



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

STATE CHILD DEATH REVIEW

September 16, 2025
12:00PM – 3:00PM

Location:

St. George Fire Department
14100 Airline Hwy (Administration Building Classrooms A & B)
St. George, LA 70817

Meeting link for members of the public:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sioJPP1VT4CHfue-pGlenw

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – Chair
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 12:12 pm by Kristen Sanderson, Child Death Review Panel Facilitator.
- II. Roll Call – Chair
 - a. Dr. Lagarde, Child Death Review Panel Chair proceeded with roll call. It was determined a quorum were present.
 - b. In-person and Zoom members provided introductions, led by Kristen Sanderson.
 - c. Members present: Sara Clark, Rebeca DeLaSalle, Cindy Duplessis, Lisa Freeman, Benjamin Friedmann, Nicholas Heinen, Rebecca Hook, Olivia Johnston (Proxy of Natalie Laborde), Laurel Kitto, Gina Lagarde, Lauren Meher, Melanie Montroll (Proxy of Frank Edwards) Levillia Moore, Denise O’Guinn, Kathleen Richy, Robyn Thomas. Rick Wheat, Rebecca Whittemore
 - d. Staff Present: Anjell DeGruy (Zoom), Kristen Falgoust, Martha Hennegan, Julie Johnston, Kayla Livingston (Zoom), Danielle Mistretta, Preeti Moothy (Zoom), Shelley Ryan Gray (Zoom), Kristen Sanderson, Stefanie Winters (Zoom)
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Time was allotted for public comment. No comments were made.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 17, 2025 & June 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - i. Rick Wheat motioned to approve the March and June 2025 meeting minutes. Laurel Kitto seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- V. Mandate Review
 - a. Child Death Review Panel Mandate was introduced to new panel members and reviewed with existing panel members.
- VI. Vacancy Announcements
 - a. The Vacant seats on the panel were reviewed. Panel members were advised to reach out to potential panel members along with contact information to fill the vacant seats. The current vacancies are 2/4 citizens from the state at large who represent different geographic areas of the state, 3/4 citizens from the state at large who represent different geographic areas of the state, Health professional with expertise in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome appointed from a list of three names submitted by the Louisiana State Medical Society.

VII. Old Business

- a. Recommendation Workgroups
 - i. Panel members were reminded that workgroups have been created based on the top three recommendations from the CDR report. Internal meetings have been scheduled. Panel members will be invited to meetings after internal planning.

VIII. New Business

- a. 2020 – 2022 Child Death Review Report Published
 - i. Panel members were informed that the 2020-2022 Child Death Review Report and fact sheets have been published.
- b. 2021 – 2023 Child Death Review Report in development
 - i. Panel members were informed that the 2021-2023 Child Death Review Report is in development. Updates will be provided at the December meeting.
- c. Agency updates
 - i. The Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel has been invited to present CDR Report Data and Recommendations at the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board meeting on November 4, 2025.
 - ii. Office Of Behavioral Health updates:
 - 1. In partnership with VIA LINK and the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling (local 988 providers), suicide prevention partners held a successful “988 Day” on September 8, 2025 at the Capitol to raise awareness about suicide prevention, foster strong community connections, and highlight the lifesaving impact of 988.
 - 2. The Louisiana988.org website has several resources, including a “materials generator” that helps organizations create customized outreach materials that can connect your community to free, 24/7 emotional support.
 - iii. The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) updates:
 - 1. LSHC is partnering with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to train staff on how to transport children in DCFS care. The Louisiana Child Passenger Safety taskforce will lead these trainings.
 - 2. LSHC is partnering with the Louisiana Bureau of Vital Statistics to include car seat safety and pediatric heatstroke prevention information with the mailing of all birth certificates.
 - a. The CDR Panel discussed this as a possible opportunity to also include safe sleep information.
 - 3. National Seat Check Saturday will be held on September 26, 2025 from 9am-12pm at the following locations:
 - St. John Parish Sheriff's Office, 1801 Airline Hwy, Laplace 70068
 - Gordon McKernan Injury Attorneys, 5656 Hilton Avenue, Baton Rouge 70808
 - Mockler Beverage, 3860 Broad Street, Lake Charles 70615
 - Monroe Public Safety Center, 1810 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Monroe 71202
 - Ochsner LSU Health - St. Mary's Medical Center, 1 St. Mary Place, Shreveport 71101
 - Warren J Harang Jr. Municipal Auditorium, 310 N. Canal Blvd., Thibodaux 70301
 - Rapides Regional Medical Center, Medical Terrace, 211 Fourth Street, Alexandria 71301
 - Broussard Walmart, 123 Saint Nazaire, Broussard 70518

- Southeastern University, Driving Range Parking Lot, 800 W University Ave, Hammond 70518
- d. Suicide Prevention Grant
 - i. Panel members were informed that there is a one year continuation of the CDC Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant.
- e. Study Resolution 177: Child Access Prevention
 - i. Panel members were informed that SR 117 passed in the previous legislative session. SR 117 requests that the Louisiana Department of Health provide information to the Legislature on the prevalence of child firearm-related deaths, effectiveness of Child Access Prevention laws in other states, and recommendations for Louisiana.
- f. Safe Sleep Promotion Activities in October
 - i. Several safe sleep materials for Safe Sleep Awareness Month are in development including a social media campaign, Letter from the LDH Secretary, and updated flyers and educational materials. More information will be sent to the Panel members when it's released.
 - ii. Panel members were informed that Safe Sleep presentations are always available by regional MCH coordinators.
- IX. Public Comment
 - a. Time was allotted for public comment. No comments were made.
- X. Break
- XI. Case Review – **Suicide**
 - a. Suicide data for children ages 10-14 in Louisiana presented to panel members.
 - b. Four cases were reviewed by the CDR Panel. All cases were deemed preventable and recommendations were documented. Recommendations will be shared with panel members via secure email.
- XII. Adjourn
 - a. Kathleen Richey motioned to adjourn the meeting. Laurel Kitto seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Next Meeting Details

Date: December 9, 2025

Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Louisiana State Police Headquarters, 7919 Independence Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Note: The order of the agenda may not be followed exactly, to accommodate presenter schedules.

Presenters, members, and guests may submit requests for accessibility and accommodations prior to a scheduled meeting. Please submit a request to Kristen.Sanderson@LA.GOV at least 48 hours prior to the meeting with details of the required accommodations.

In lieu of verbal public comment, individuals may submit a prepared statement in accordance with Senate Rule 13.79. Statements should be emailed to Kristen.sanderson@la.gov and must be received at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to be included in the record for the meeting.

RS 40:2019:

§2019. Child death investigation

A. Findings and purpose.

(1) The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Protection of the health and welfare of the children of this state is a goal of its People, and the unexpected death of infants and children is an important public health concern that requires legislative action.

(b) Collecting data on the causes of unexpected deaths will better enable the state to protect some infants and children from preventable deaths and will help reduce the incidence of such deaths.

(c) Identifying persons responsible for abuse or neglect resulting in unexpected death will better enable the state to protect other children who may be under the care of the same persons and will help reduce the incidence of such deaths.

(d) Multidisciplinary and multiagency reviews of child deaths can assist the state in the investigation of child deaths, in the development of a greater understanding of the incidence and causes of child deaths and the methods for preventing such deaths, and in identifying gaps in services to children and families.