



Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
April 23, 2025

Members

Kirsten Bechtel, Co-Chair, Pediatrician, Yale New Haven Hospital
Christina Ghio, Co-Chair, Office of The Child Advocate
Ted Rosenkrantz, UCONN Health Center
Gregory Vincent, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Brett Salafia, Assistant States Attorney
Andrea Deyo, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Ken Mysogland, Department of Children and Families
Ivys Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department
Liz Corley, Family Strong
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Pina Violano, Community Health, Healthcare Consultants, LLC
TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Excused

Adelita Orefice, Department of Public Health
Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services

Guests

Jaclyn Meserole, OCME
Kim Karanda, DMHAS
Taylor Tantaquidgeon, Intern OCA
Shayna LaFlam, DPH
Ada Booth, CCMC
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media
Kelly McVey, DCF
Melanie Kmetz, DCF
Tasha Hunt, CSSD
Dr. Leah Pinsky, CCMC
Melanie Mercado, DCF
Alison Jacobson, First Candle
Maritza Velez, DCF
Jeanette Blackwell, DCF
Meghan Scanlon, CTADV
Samaris Rose, DCF
Chrichton Stewart, DCF
Shawn Wright, DCF
Dakibu Muley, DCF
Tawanda Ebron, DCF
Mark Abraham, Data Haven
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve March 26, 2025 minutes, by Pina Violano, and seconded by TJ Michalski.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for March 26, 2025.

CFRP Data- Brendan Burke

OCA provided guests with an overview of which cases are accepted for review. For the month of April there have been six deaths, one suicide, two firearm related homicides and three cases that are pending further study. The three cases pending further study involve an MVA, a house fire and a possible natural cause. Data indicates that for the first quarter of 2025 there have been less cases reported than in the previous three years for the same amount of time. Population data was presented on, data consisted of Census, CFRP and DCF data (2023-2025) with a total n of 376. Four towns were found to account for 32 % (n-121) of deaths for the entire state (Waterbury, Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven), these towns account for 14% of the population of CT.

Child Health Outcomes by Locale- Focus on Waterbury, Hartford, Bridgeport, and New Haven- Mark Abraham, Datahaven

Non- profit has been around for 30 years collecting community specific data about wellbeing, equity and quality of life. Datahaven is an affiliate of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership of the Urban Institute (Washington, DC), publicly and privately funded. Quantitative and qualitative data is contributed by federal and state entities and also collected by community partners via live interviews using surveys. Survey questions are selected by a committee and reflect current issues that may be impacting specific communities, such as housing insecurity, food insecurity, lack of medical care, witnessed violence and trust in the government. Data collected on gun violence in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury indicated that over 40% of adults surveyed feared gun violence with nearly 1 in 10 having witnessed a shooting this past year. Interactive data on specific neighborhoods and towns is accessible to the public and has been used to determine many factors that affect communities over time.

Related Links

Meeting Link: ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20250423_090241-Meeting_Recording.mp4

Data Haven: [Home | DataHaven](#)

Executive Session

No executive session

New Business

After several years of membership, Michael Soltis will be leaving the CFRP. Panel members thanked him for his time and acknowledged his contributions. He will be missed.

Old business/ Reoccurring items

CFRP co-chairs will work on coming up with a process to add rotating members who have lived expertise/ experience.

Legalization of Marijuana, ingestions, and fatalities.

A possible summit to discuss adolescent deaths may be conducted by the panel at a future date.

Look at the curriculum for CT High School students on safe driving and the GDL program.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Ken Mysogland and Seconded by Brett Salafia.

Next meeting

May 28, 2025