



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA STATE CHILD DEATH REVIEW

March 23, 2021

Zoom Attendees: Amanda Perry, Bridget Gardner, Chief Frank Edwards, Chief Tommy Clark, Danielle Mistretta, Debra Feller, Jade Marler, Jane Herwehe, Janice Zube, Jennifer Le, Jessica Bedwell, Jia Benno, Jim Groody, Julie Johnston, Kristy Ferguson, Lacey Cavanaugh, Laurel Kitto, Lauren Meher, Lori Miller, Lorre Claiborne, Marty Hennegan, Nicole Cousins, Pam Cart, Rachel Africk, Rachel Purgatorio, Rebecca DeLaSalle, Robyn Thomas, Rosi Trichilo-Lucas, Sara Dickerson, Shana Toole, Shelley Ryan Gray, Sunny Funk

Meeting Notes:

Welcome & New Member Introductions:

Jane Herwehe welcomes the group and introduces Senator Regina Barrow and Dr. Lacey Cavanaugh as new members. The House of Representatives also recently appointed rep. Julie Emerson who will be new to the group starting in June.

Meeting Notice Process: (Jane)

State CDR meetings are open meetings. We post the agenda, zoom link, and notes on the Boards and Commissions website under State CDR. People who are not legislatively mandated must leave the meeting before case review.

CDR Protocol Discussion & Legislative Update:

A new CDR protocol was developed by the Bureau of Family Health to explain CDR and establish a process that District Attorneys, law enforcement agencies, and coroners can reference on the authority of the State CDR and the approved data collection processes. The protocol was distributed to the panel and a webinar has been produced and is in the process of editing. The webinar has two parts – one that will be the recorded training with a live question and answer component. The entire presentation will be an hour and a half – 45 minutes for the recording and 45 minutes for the panel discussion and question and answer. We are looking for opportunities and audiences to present to. If you have any suggestions, contact Rosi Trichilo-Lucas, Jia Benno, or Sunny Funk.

Potential options for presentations are: Louisiana DA's meeting in New Orleans in November, Chiefs Association annual meeting in July (contact Chief Clark), Sheriff's Association meeting in Destin in July (Lauren Meher to see if all training blocks are full), and fall Coroner's Association meeting (contact Jim Groody). Pam Cart also mentioned the ability to include in the Annual Coroners collaborative held each February. LOPA helps plan agenda.

Legislative update – the Louisiana Department of Health is unable to carry the CDR legislation that was proposed by State CDR due to it being a fiscal year. The CDR legislation consists of small changes to the language and the addition of a few panel members. If any State CDR panel members have a sponsor who would be interested in carrying this legislation for the committee,

please let us know! The filing date is coming up soon! Laurel Kitto contacted a colleague who may have a lead. She will follow up.

Firearm Safe Storage Work Group Updates: (Jia)

Testing of materials from Be SMART and Project Child Safe was completed with Louisiana gun owners. Some key points that came out of the testing were:

- No one found the materials offensive
- Testers felt that materials would be more effective for new firearm owners (rather than people who were very used to handling firearms).
- Testers felt that giving concrete steps/examples/instructions for how to firearms would be more effective than general encouragement to “safely store firearms.” Should acknowledge that storage will look different for firearms used for protection vs sport/hunting
- “Surprising” statistics about per capita gun ownership and number of firearms that are not stored securely & separate from ammunition unlikely to be effective in Louisiana (these numbers are including in some Be SMART materials). Firearm ownership is normal, and firearms are frequently stored loaded and within reach.
- Several testers found the inclusion of statistics related to child injury and youth suicide effective (nationally 600 children a year, LA stats, connection to suicide, unintentional shootings).
- We could include Louisiana-specific statistics from YRBS that talk about how many Louisiana high school children seriously consider or attempt suicide each year, and pair that with findings about the average time it takes between having a suicidal ideation and making an attempt (borrow from “means matter” campaign messaging)
- Need to divorce message from politics – minimize or eliminate connection to Moms Demand Action or other gun control advocacy groups to fullest extent possible.
- Giving child-related messages and storage was important; concept of talking to kids important. Acknowledge kids are curious
- Testers responded well to concepts and language focused on “responsibility” and “control.”

Chloe, Jane, and Jia met with the BeSMART team and talked through the material testing notes. We are now looking through a few additional pamphlets and PSAs. BeSMART is willing to accommodate our suggestions. They will work on creating a leave behind document on gun storage and how to store your guns, PSAs, outdoor media. Design costs will be free but we would need to absorb the cost of producing the materials. We don’t know how much money it will cost yet, since it depends on what materials we will want to produce, but we are hoping to get some donated media and printing of specially designed leave behind materials.

CDR Chair Discussion: (Jane)

Dr. Joe Kanter has been the chair for CDR. The chairperson acts as advisor to the LDH State Panel Team. Contact Jane Herwehe or Jia Benno to nominate. Roles of the chair are:

- Identification of priority areas after annual data presentation
- Assistance with meeting agenda creation and facilitation
- Participation in the annual legislative report

- Support for the State CDR efforts and campaigns – drowning prevention, safe sleep, CPS work, firearm storage

Emergency Room and Child Injury Data Presentation: (Jen)

Jennifer Le presented on Syndromic Surveillance of child injury data. The only child injury looked at that saw a meaningful increase during COVID has been firearm injuries – mostly occurring in the upper age ranges (13-14 year olds), in males, and in Orleans Parish.

