***Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel***

***Date: March 18th, 2015***

***Time: 9 AM- 11 AM***

***Location: 7173-A Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA***

***Large Conference room off of the lobby***

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Agenda:

1. Welcome to new members/participants
2. Membership discussion
3. Follow Up on To Do items from last meeting
   * Child passenger seat regulations – presentation by Bridget Gardner
   * DCFS and CDR collaboration – Jane H. and Jan B. report
   * Law enforcement training on recognizing impairment – Tim L. (and possibly John Gardner)
   * Hospital Safe Sleep education best practices – Laurel K.
4. Case presentations – Kelly B. (Reg 2) and Chris Cornell (Reg 4) focus on autopsy findings and cause of death determination
5. Case and recommendations discussion
6. Next Steps/Assignments
7. Next Meeting – June 17th, 2015, 10 AM

Organizing Entity:

Office of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

Facilitator: Jane Herwehe, 504-568-3532 or [jane.herwehe@la.gov](mailto:jane.herwehe@la.gov)

Chairperson:  Dr. Takeisha Davis

Assistant State Health Officer

Medical Director, Office of Public Health

Director, Center for Community and Preventive Health

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

**Attendees:** Lt. John Gardner, Nicole Soudelier, Bridget Gardner, Frank Edwards, Devin George, Linda Carter, Yancy Guerin, Kelly Bankston, Emily Andrews, Jan Byland, Dr. Takeisha Davis, Rosa Bustamante-Forest, Christine Cornell, Jennifer Trigueros, Jane Herwehe

**Notes:**

Bridget Gardner of the LA Highway Safety Commission gave an overview of the work of the Commission and the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The 4 emphasis areas of the SHSP: infrastructure, impaired driving, occupant protection, young drivers, and pedestrians and bicycles. The SHSP is “owned” by LSP, DOTD, HSC.

We need to have a designated representative of the HSC on the CDR per legislation. John LeBlanc is the Director and most likely too busy. Bridget can get a representative for us.

HSC focuses on “Best Practices” and teaches from Best practices rather than the law.

98% of child MV fatalities are due to improper occupant constraint. The HSC has strong infrastructure and federal funds to support FREE training, community education, seat access, and fitting stations around the state.

Bridget can share schedule of upcoming meetings and invites members of the State CDR to participate in the SHSP.

It is hard to get healthcare representatives to the table. There was a suggestion to get OBs and pediatricians involved with anticipatory guidance and resources. Also, it would be great if there was more involvement of medical residents – they do go to fitting stations

Next free car seat fitting technician certification class (3-4 days) is Nov-Dec. 25 spots and it fills up quickly. More information can be found on Buckle Up Louisiana and Facebook. There are also 1 day awareness classes and Bridget can send more information.

For more information, Bridget can be reached at [bgardn@lsushc.edu](mailto:bgardn@lsushc.edu)

**Update on Law Enforcement Training:**

Chief Lentz (Covington Chief and of the Assoc of Chiefs of Police) sent any update on training via email. He reported that Sheriff Jeff Wiley of the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office has been a leader in training police officers. In May he is hosting a training class titled Child Death Investigation: Child Death Scene to Court. He is bringing in specialist Lisa Mayhew from North Carolina to teach the class. ([www.patc.com/training/detail/php?ID=13199](http://www.patc.com/training/detail/php?ID=13199)) Ideally, someone from each agency should attend such a class if possible.

POST (Police Officer Standard Training) Council mandates police have at least 20 hours of training a year, in areas such as firearms, CPR, legal updates, and defensive tactics. A small agency could mandate 80 hours of training a year. For example, next week his department will have two days of cultural diversity classes. These are not mandated by POST but seen as valuable. Next month there will be another mandated class on risk liability and officer survival. Again not mandated by POST, but mandated by Chief Lentz.

The challenges for administrators of police agencies is what training do you mandate for your officers. A small department like His hasn't worked a murder case since 2007. He recognizes the limitations of his department and has forged a relationship with his local Sheriff to assist/conduct major investigations in Covington. The local Sheriff has entire divisions dedicated to investigating "special crimes". (i.e. crimes against persons, crimes against property, juvenile crimes, sex crimes, white collar crimes etc.)

Best Practices for hospital education on safe sleep: Laurel Kitto out – no report

**Case presentations:**

3 cases presented 1 MVA and 2 asphyxia cases.

The MVA case presented while Bridget was present and she was able to answer the questions about field sobriety, issuance of citations etc... This case reinforced what Bridget was addressing with restraint use. She mentioned that often citations are not documented until the amended report is filed later. Coroners should always check.

The other 2 cases related to coroners’ use of SIDS as the cause of death in cases which were positional asphyxia (in autopsy findings) with sleep risk factors in the investigation.

There is still a continued need for more coroner education on this issue. SIDS is not preventable, sleep related deaths are. The group discussed the “removal” of SIDS for the death certificate. Devin explained that is not exactly how it works and how it ends up that S”IDS is assigned as the cause of death. The group suggested a process improvement project with VR to provide timely feedback to coroners on SIDS case which may need more clarification and supporting documentation to be classified as SIDS.

Jane and Devin will follow up.

Membership: Group has identified a new member from the LA DA Assoc and the Department of Insurance. Hoping for them to join for June meeting. Yancy Guerin, the WBR Coroner investigator has returned and is now representing the LA Coroner’s Association for Dr. Thoma. Dr. Mehta of Children’s Hospital New Orleans would like to join. She is head of the Audrey Hepburn Center that works with abused and neglected children. WE still lack a Forensic Pathologist – Yancy Guerin will reach out to Dr. Cameron Snider. He also has a contact of a community member who might be a good resource as well as Pam Cart of LOPA and someone from the consumer Product Safety Council

**Next Steps:**

Jane will reach out to Laurel to see if she will have report at June meeting

Follow up with Bridget on updated recommendation sheets and to find out more about participation on SHSP and upcoming trainings

Jane, Jan and Linda - Continue to work with DCFS on information sharing and collaborative trainings between CDR and DCFS

Devin and Jane - Work up process around the SIDS cause of Death project

Yancy – send Jane contact information for potential new members. Jane and Dr. Davis will send letters.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, June 17th, 10 AM- 12 PM.**

**Location: 7173 Florida (Kelly’s office – Conference Room A) Bon Carre Business Center.**