

Child Fatality Task Force Meeting Minutes – Approved

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| Type of Meeting: Intentional Death Prevention Committee | | Date: October 17, 2022 | |
| Facilitators: Jennie Kristiansen and Whitney Belich, Committee Co-Chairs | Time called to order: shortly after 1:00 pm | | Location: Virtual via WebEx Webinar |
| The slides presented in this meeting were combined into one deck titled “Combined slides ID meeting 10-17-22” which can be found on the CFTF website here: https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewDocSiteFile/72212 | | | |
| Committee co-chairs welcomed everyone. A moment of silence was taken to honor the lives of children lost since the committee last met, and to honor lives lost in a recent mass shooting in Raleigh. | | | |
| Committee members in attendance: Whitney Belich, Jennie Kristiansen, Billy Lassiter, Danielle Carman, Catherine Joyner, Dana Hagele, Lorrie Dollar, Ellen Essick, Glorina Stallworth, Kerry Young, Christy Malott, Melea Rose-Waters, Michelle Zechmann, Molly Berkoff, Murphy Jones, Natasha Scott, Nicole Lawrence, Sarah Owens Weeks, Trishana Jones, Jenifer Simone | | | |
| Committee members who were absent: Rep. Kristin Baker, Jill Cox, Lisa Cauley, Senator Don Davis, Anne Geisinger, Brett Loftis, Emi Wyble, Sarah Kirkman, Rep. Donna White, Rachel Zarcone | | | |
| Approval of minutes from previous meeting dated 9-19-22 | | | |
| The minutes from the last meeting had been posted on the CFTF website, were sent out, and the link to the minutes was also on the agenda. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Whitney Belich, second by Danielle Carman. A vote was taken and the motion passed with no opposition and no abstentions expressed. | | | |
| Topic #1: Continuation of committee discussion on youth mental health | | | |
| Topic facilitators: committee co-chairs | | | |
| Online presentation: slide # 6 | | | |
| Discussion: The committee was reminded that at the last meeting, they ran out of time to complete their discussion on two items. For the first item, the issue was raised about the fact that there are two laws that require training for school personnel on child sexual abuse and sex trafficking and how this causes confusion in schools. These laws don’t contradict one another but they overlap. There was discussion about how DPI is addressing this confusion through guidance and how it would continue to do so; how making any legislative change would be technical in nature compared to the type of change typically recommended by the Task Force aimed at impacting child health and safety outcomes. For the second item, the committee was reminded of the 2022 recommendation by the CFTF for “timely and appropriate funding to address the significant youth mental health crisis,” and it was explained how this recommendation was crafted by the full CFTF when the ID committee had made no legislative recommendations related to youth mental health, and how this recommendation was more broad than a typical CFTF recommendation. The committee discussed the fact that unlike last year, the ID committee had already approved two legislative recommendations that relate to youth mental health. Specific recommendations, as opposed to broad ones, are generally preferable, however sufficient study of an issue is | | | |

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| required to make a specific recommendation and for this year, the committee was running out of time to study new issues. Committee members suggested topics and programs related to strengthening support for youth mental health that the ID should consider studying in the future: the shortage of youth mental health providers, the Child Treatment Program, and Project Aware. |
| Actions taken: None. The committee discussed the need to examine other new topics related to youth mental health in the future. |
| Topic #2: Updates and discussion on administrative item addressing child abuse and neglect reporting training for professionals |
| Topic presenters: Whitney Belich, Dr. Molly Berkoff |
| Online presentation: slides # 7 - 10 |
| Scope of presentation: Whitney Belich reminded the committee of its administrative item addressing child abuse and neglect reporting training for professionals and provided background information on CFTF work on this topic. She explained the great progress made with training law enforcement, and Dr. Molly Berkoff explained how development of a training for healthcare providers was underway and being led by the Pediatric Society's Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. |
| Actions taken: None. The committee was pleased to see good progress made in these areas and looks forward to hearing reports on continued progress at future meetings. |
| Topic #3: Discussion of carry-over and State Team recommendation on comprehensive toxicology testing in Medical Examiner child deaths |
| Topic facilitators: Committee co-chairs |
| Online presentation: Slides #12, 13 |
| Scope of presentation: The committee was reminded of its 2022 recommendation for comprehensive toxicology testing in all child deaths under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner system. Dr. Sandra Bishop-Freeman, chief toxicologist, answered some questions about the need for this testing and the committee asked whether Dr. Bishop-Freeman could return to the next ID committee meeting to provide more concrete examples of how this testing makes a difference. |
| Actions taken: None. The committee will return to this topic at its November meeting. |
| Topic #4: Updates and discussion of carry-over recommendation to strengthen infant safe surrender law |
| Topic presenter: Kella Hatcher, JD, CFTF Executive Director |
| Online presentation: Slide # 15 - 17 |
| Scope of presentation: Kella Hatcher reminded the committee of its repeated recommendation to strengthen the infant safe surrender law, how a bill addressing this recommendation passed the House unanimously in 2021 but was not taken up by the Senate. She also reviewed why changes to the law had been recommended. She noted that Rep. Donna White had expressed interest in continuing to advance these changes. |
| Discussion: Comments were made about the continued need for these changes and why they are important. |
| Actions taken: Christy Malott made a motion to repeat these recommended changes to the infant safe surrender law: SUPPORT legislation to strengthen the infant safe surrender law to make it more likely the law will be used in circumstances for which it was intended to protect a newborn infant at risk of abandonment or harm by making legislative changes to accomplish the following: 1) remove "any adult" from those designated to accept a surrendered infant; |

- 2) provide information to a surrendering parent;
- 3) strengthen protection of a surrendering parent's identity;
- 4) incorporate steps to help ensure the law is only applied when criteria are met.

Dana Hagele seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with no opposition or abstentions expressed.

Adjourned