Agency Updates:

- Bridget Gardner- (Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force) Child passenger Safety technician classes coming up. Bridget will send application to Jane. 2 Day training in July for national technicians for children with disabilities (but applicants will need to already be child passenger safety technicians). 1,300 car seats distributed in the last few months with installation education for families in need. There are still some car seats available. Buckle Up Louisiana on Facebook is best source of info.
- Chief Tommy Clark- (Chief of Police) Summer Conference is July 18th-22nd in Alexandria. Training is open. Chief Clark is organizing.
- Janice Zube- (LA Dept. of Ed) Partnered with BFH for Gatekeeper training. Will have 3 Gatekeeper training sessions at Teacher Leadership Summit in June. Applied for a SAMSHA grant for mental health services, which they implemented in Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Monroe City. They are now applying for a second round of funding, where they will be funding 3 new school districts. They are interested in looking at behavioral data, suspension and expulsions, and ongoing issues. They are also interested in looking at districts in SW Louisiana that were impacted by the pandemic and the hurricanes.
- Jessica Bedwell- (Louisiana Highway Safety Commission) Highway Safety Grant due March 31st.
- Jim Groody- (Louisiana State Coroner's Association) Will check on fall meeting for Coroner's association for CDR training.
- Laurel Kitto- (NICU/Neonatal Transport Services/Women's Hospital) Safe sleep task force making headway in hospitals. Two research projects ongoing for safe sleep – surveying staff on views of safe sleep and improving touchpoints with families after they leave the hospital to include safe sleep questions and information. Applied for a grant with Charlie's Kids. Hoping to have books to send home with families on safe sleep. Eddie Lambert (Senator for 18th district) will talk with legislative assistant on reviewing legislation in next session.
- Lauren Meher- (Louisiana Sheriffs Association) Thinks they have CDR training protocol time at the Sheriffs Association Conference.
- Lori Miller- (DCFS) Working on building a culture around child maltreatment prevention. <http://www.dcfs.la.gov/page/family-first>
- Pam Cart- (LOPA) can get CDR protocol training on schedule for next February if it's not possible for the fall.
- Robyn Thomas- (OBH) OBH awarded 988 Grant. 988 will be national life line— replacing 1-800 number. 988 will provide emotional support and provide a pathway for wellbeing.
- Shana Toole- (US Consumer Product Safety Commission) This week is poison prevention week. #Prepare Prevent and Protect. Information on CPSC.gov

- Julie Johnston- (BFH) EMS-C (Emergency Medical Services for Children) cohosted 2 pilot trainings for EMS providers on human trafficking led by LACAC
- Jane Herwehe- (BFH) BFH applying for renewal for injury prevention and NVDRS. Working with child welfare training academy and promoting Gatekeeper trainings for suicide prevention. Everyone should have received the drowning prevention letter that Jane sent out last month. Please make sure you share it widely with your networks.
- Rosaria Trichilo-Lucas (BFH) BFH works closely with National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention. 10-part training series on investigation available for a wide range of professionals. CEUs available. Each module 45-60m. <https://www.ncfrp.org/center-resources/child-dsi-learning-series/>

Case Review: One drowning fatality, and one homicide. Both deaths deemed preventable.

Recommendations:

Case #1

- The committee recommends the case be elevated and investigated by the AG office by referring it to the DA.
- Death scene investigators should be trained on age appropriate levels of child development stages.
- Parish sheriffs' offices should be allocated sufficient resources and staff capacity to thoroughly investigate complex cases.
- Coroners should have all available information when conducting an autopsy and determining cause of death.

Case #2

- An assessment of a mother/caregiver's mental health and postpartum depression screening should be conducted prior to discharge with a new baby.
- Healthcare facilities and social service agencies should provide resources, referrals and follow-up to address family mental health needs.
- All agency staff involved in death scene investigation for child fatalities should receive training around ACEs and the impact on families

Next Meeting:

- June 22
- September 28
- December 14.
- Location TBA.

Future meeting facilitation will transition to Jia Benno. Rosi and Jane will still advise and participate.

Adjourn 3:00

Free child safety seat installation



Assistance with child safety seats is offered free in Louisiana! Join nationally certified technicians as we work to reduce serious injuries and fatalities in children by making sure your child's safety seats are installed properly.

Due to COVID emergency restrictions and social distancing requirements, we are unable to assist you in person with child safety seat installations. We are available through virtual appointments. Simply call one of our instructors for assistance with your child safety seat:

(504) 702-2296 Bridget Gardner RN
(504) 702-2295 Patty Clesi RN
(504) 702-2264 Michael Toups



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- Ensure that your child is placed into the restraint properly
- Ensure that the restraint is correctly installed in your vehicle

**Motor vehicle crashes are the
#1 killer of children**

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