



Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
January 22, 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
Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Pina Violano, Community Health, Healthcare Consultants, LLC
Andrea Deyo, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Kelly McVey, Department of Children and Families
Adelita Orefice, Department of Public Health
Ivys Arroyo, Sergeant Hartford Police Department
Liz Corley, Family Strong
Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Steven Rogers, Injury Prevention, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services

Excused

TJ Michalski, Village for Families and Children

Guests

Jaclyn Meserole, OCME
Kim Karanda, DMHAS
Taylor Tantaquidgeon, Intern OCA
Shayna LaFlam, DPH
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Alison Jacobson, First Candle
Destiny Stokes, First Candle
Ada Booth, CCMC
Kris Robles, DCF
Peter Yankowski, Hearst Media
Julie Gaither, YSM
Francis Gregory, DCF

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the December 18, 2024, minutes by Brett Salafia, with correction. A second to the motion was made by Pina Violano.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for December 18, 2024.

CFRP Data- Brendan Burke/Discussion

There has been one case reported to the OCA by the OCME for the month of January. The child's death was the result of a motor vehicle accident. The media reported that child's driver was struck by another vehicle and pushed into oncoming traffic. Yearend 2024 data indicates that there are ten cases pending further study. There were 14 Suicides in 2024 which is an uptick from 2023.

OCA provided an update on the challenges of fentanyl, in recent years there has been an increase in illicit substances that contain fentanyl. A 15-year overview of child deaths due to poisoning was shared with panel members. There was a non-fatal ingestion injury of a 14-month-old toddler during this past month, who was revived by Narcan. On average, over a dozen children are affected a year from accidental ingestion. A look at a three-year sample of children who had been injured via accidental ingestions, both fatal and nonfatal (n=69) indicated that, 38 kids were under the age of three years. Victim toxicology indicated 56% of the children test positive for an opiate and 28 % tested positive for marijuana (most in the form of edibles). Data suggests that in recent years, children survived accidental ingestions more often than not thanks to the use of Naloxone.

Presentation(s)

Substance Exposed Pregnancy initiative (SEPI) Dr. Kimberly Karanda, DMHAS

- SEPI CT is the product of a decade's long collaboration between DMHAS and DCF, whose overall goal is to ensure that entities that provide services to substance exposed children and their parents/caregivers are aware of all the supports and services available to these families.
- Services include treatment, recovery and wellness support groups that are available to ensure children and families have access to SEI and SUD treatment, can be provided during pregnancy and after birth. Lock boxes and Naloxone have also been provided.
- SEPI-CT CAPTA training has been delivered to various hospital staff, social workers, Midwifery students, SUD providers, staff at MAT clinics and to many other service providers that interact with these families.
- SEPI also offers and helps women create Family Care Plans.

CT DCF Project Naloxone- Kris Robles

- Project started in 2022, DCF has updated its policies and procedures for naloxone use with guidance from different state agencies. Training was Implemented for staff on how to respond to an opioid overdose and how to use naloxone.
- Currently there is work being done on providing Opioid Overdose Rescue Kits/Naloxone to all of DCF staff as well as to DCF-licensed facilities and foster homes. Leave Behind Kits will include inserts with information and resources.
- Leave behind kits are for the workers now, there will be extra kits for tabling event distribution.

Related Links

Meeting Link: https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oac/Child_Fatality_Review-Team-20250122_090105-Meeting_Recording.mp4

CT Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive: [SWORD Newsletter, December 2024](#)

Secure Storage Video <https://youtu.be/TzFAUs7twPQ>

Executive Session

No Executive Session

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 Steve Rogers and Seconded by Brett Salafia.

Next meeting

February 26, 2025