



Child Fatality Review Panel
Meeting Minutes/Held Via Secure Teams
May 28, 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
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
Adelita Orefice, Department of Public Health

Excused

Samantha Haynes, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of Department of Social Services
Ken Mysogland, Department of Children and Families

Guests

Gunjan Tiyyagura, YNHH
Kim Karanda, DMHAS
Ann Dagle, Dagle Foundation
Shayna LaFlam, DPH
Ada Booth, CCMC
Lisa Backus, Hearst Media
Melanie Kmetz, DCF
Alison Jacobson, First Candle
Meghan Scanlon, CTADV
Rosemary Wieworka, DCF
Tasha Hunt, CSSD

OCA Staff

Brendan Burke
Lucy Orellano

Minutes

A motion was made to approve April 23, 2025, minutes as amended, by Pina Violano, and seconded by Brett Salafia.

Virtual Packet

Meeting Agenda, Draft Minutes for April 23, 2025.

CFRP Data- Brendan Burke

OCA provided guests with an overview of which cases are accepted for review. After our last meeting there were two additional deaths reported for the month of April one was a homicide and one the result of an MVA. For the month of May there have been 4 deaths

reported to the OCA, by the OCME. The May causes include two that are pending further study, one suicide and one homicide. There has been an average of one death a month via suicide for 2025, on average we see 10-12 suicides a year. There continues to be the need to focus on children's mental health and ways to support adolescents. Data was presented on homicide deaths from 2021 through today for incidents in which children died at the hands of their caregivers through abuse (n=18).

Discussion

National Medicaid cuts have many providers in this state concerned over children's mental health services. The CT state budget has allocated funds to cover Medicaid in our state, however this may not be a sustainable long-term solution. There has also been a cut to the CDC's safe sleep education program. Panel members will be watching for impacts of the funding cuts for future discussion and advocacy. Contacting State Reps and Senators as constituents with concerns was also recommended.

Presentation(s)

CCADV- Family Violence in CT Presentation, Andrea Deyo

-Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior (physical, emotional or financial) that is used to control the other person in the relationship.

-DV affects all demographics and is a factor in 1/3 of all criminal cases in CT. From 2000-2021 there were 309 lives lost as a result of DV in CT. Of the victims 86% were female and 14% were male.

-In 2025 CT has already had 10 DV fatalities, 4 of those included child fatalities (unofficial count).

-Exposure to DV has lasting effects on children, it could affect their development, health and behavior. 30-60% of DV cases include child abuse.

-When responding to a DV incident law enforcement in CT is trained to look for, observe and interact with children, to ensure that appropriate referrals are made.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:96ffd065-a77f-480d-a8ef-bd2bd823d6b3>

Children's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence, Dr. Gunjan Tiyyagura, Yale

-15.5 million American children live in house holds with past year IPV, through indirect, direct and witnessed exposure.

Children exposed to IPV have an increased risk and severity of physical, psychological, social, and emotional problems that continue to affect them into adulthood.

-A survey found that 80% of CPS reports in the context of IPV are mostly done if the child is being emotionally, physically, or sexually abused or neglected or has been injured, however if the child witnesses the violence.

-Reporting to CPS can keep all parties safe and minimize potential harm however there are instances in which reporting can lead to additional hardships such as legal involvement and child removal.

-Providing Trauma and Violence informed care can broaden understanding that IPV is a pervasive social problem imbedded in structural inequities. Prioritizes people's physical, emotional, and structural safety, promotes connection, collaboration, and choice and builds on people's existing strengths.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:48686c0d-899f-4eb0-8ef0-63ac4f0443fc>

Legislative Updates

DPH bill- Regarding sharing of information with the OCA for the purpose of the IMR's reviews is expected to be approved.

Statewide hotline for CCADV may be losing funding.

Supervised diversionary program support bill is awaiting approval.

Meeting Links

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20250528_090211-Meeting_Recording.mp4

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/oca/Child_Fatality_Review_Team-20250528_104119-Meeting-Recording.mp4

Executive Session

Motion to go into executive session made by Steve Rogers, seconded by Brett Salafia.

Motion to go out of executive session made by Adelita Orefice and seconded by Tasha Hunt.

New Business

A motion was made by Steve Rogers to appoint Dr. Ada Booth to the CFRP, seconded by Brett Salafia. All panel members present voted in favor of the appointment. Ada Booth has become an official member of the CFRP.

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 Adelita Orefice.

Next meeting

June 18, 2025