



# State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

## LOUISIANA STATE CHILD DEATH REVIEW

June 23, 2020

Zoom Attendees: Alicia Wheeler, Bridget Gardner, Dr. Clayton Kleinpeter, Frank Edwards, Jade Marler, Jane Herwehe, Janice Zube, Jia Benno, Jim Groody, Dr. Joseph Kanter, Julie Johnston, Laurel Kitto, Lisa Freeman, Lisa Norman, Lori Miller, Marty Hennegan, Nicole Cousins, Nicole Soudelier, Pamela Cart, Rebecca DeLaSalle, Robyn Thomas, Rosa Bustamante-Forest, Rosaria Trichilo, Sandra Adams, Sara Dickerson, Shelly Ryan Gray, Sunny Funk, and Tommy Clark.

### Meeting Notes

#### Introductions:

#### CDR Protocol Discussion:

1. Objectives: Protocol was designed to help define what CDR is and outline steps for data collection and review of unexpected child fatalities
2. Authority of the Panel: Conveys what is needed, timelines, and that we would work with the agencies.
  - a. LA District Attorneys Association now has an Assistant District Attorney Representative on this committee who has been helpful in interpretation of the CDR legislation and protocol development.
3. Access to Information and Confidentiality: Explains what information CDR has access to.
4. Confidentiality: Explains the protections on CDR data.
  - a. Need to review protections on any communication with health care providers on sleep related deaths.
5. Protection of Records:
6. CDR Panel Membership: Last changes made in 2016; may want to update to include designated Nursing expertise, i.e., representative of LA State Board of Nursing.
7. CDR Process:
  - a. Step 5, Recommendations: Add box for legislature in flow chart.
  - b. Educational records have been requested in the past, but they are difficult to acquire. Legislation may have been passed to prevent those records from being obtained. FERPA and other legislation limits who schools can release information to. These records are not always needed but may be useful under certain circumstances.
  - c. Listing of MCH Coordinators will change frequently and this will have to be edited frequently. Consider explaining role of coordinator instead of listing names. Same comment on the names of panel members
  - d. Add examples of child death records with the data variables.

**COVID-19's impact on child injury and violence:**

1. BFH has been reached out to by partners in regard to child death and injury due to COVID. This changes from day to day, but we have not seen increases at this point.
2. Slight delay in death registration possibly due to COVID deaths.
3. Other states have seen increases in drownings in home pools and water around the home, an increase in SUID, and child abuse and neglect. Not yet seen in LA.
4. Robyn Thomas: Increase in substance abuse, domestic violence, and life line calls. On the lifeline, they have seen increases in calls but need to break down the reasons for the calls. They also applied for a COVID emergency response suicide prevention grant but 25% will focus on DV prevention, counseling, and making sure women and their dependents have a safe place to go.
5. Dr. Clayton Kleinpeter: OLOL Emergency Department visits have been down, but they have seen increases in pediatric ATV accidents, and are now starting to see an increase in behavioral health incidents.
6. Julie Johnston – there have been rules put in place by Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities surrounding caregiving for someone who is immunocompromised to limit exposure to COVID. At BFH, the CYSCHN program and MIECHV program both transitioned to telehealth, which helps support families and can decrease stressors associated with child abuse and neglect.
7. Lori Miller (DCFS) – have compared 2018 and 2019 report numbers to 2020 numbers. Have seen approximately half the numbers so far. Usually they see a decrease in the summertime because mandated reporters are not seeing the children anymore. However, they haven't closed out the cases yet, so they do not know the data for sure.

**Agency Updates**

- Chief Edwards: Drowning prevention info has been useful. Sent to new Council in Independence
- Janice Zube: Schools are looking at doing alternating days when school resumes.
- Laurel Kitto: Formed a task force before the start of COVID; having letters from the local CDR have been helpful in increasing motivation to decrease child deaths. Interested in having letters sent for other kinds of child injury instead of just sleep-related deaths.
- Lisa Freeman: During quarantine, the state had an increase in MVC crashes and fatalities despite lower volume of cars on the road.
- Bridget Gardner: 92 of the 107 fitting stations are open. We encourage caregivers to call before seeking services. We also offer virtual child passenger safety appointments by our instructor team. Child Passenger safety will be updated on the Buckle up Louisiana Facebook page. Flier attached. Bridget Gardner at MV Safety task force is on track and working across the state. Videos on child car seat safety are being translated to Spanish and ASL to increase views.
- Robyn Thomas, OBH: Suicide prevention trainings have stopped due to COVID. OBH collaborated with LPHI through their HRSA grant to train 16 instructors. Working to increase awareness around mental health and crises due to MH. Also working on informational interviews around COVID and MH topics that will be released through social media.
- Sandra Adams: struggling to learn new legislature and there is a decrease in HHS input.
- Sunny Funk: Protective orders are not expiring until case expires at this point.
- Pam Cart, LOPA: Sent out drowning letters to stakeholders to increase education.

- BFH:
  - Rosaria: CDR report is in draft form and is about to be sent out for approval for publishing in July. Jia will be presenting data presentation about 2016-2018 CDR report in September. BFH's LA Injury Prevention Action Plan development has been progressing – thank you to all of the members who have contributed to this plan! If you have not been attending the meetings but are interested in being a part of the state action plan, please contact Jane.
  - Jane: We have been working on child suicide prevention and applied for a CDC grant to increase the scope of our child and adolescent suicide prevention efforts in Region 4. Drowning prevention (swim lessons and standards training) efforts have stalled due to COVID. However, grant funds are being extended through next year. There still may be the opportunity to hold some swim lessons in Reg 9 in August. Firearms Safe Storage creative brief will be presented at the next meeting. It focuses on social norms on safe storage of firearms. We are hoping to use leftover money from another grant to develop some testing on firearm storage safety campaign messages. The framing is around people have the right to own a firearm, but we want to make sure they are stored safely and stay in the right hands.

**Next Meeting:**

September 2020

Time TBD

Location TBD

**Adjourn**

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