

— DRAFT —

MINUTES
of the
Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children
Meeting
held on
September 25, 2024

via Microsoft Teams

[Meeting Link](#)

Call-in number: 1(775) 321-6111; Extension: 64886010#

1. Call to Order

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

2. For Information Only: Roll Call

- Executive Committee members present:
 - Denise Tyre Human Services at Washoe County
 - Amber Hurtado, Human Services at Washoe County
 - Vickie S. Ives, DPBH-MCH
 - Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ
 - Misty Vaughan Allen, DPBH – Suicide Prevention
 - Sheri McPartlin, CCSD
 - Kandee Mortenson, DCFS
 - Jill Marano, Clark County DFS
 - Jorge Montano, Safe Kids
 - Marla McDade Williams, HHS Director’s Office
 - Melinda Rhoades, SAFY
 - Michelle Sandoval, DPBH – Rural Clinics
 - Nikki Mead, Office of Vital Records
 - Kaitlynn Rodriguez, DCFS

- Executive Committee members absent:
 - Amanda Haboush-Deloye, NICRP/Prevent Child Abuse NV
 - Cody Phinney, DPBH
 - Rhonda Sinclair, DCFS
 - Clayden Porter, DCFS
 - Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety
 - Amber Howell, Washoe County HAS
 - Megan Soracco, DCFS
 - Jill Marano, Clark County DF
 - Kathie McKenna, Children of Rural Nevada
 - Pete Rubio, DCFS

- Staff and guests:
 - Orjola Merkaj, NICRP

- April Stahl, DCFS
- Elyse Monroy-Marsala/Lea Case, Belz & Case
- Ryan Gustafson, Washoe County HSA
- Ernie Kazmar, Reno Law Enforcement
- Jamie Spence, DCFS
- Kyra Morgan, DCFS
- Linda Anderson
- Natalie Gillis
- Liz Stetson, DCFS
- Kimberly Martin, Washoe County HSA
- Michael Cason, DCFS
- Nicole Bishop, Renown Regional Medical Center
- Rossana Dagdagan, Department of Human Services

3. 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 64886010#. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name.

There was no public comment.

4. For Information Only: Discuss the Purpose Of the Executive Committee To Review the Death of Children

Melinda Rhoades 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, which 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: Discussion and possible action to approve June 26, 2024, meeting minutes

Melinda Rhoades asked if there was comment or discussion pertaining to the June 26, 2024 meeting minutes. There was no comment or discussion.

- MOTION: Made by Sheri McPartlin seconded by Misty Allen to approve the meeting minutes from June 26, 2024.
UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

6. For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion, and possible action to establish a subcommittee to address Clark County's Child Death Review (CDR) Team 2023 Quarter 4 Recommendation.

In Quarter 4 of 2023 that the Executive Committee fund and support a child abuse specialist. The goal for today's meeting is to create a subcommittee to work towards that goal. Jorge Montano asked if this subcommittee will find ways to help with this issue or if it is to help recruit a child abuse medical specialist. He also wondered if this physician is only for Southern Nevada or statewide. April Stahl stated that when the recommendation was made, some barriers were not related to funding. There is a shortage of a child abuse specialist across the country because they would have to go through an additional fellowship, additional training, and where those certifications occur are outside of Nevada. Another issue is that individuals finishing medical school do not want to take those extra steps. This role requires testifying in court, prosecuting cases, and report writing. She stated that other states have been providing this training for nurses, especially the ones that are sexual assault nurses and child advocacy nurses since they are already dedicating their time to that type of work. April stated that this subcommittee would focus on developing strategies for improving access to a specialist. Denise Tyre asked if she could nominate someone who is not part of the Executive Committee, but believes it would be a helpful resource in the subcommittee. April stated that she could nominate someone and notify her via email. Vickie Ives, Amber Hurtado, Jorge Montano, and Sheri McPartlin signed up to be a part of the subcommittee.

7. For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion, and possible action regarding the Executive Committee's written responses to the regional CDR team reports and recommendations

April Stahl stated that the regional Child Death Review teams make recommendations to the Executive Committee. With these recommendations, the Executive Committee will provide a written response letter. The letters outlined the Executive Committee's responsibilities and recommendations. The Executive Committee must approve the letters to regional CDR teams.

