



Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
March 26, 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

Excused

Michael Soltis, Pediatrician, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Adelita Orefice, Department of Public Health
Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

Guests

Jaclyn Meserole, OCME
Kim Karanda, DMHAS
Taylor Tantaquidgeon, Intern OCA
Shayna LaFlam, DPH
Ada Booth, CCMC
Christine Dempsey, Hearst Media
Kelly McVey, DCF
Melanie Kmetz, DCF
Anna Stern, CCMC
Breanna Cuchara-Blagmon, OCME
Amy Watkins, CCMC
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the February 26, 2025, minutes with corrections by Brett Salafia, and seconded by Liz Corley.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for February 26, 2025.

CFRP Data- Brendan Burke

There were 4 cases reported to the OCA by the OCME for the month of March, so far, all cases are pending further study; of those cases there were two deaths that involved firearms and two that had unsafe sleep factors. An overview of the cases reported for 2025 was given, there were three deaths reported for both January and February, of those case most are pending further study.

Presentation(s)

Watch for Me CT- Amy Watkins, Connecticut Children's Injury Prevention Center

- Statewide education campaign aimed at reducing injuries and fatalities of pedestrians and bicyclist in Connecticut, funded by CTDOT in partnership with CCMC's Injury Prevention Center. Started in 2017.
- There have been over 300 traffic/pedestrian related deaths a year in CT for the past 4 years. 2024 data showed an increase in deaths of pedestrians and motorcyclists.
- 2019-2023 Motor Vehicle Injuries by type data indicates that there were higher numbers of adult vehicle occupants injured than children during the pandemic years.
- 2019-2023 Motor Vehicle Deaths by Type data for children indicated that there was a total of 49 deaths of vehicle occupants, 10 Pedestrians and 3 Bicyclists
- Contributing factors included elevated Vehicles (SUVs vs Sedans), the size and weight of the vehicle affect the point of impact and severity of injury. Speed, just a mile can make a difference, faster speeds can reduce a driver's view and require longer stopping times. Child development can also be a contributing factor due to children not having situational awareness skills.
- 50 children are backed over in the US a week with 70% of drivers being either a parent or a close relative. Most of the children are under the age of 2 years.
- Possible solutions include adult supervision, parental education, legislative changes, building of pedestrian walkways and lowering speed limits.

Infant Mortality Review Committee Process/Update- Shayna LaFlam, DPH

- Established in October 2023, IMRC conducts comprehensive, multidisciplinary review of infant deaths in an effort to reduce infant deaths via increasing awareness of the issues surrounding infant deaths.
- Cases reviewed are live births up to the age of 1 year, which will include non-natural and natural deaths.
- IMRC will has started looking at the 0-3-month age group of non-natural deaths as determined by OCME and will increase the age from there.
- Data will eventually be added to the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention's data base in collaboration with the OCA.

Related Links

Meeting Link: ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20250326_090422-Meeting_Recording.mp4

Executive Session

Motion to go into executive session to discuss case specific details was made by Brett Salafia and seconded by Ken Mysogland. There were no votes taken during executive session. Motion to go out of executive session made by Ken Mysogland and seconded by Gregory Vincent.

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 Ted Rosenkrantz and Seconded by Brett Salafia.

Next meeting

April 23, 2025