

## Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel

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March 22, 2016 | 1 PM – 3 PM  
7173-A Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, La  
Large Conference room off of the lobby

**Attendees:** See attached list

### Agenda Items and Meeting Notes

#### Welcome to members/participants

Jane welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting structure with an open meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour then a closed (members only) final hour for specific case review and recommendations.

#### Purpose of Child Death Review

Jane reviewed charge and the “guiding principles.”

#### Update on HB 494

The proposal to revise Child Death Review legislation, RS 40:2019, was presented this week on the house floor by Helena Moreno. Changes include

- Changes to membership
- Changes to terminology that supports the review of all cases below the age of fifteen
- Promotion of sharing between DCFS and CDR

#### Water Safety

A letter was presented asking partners to engage in water safety efforts along with another partner agency between April and August 2016

#### Vital Records

The ongoing project with Vital Records began with inquiry around removing SIDS as an option for cause of death. After some discussion, it became clear that this was not an option. Instead, the letter provided to meeting attendees is designed to help coroners correctly document the cause of death on the death certificate by letting them know that cases coded SIDS or SUID will be reviewed by Vital Records and any that may require additional review will be returned.

#### Bluff Road

Updates on the Bluff Road safety project are forthcoming.

#### Child Death Investigation Protocol Update

Laurel Kitto of Woman’s Hospital assisted in a great flow mapping process of the current protocol and identified the following challenges:

- Lots of variation from parish to parish in how investigations of child deaths are conducted
- Not all coroner offices have the same equipment and some have to send cases out for analysis. There are minimum standards in place for these labs.
- Pathologists do not always make recommendations for cause of death as required by law

The following are opportunities for improvement:

- No standard protocol for
  - Communication
  - Checks and balances

- Pronouncement of death for EMS agencies at home vs. at hospital
- There are also no statewide
  - Resources
  - Master databases (MDI Log is available, but not all offices are subscribers)
  - Timelines or timeframes for these kinds of investigations

The CDR workgroup has volunteered to create a sample checklist to help agencies move through the child death investigation process. This checklist would be included in the Death Scene Investigation Protocol. Bernadette will explore if this is something that could be included in the DA Handbook.

### **Overview of Firearm Deaths in Louisiana, Cara Bergo**

For more information or copies of slides, contact Cara Bergo at [Cara.Bergo@LA.GOV](mailto:Cara.Bergo@LA.GOV).

**Closed agenda portion of the meeting** – group reviewed 3 firearm fatality cases (2 suicides and one accident)

### **Meeting adjourned**

**Next meeting:** June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM – 3 PM. Stay Tuned on the location. Kelly's office may be moving by then!

### **Next steps:**

- Drowning letter will be signed and sent out to partners and each partner takes action and asks a partner to act
- Re group with child death protocol group and finish recommendations
- Update group on R.S. 40:2019 amendments bill HB 494
- Case review recommendations: Danita will send more suicide resources around school recommendations/toolkits, responsible media coverage, suicide proofing a home, means restriction. Lauren will send info on Sheriff's Assoc's gun safety program.
- Suggested partners: Grandparents groups/lobby and wildlife and fisheries
- Work with gun shop owners – get info on Means Matters.org on the gun shop project.
- Is anyone looking at medications children may be on and how that influences depression and suicide propensity?



# State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals

Office of Public Health

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March 22, 2016

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

All information and case summaries discussed as part of the State CDR Panel are to be held in the strictest confidence. I agree not to remove case summary reports from this room or to discuss aspects the cases after the conclusion of this meeting. All case reviews are to be anonymous with no identifying information presented or discussed. If I think I recognize the case, I will not allow any identifying information to enter the discussion. I agree not to release any information obtained by the Child Death Review Panel to anyone, including but not limited to, the family or representative of the family of any child whose death was the subject of review, governmental authorities, the courts, law enforcement agencies or the media.

| Name               | Title/Agency/Organization    | Email and Postal Address    | Preferred Phone Number |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Bernadette Pickett | ADA - Terrebonne Parish      | bernadette.pickett@tpda.org | 985-872-5437           |
| Lauren Melior      | LSA - Shreveport Ass'n, LMSC | Lauren@LSA.org              | 225 281 5252           |
| Jessica Bedwell    | PROGRAM COORDINATOR          | Jessica.Bedwell@la.gov      | 925-925-6098           |
| Danita LeBlanc     | Prog. Mgr. / DBH             | Danita.leblanc@la.gov       | 225-342-9682           |
| Emily Andrews      | Attorney General             | andrewse@ag.state.la.gov    | 225-573-7627           |
| Linda Carter       | DCRS                         | Linda.Carter@la.gov         | 225 287 7571           |