April Stahl presented the Carson City County Child Death Review Team response for large-scale public service announcements with the message "if you see something, say something" to address concerns of abuse or neglect. 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. She stated that the Executive Committee decided not to take action on this recommendation because it is a regional effort, not a state effort.

In response to the second recommendation regarding post-partum depression, it was suggested that May, recognized as Post-Partum Depression Awareness Month, be used for large-scale public service announcements. These could include targeted interventions and ongoing conversations about post-partum depression, identifying possible red flags, and providing guidance on what actions to take. The recommendation also emphasized continuing to train medical professionals on the link between post-partum depression and child safety, while remaining mindful of cultural and gender-related stigmas surrounding mental health. Additionally, it was proposed to distribute press releases and brochures in doctors' offices and community resource settings to raise awareness about post-partum depression in men and women. She stated that the Executive Committee decided not to take action on the second recommendation because extensive efforts are already occurring through the state of Nevada to address the need.

In response to the third recommendation regarding home construction/renovations, the letter requested that the local fire department partner with the Tribe regarding fire prevention strategies and provide the community with education around the risks of making home improvements without trained professionals. She stated that the Executive Committee decided not to take action on the third recommendation.

In response to the fourth recommendation of enhancing gun safety awareness, suicide, and resources to assist these efforts, i.e., lock boxes, she stated that the Executive Committee decided to take action as access to lethal means is a contributing factor in suicide deaths among children in Nevada. Jamie Spence stated that the fourth recommendation in the letter was not a recommendation that District 2 had put forward. April asked the Executive Committee if they wanted to remove recommendation number four from this letter and approve it.

- MOTION: To approve the Carson City Child Death Review Team letter and remove the fourth recommendation presented in the letter.
UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

Next, April Stahl presented the letter to Elko and the Ely Child Death Review team recommendations in the letter were discussed at the June Executive Committee meeting.

In response to the first recommendation of safe sleep education, April Stahl stated that the Executive Committee voted not to take action due to the extensive efforts already in place to educate parents about safe sleep.

In response to the second recommendation of enhancing gun safety awareness, suicide, and resources to assist these efforts, i.e., lock boxes, the Executive Committee will take action.

- MOTION: To approve the Elko and Ely Child Death Review Team letter.
UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

8. For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion, and approval of future meeting dates

- Proposed meeting dates: February 19, 2025; May 21, 2025; August 21, 2025; November 19, 2025
 - MOTION: Made by the Sheri McPartlin seconded by Nikki Mead to approve the Executive Committee 2025 meeting dates.
UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

9. For Information Only: The Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children – Citizen Review Panel(s) 2023 recommendation

April Stahl stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the state partner with community agencies as appropriate to increase evidence-based public awareness around child deaths, including asphyxia, motor vehicle accidents, drowning, poisoning, overdose/acute intoxication, and suicide. The efforts will include education and collaboration to prevent future child fatalities in Nevada. The state responded, stating that the division accepted the recommendation. The focus will be on increased evidence-based awareness of preventative efforts.

10. For Information Only: Regional Child Death Review Team reports out on regional trends and number of reviews-Regional CDR team Chairs

- Clark
- Rurals
- Washoe

The regional teams have the opportunity to discuss trends and preventative efforts that each region has implemented to inform the EC as well as other Regional CDR Teams may decide to replicate relevant prevention efforts.

Clark: Between April 1st and June 30th, the Clark team had 129 cases referred to it for review and reviewed 131 cases. They reviewed more cases than were referred because the review of some cases from Q1 continued into Q2. This quarter the team reviewed 107 natural deaths, 14 accidents, which included nine motor vehicle deaths, five homicides, which included four due to firearms, one suicide, which was caused by a firearm, and four undetermined deaths. One of the deaths reviewed by the team was a mandatory review because the death was alleged to be from abuse or neglect of the child. Three of the deaths required a review because the children died of SIDS. The team had no recommendations this quarter.

Next, Jamie Spence from District 2 began to share. She stated that during Quarter 2, two cases were reviewed. Both cases were accidents and no recommendations were made. A trend was not observed.

