

Child Fatality Task Force



North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force 2024 Action Agenda

Legislative “support” items receive the highest level of support from the CFTF.

Legislative “endorse” items are led by others and endorsed by the CFTF.

“Administrative” items are currently non-legislative items sought to be further studied by the Task Force and/or advanced by the CFTF through collaborative, non-legislative efforts.

***Note:** An explanation of the recommendations in this Action Agenda will be contained in the CFTF 2024 Annual Report and other materials to be released spring of 2024.*

Legislative recommendations to prevent youth suicide, to support youth mental health and well-being, and to prevent firearm-related deaths and injuries and other forms of violence

Support **recurring funds to increase the numbers of school nurses, social workers, counselors and psychologists** to support the physical and mental health of students and to move North Carolina toward achieving nationally recommended ratios for these professional positions in schools.

Endorse legislation that addresses **addictive algorithms in social media** that harm children.

Support **recurring funding for the NC S.A.F.E. Campaign** that educates about firearm safe storage.

Support **recurring funding for the NC Office of Violence Prevention**.

Support legislation **changing the current law addressing safe storage of firearms to protect minors** to remove language from N.C.G.S. 14-315.1(a) that says “resides in the same premises as a minor.”

Legislative recommendations and administrative efforts focused on the prevention of infant deaths and improved birth outcomes

Support funding to enable **Medicaid reimbursement of doula services** throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period and to provide support services and technical assistance for the doula population.

Support **Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) legislation** to include the following components: providing for the authority to implement a FIMR program and to access necessary

medical records; to provide for immunity (protections) for reviewers and review materials; and for FIMRs to include best practices of family interviews and community action teams.

Administrative efforts to collaborate on the topic of congenital syphilis: to get data broken down by race, ethnicity and gender; for prevention efforts and education to be culturally sensitive and appropriate; to have healthcare systems in place for routine order sets and education; to have active community education on the topic; and to better understand where mothers are getting their information to enable improved education efforts.

Legislative recommendation and administrative efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect, prevent infant and child deaths, and promote child and family well-being

Support growth **and expansion of investments in the early child care system**, including increases for child care subsidies.

Administrative efforts to **gather information to bring back to the CFTF on paid family leave insurance (PFLI)** including information on the impact of PFLI on businesses and employer feedback on PFLI.

Administrative efforts to prevent fentanyl-related deaths of children and adolescents.

Administrative efforts to seek **further collaboration and information gathering on issues surrounding fentanyl-related deaths to children and adolescents** to bring information back to the Unintentional Death Prevention Committee.

Items of Interest to *Monitor*

[The Task Force is not pursuing action on these items for 2024 but is interested in monitoring these items to potentially bring back for consideration before the 2025 long session]

- Monitor information surrounding **tobacco and nicotine use** among youth and the harmful impacts of tobacco and nicotine to youth and infants
- Monitor information surrounding the potential to **strengthen child passenger safety laws**
- Monitor information on the **impacts of 2023 changes to the graduated driver license laws and 2023 changes to funding for driver education**, including socioeconomic considerations and impacts
- **Monitor the use of incoming funding to address the youth mental health crisis** including any gaps, needs, or successes that appear in the use of that funding