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| Name          | Title/Agency/Organization                     | Email and Postal Address | Preferred Phone Number       |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jan Byland    | LM Executive Manager<br>La Dept of Ch. Health | jan.byland.dehs@la.gov   | 225 342 2299<br>229 993 1607 |
| Jane Henselke | OPH - BF14                                    | jane.henselke@la.gov     | 504-568-3532                 |
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| Name                   | Title/Agency/Organization | Email and Postal Address      | Preferred Phone Number |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Kristy Ferguson        | RN, CDPA<br>LCPHA         | KFerguson@lcpa.org            |                        |
| Pam Cart               | Coroner Resource          | pcart@lcpa.org                | 337-207-1324           |
| Tiffany Snedigar       | LCPH                      | tsnedigar@lcpa.org            | 225-284-9959           |
| Rosa Bustamante-Forest | DHHP/OH/HFH               | rosa.bustamante-forest@la.gov |                        |
| Tim Lester             | Chiefs of Police          | tl@covla.com                  | 985-892-8500           |
| Annelle Tanner         | DHHP/OH/HFH               | annelle.tanner@la.gov         | 318-487-1850           |



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| Name                  | Title/Agency/Organization                               | Email and Postal Address             | Preferred Phone Number |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Cindy Guthrie</i>  | OSFM                                                    | <i>cindy.guthrie@la.gov</i>          | 225-925-1716           |
| <i>Donald Carter</i>  | <i>WOMEN'S HOSPITAL</i>                                 | <i>donald.carter@womens-hosp.org</i> | 225-559-2351           |
| <i>Michael Cromel</i> | <i>EE CORNER'S OFFICE</i><br><i>WBR CORNER'S OFFICE</i> | <i>mcromel@yahoo.com</i>             | 225-603-3701           |
| <i>Hanney Turner</i>  | <i>WBR CORNER'S OFFICE</i>                              | <i>hanney@bellsoct4.net</i>          | 225-336-2429           |



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| Name         | Title/Agency/Organization | Email and Postal Address | Preferred Phone Number |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Korey Harvey | La. Dept. of Insurance    | kh Harvey@ldi.la.gov     | 225 342 1555           |
| Dawn George  | DHHA/OPH/Vital Records    | dawn.george@la.gov       | 504-593-5180           |
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**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of the Secretary

Louisiana has the 3rd highest drowning rate in the U. S.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the Louisiana State Child Death Review (CDR) Panel has made drowning prevention a priority for 2016. Our request is simple; please help us elevate the importance of water safety in Louisiana communities to prevent these needless injuries and fatalities.

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death for Louisiana children ages 1-4 years old (about 12 deaths per year).<sup>2</sup>

- 47% were in a pool, hot tub, bathtub or spa compared to only 26% in natural water such as a lake, river, pond, creek or canal.
- For 42% of these deaths, the most prominent risk factor was related to lack of supervision.

Drowning is not always fatal. In Louisiana, about 28 children 1-4 years old are hospitalized each year for drowning related injuries.<sup>3</sup>

To help, we ask that during the months of April-August 2016, you join us in spreading the word about water safety. We recommend two ready to use resources that you can use to spread the word. These are **free** resources for both professionals and community members, and many are available in both English and Spanish.

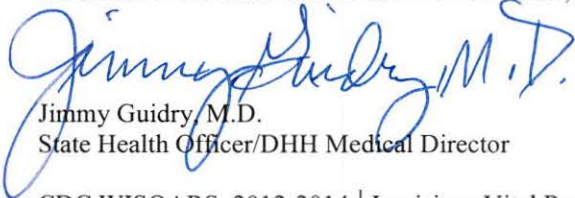
- **Pool Safely** (U. S. Consumer Product Safety Council) [PoolSafely.gov](http://PoolSafely.gov)
  - Includes brochures, tip cards, fact sheets, social media tools, videos, press releases, PSAs and more
- **Children's Safety Network** [ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/injury-topics/drowning-prevention](http://ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/injury-topics/drowning-prevention)
  - Includes infographics, resource guides, data, and links to other resources

Here are some examples of ways to get involved: hold a press conference on water safety, write a letter to the editor, put out posters or tip sheets, help connect kids and parents to free or low-cost swim lessons, ask a business to donate pool safety devices – the options are limitless!

We want to saturate Louisiana with these important messages. Please generate momentum in your community by encouraging at least one partner, person, agency, or business to do the same. Then to gauge the level of support from our members and partners, please email us with any action taken by you and also share with us who you asked to further the effort.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe – this work needs all of us.

On behalf of the State Child Death Review Panel,



Jimmy Guidry, M.D.  
State Health Officer/DHH Medical Director

CDC WISQARS, 2012-2014,<sup>1</sup> Louisiana Vital Records, 2012-2014, <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Hospital Discharge Data 2012-2014,<sup>3</sup>  
[www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html)