Michael Cason from Nye County stated that their region reviewed three cases this quarter. There were two suicide cases caused by firearms and one homicide case caused by a firearm. There were no recommendations for Quarter 2.

Kandee Mortenson stated that Mineral County did not review any cases during Quarter 2. She stated that Lyon County reviewed a motor vehicle accident case. There were no recommendations for Quarter 2.

Next, Amber Hurtado stated that in 2023, Washoe County reviewed 36 cases. She stated that there was an increase in homicides from the previous year. She stated that there were four unsafe sleep-related deaths and six suicides in 2023. In 2024, Washoe County had 15 fatalities; six will be reviewed next week. Out of the nine that have been reviewed, one case was undetermined. There were two homicide cases, one suicide case, one motor vehicle accident, and one accident where the child fell out of a four-story window. Washoe County recommended expanding the lethal means reduction campaign to include information on both suicide and gun violence among juveniles. They also suggested that apartment complexes and residential buildings with more than three stories provide window safety materials to residents and display them in common areas. Additionally, they recommended sharing Nevada child restraint laws and child safety program flyers with child welfare agencies. In July, Washoe County took over the Mobile Crisis Response Team, aiming to improve youth mental health services and care coordination. Previous efforts included billboards, movie theater ads, sports dome ads, press releases, and social media campaigns.

11. For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion, and possible action to approve a report out form for recipients of grant funding to utilize and provide quarterly updates back to the Executive Committee on activities and expenditures

April Stahl presented the report out form to the Executive Committee. She explained that the Executive Committee had concerns about the lack of updates from grantees on how funds were spent. During the June meeting, the committee discussed creating a quarterly reporting mechanism. The form will include grantee details, funding received, evaluations, and activities completed with the funds. Vickie Ives stated that other similar committees ask funded partners to give quarterly updates. Amber Hurtado stated that grantees' failure to provide reports might result in the withdrawal of grant funds. She asked if this would impact whether or not they could be considered for funding in the following years. April stated yes. April asked the Executive Committee if that should be included to the form. Denise Tyre indicated that it would be helpful.

April Stahl asked the Executive Committee if they had revisions to the quarterly update form. There were no comments.

- MOTION: Made by Sheri McPartlin seconded by Misty Allen to approve the quarterly update form with the added language.
UNANIMOUS VOTE; MOTIONED CARRIED.

12. For Information Only: Advise Executive Committee of scheduling the Citizens Review Panel Subcommittee meeting

April Stahl stated that the Citizens Review Panel Subcommittee meeting needs to be scheduled. She stated that the Executive Committee functions in a dual role. The first role are regular duties, and the second role is as part of the Citizens Review Panel. The Executive Committee makes recommendations to the state based on what they have seen and learned throughout the recommendations and reviews.

13. For Information Only: Presentation from the Office of Suicide Prevention related to implementation of [SB294](#) which addresses safe firearm storage and education campaigns

Misty Allen stated that SB294 came forth from the 2023 legislative session. The Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) will communicate and collaborate with other organizations mentioned in the bill. The first aspect of the bill requires licensed firearms dealers to provide a locking device with each sale or transfer of a firearm, pistol, rifle, or shotgun. Firearm dealers must post a notice that informs buyers that unlawful storage may result in a fine or imprisonment. The bill states that it requires school districts to include provisions related to active assailants in a plan for responding to a crisis, emergency, or suicide. It requires certain school police officers to receive training in active assailant techniques. The bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a safe storage education campaign. Suicide firearm rates have been decreasing since 2021. During the COVID-19 pandemic, suicide rates decreased in Nevada and the nation. The purchase of firearms increased, so then suicide rates increased in 2020 and 2021. Since 2022 and 2023, firearm suicide rates have decreased slightly. The OSP partnered with the Washoe Suicide Prevention Alliance to provide a safe storage map for firearms. The OSP partners with the Nevada Department of Veteran Services who help identify veterans, service members, and families across Nevada who might be at risk for thoughts of suicide or suicide attempts. The OSP has gone to gun shops and gun shows to provide education. Conversations have become more challenging and invitations to gun shows have diminished. When they used to attend gun shows every other weekend, the rate of firearm suicides reduced to almost the national average in a short amount of time. Misty stated they are working with their Public Information Officer and community partners to ensure they get the tone and language correct for community training. She stated that their office offers various locks for different types of firearms and they offer free medication safes.

