executive Committee makes recommendations as a CRP to DCFS to improve practice. These recommendations are based on the committee's discussions during the year. Dylan stated that the Executive Committee submitted recommendations at the beginning of 2023 and DCFS has six months after the recommendations are made to respond. The first recommendation (shown below) was presented to the committee.

It is recommended that DCFS continues to collaborate with statewide organizations, including but not limited to, DPBH, Hospital Association, and the Statewide Overdose Data to Action Team, to address the ongoing concerns of fentanyl related overdoses and accidental ingestions by: providing education to the families we serve about the dangers of fentanyl; staying informed about the resources provided by the Statewide Overdose Data to Action Team.

Dylan Nall stated that DCFS accepted this recommendation. The Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children will continue to discuss this recommendation and further discover ways to promote the dangers of fentanyl. The Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children has encouraged the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health via letter to put forth legislation in the 2025 session regarding the addition of fentanyl to drug testing panels at all hospitals in Nevada.

Next, Dylan Nall read the below recommendation to the group regarding off-road vehicles.

It is recommended that DCFS continue to collaborate with statewide organizations, to include but not limited to, DPBH, and Nevada Off-Road Association, to address the ongoing concerns of off-road vehicle accidents involving minors by: providing education to the families we serve about the importance of proper off-road vehicle safety; partnering with the Nevada Outdoor School to facilitate safety training.

Dylan stated that DCFS accepted this recommendation. The Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children intends to continue discussing this recommendation and further discover ways to promote off-road vehicle safety for minors by collaborating with Safe Kids and the

Nevada Outdoor School. Proper off-road vehicle safety legislation for minors should be supported.

Next, Dylan Nall read the below recommendation to the group regarding training for the child welfare workforce.

It is recommended that DCFS provide training to the child welfare workforce and partner agencies, including, but not limited to, CASA, CAP Attorneys, and other court professionals on: understanding the impacts of childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on parental behavior; and understanding how childhood trauma and ACEs may negatively affect parent's ability to safety care for their child(ren).

Dylan stated that DCFS accepted this recommendation. The Nevada Partnership for Training (NVPT) provides all child welfare staff training about ACEs. DCFS administrator, Cindy Pitlock, emailed all DCFS employees training regarding ACEs and its impact on youth and families. The Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children will distribute the training to members and encourage them to share it with their networks. The regional Child Death Review teams will begin to identify common trends of protective factors. Nevada is updating statewide policies by using child welfare staff regarding safety assessments in developing policies around family-first prevention services.

Dylan Nall asked the team if anyone had any comments or questions regarding the recommendations. Melinda Rhoades stated that there are none.

8. For Information Only: Remind grantees of the year end reports from the Public Awareness funding for SFY2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023).

Melinda Rhoades stated that this is to remind each sub-award recipient of a year-end report to the Grant Management Unit (GMU) on the successes and outcomes of the funded project. Dylan Nall stated to contact her if anyone has any questions regarding the report.

13. Final Public Comment and Discussion

Melinda Rhoades stated that action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting. She 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#. There was no public comment and/or discussion.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.