Misty Allen stated that individuals can visit suicideprevention.nv.gov/ and click on the RALM link, which leads to their webpage dedicated to reducing access to lethal means. She also mentioned that by visiting the Office of Analytics webpage, the suicide dashboard can be found at the bottom of the page. This webpage displays 2023 data in Nevada. Misty further explained that the OSP offers support groups for parents and guardians of youth who have suicidal ideations or attempts.

Nikki Mead asked why the OSP needs to be invited to gun shows as opposed to showing up with a table outside in the front. Misty Allen stated that Richard Egan had relationships with various gun show organizations and they would invite the OSP without having to pay a fee. She stated that when Las Vegas had a mass shooting, along with many others around the country, the conversations regarding gun safety had stopped. It made it more challenging to talk about the subject. Sheri McPartlin asked if Misty had additional information regarding the support group and if there was a virtual option for parents to attend. Misty stated that she has a flyer with information. She stated that the support group meeting is in-person and they have considered a virtual option, but with only one parent showing up, they have not gone that route yet. This support group started almost a year ago. She believes it might not be getting the attention it deserves because it could be the timing, people are tired, it's a scary topic, or it could be a marketing issue. Sheri stated that if a virtual option were available, she would love to share it within the Clark County School District. She stated that parents always state that they do not know what to do in these situations. Misty stated that she would look into a virtual option and contact Sheri. April Stahl asked Misty if she could send her the flyer so she could attach it when the meeting minutes go out. Misty asked if anyone had additional questions. April asked how a family that needs access to a lock box could get access. Misty stated that if you visit suicideprevention.nv.gov/ and click RALM, you could connect with the OSP or visit the Mobile Crisis Response Team. She stated that she would forward all the information to April.

14. **For Information Only: Presentation from Division of Public and Behavioral Health related to child/infant injury prevention efforts**

Vicki Ives began presenting an overview of key child fatality prevention-focused efforts on behalf of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH). She discussed the different organizations and programs offered through DPBH. These programs include safe sleep, fetal infant mortality review, home visiting program, Nevada State Immunization program, WIC program, Public Health Preparedness program, Emergency Medical Services program, the Office of Suicide Prevention, Overdose Data to Action grant, and the Mobile Crisis Response Team.

Vicki Ives then highlighted several DPBH programs:

- **Safe Sleep Program:** Dignity Health partners with Cribs for Kids to provide safe sleep education and kits, including a Pack n Play, sleep sack, pacifier, book, and educational materials. Caregivers complete pre- and post-surveys, and media information is available in English and Spanish.
- **Fetal Infant Mortality Review:** This is funded in Northern Nevada.
- **Sober Moms, Healthy Babies:** A website offering resources on substance use during pregnancy, including a treatment locator and infant care hub.
- **Home Visiting Program:** Provides education and screenings to prevent infant mortality, child abuse, and promote child development for families with children up to kindergarten age.
- **State Immunization Program:** Educates the public on immunizations for children and prenatal care.
- **WIC Program:** Offers nutritious food, breastfeeding support, and education.
- **Public Health Preparedness:** Focuses on child-specific components for hazard response.

- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS):** Provides pediatric equipment and training to improve care before hospital arrival. The focus this year is on distributing pediatric restraint systems to ambulance agencies.
- **Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP):** Works with healthcare systems to reduce access to lethal means. A new grant will focus on youth in Churchill, Elko, and Carson City.
- **Overdose Data to Action Grant:** Tracks opioid-related incidents through ER and medical examiner data, noting an increase in deaths.
- **Mobile Crisis Response Team:** Provides crisis intervention and mental health support in rural areas, aiming to reduce emergency room visits and offers stabilization and case management.

Misty Allen from the Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) discussed their work with healthcare systems to reduce access to lethal means and a new grant aimed at youth in Churchill, Elko, and Carson City.

April Stahl stated that if any members of the Executive Committee have any questions or ideas for future topics or training, they could go ahead and email her.

15. Final Public Comment and Discussion: (Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on the agenda for a later meeting)

Denise Tyre 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 64886010#. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and spell their last name.

There was no public comment.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.