



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA STATE CHILD DEATH REVIEW

September 22, 2020

Zoom Attendees: Amanda Perry, Dr. Clayton Kleinpeter, Debra Feller, Devin George, Frank Edwards, Jane Herwehe, Janice Zube, Jeffrey Wale, Jessica Bedwell, Jia Benno, Dr. Joseph Kanter, Julie Johnston, Laurel Kitto, Lisa Norman, Lori Miller, Marty Hennegan, Nicole Cousins, Nicole Soudelier, Pamela Cart, Rachel Purgatorio, Rebecca DeLaSalle, Robyn Thomas, Rosa Bustamante-Forest, Rosaria Trichilo, Sandra Adams, Sara Dickerson, Shana Toole, Shelly Ryan Gray, and Sunny Funk.

Meeting Notes:

Welcome & Introductions:

Jane Herwehe welcomes the group, Rosaria Trichilo reviews virtual meeting etiquette and considerations for confidential review and the agenda and introduces Jia Benno's presentation on the 2016-2018 Annual Child Death Review (CDR) Report.

Annual CDR Update and Report:

Jia Benno gave a presentation on the Annual CDR Report for 2018-2020 data, which was just made available and can be found here CDR Report available here:

https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/FamilyHealth/CDR/CDR_Report_2016-2018_FINAL.pdf

- This presentation highlighted the new sections in this report including:
 - Trends in infant and child mortality
 - Individual pages for motor vehicle crashes, drowning, and homicide now include infants.
 - Racial disparities within child injury deaths.

Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)/Perinatal periods of risk (PPOR) was reviewed and presented to the Perinatal Commission last week. Jia will keep the CDR panel updated as news becomes available.

Legislation Update & Training on CDR Protocol:

The public facing CDR protocol developed by the Bureau of Family Health with input from the State panel was finalized. It explains CDR process and requirements of data and information partners for law enforcement agencies, and coroners to reference and follow when information is requested of their agencies. The final protocol will be distributed to the panel and a training schedule is being developed to be able to introduce the protocol of agencies, review its contents and allow for question and answers to supplement the information provided. These trainings will probably be scheduled for Zoom and the targeted audiences will be LA Sheriffs Association, Chiefs of Police Association, Coroners Association, District Attorneys Association and other agencies requiring or interested in training.

Legislative update:

Minor language changes will be proposed for Rs: 40:2019. These will include:

- Synchronizing words such as shall and may, since some sections seemed stronger than others.
- Completed investigations – defining completed to include the current state of the investigation, not case closure to make sure that CDR has access to records even if an investigation is not complete
- Change of the definition of unexpected deaths
- Addition of panel members to include LA State Board of Nursing and family representation

These changes have been accepted by OPH but now we are waiting to see if the proposal will be included in LDH's legislative packet to the Governor

Firearm Safe Storage Update:

- The Creative Brief discussed at the last meeting was designed to target gun owners to encourage safe storage practices. Funding for testing messages is unavailable through CDC grants.
- Be SMART is a campaign under Every Town for Gun Safety that has similar goals and messages to the Creative Brief and the Firearm Safe Storage work group has been working to mesh our efforts with Be SMART by working with the Be SMART presenter and advocate Yvonne Holmes.
- For more information on the campaign, visit: <http://www.besmartforkids.org>.
- The Be SMART presentation is attached and Yvonne is available for community presentations, please reach out. besmart.holmes@gmail.com.
- Changing the wording from Firearm Safe Storage to Firearm Responsible Storage
- Sandra Adams and Chief Edwards offered to help with costs of developing and testing messages. They will need cost estimate for the amount of money that is needed for testing messages and developing a campaign to see what may be feasible. BFH will work to develop these cost estimates for Sandra and Chief Edwards.
- Small group from the Firearm Responsible Storage group will be working to put the Be SMART campaign in front of people we know to see their impressions. This will help us figure out the potential success of the campaign among LA gun owners

Agency Updates

- Sandra Adams- (LA Partnership for Children and Families) Partnership is concerned about the special session of legislature. Budgets are up for discussion and may not be in favor of children and families.
- Jessica Bedwell- (Louisiana Highway Safety Commission) National Child Passenger Safety week is this week. Diversity has been a focus this year and materials in other languages (ASL, Spanish, and Vietnamese) have been developed. A presentation on transportation of children with special needs was given by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission. Events this Saturday 9/26/2020 from 9-12 on seat checks will be happening at 8 locations across the state.
- Joseph Kanter- (LDH/OPH)
 - Informs the group that there have been increased reports from healthcare providers of child abuse due to COVID-19 and hurricanes and reminds the group to keep this on the radar.

- Reminds everyone that flu season is upon us and will be particularly difficult where hospital capacity is concerned. Please get your flu shots. Also, make sure that we are spreading messaging that the flu does effect children and that we have many child deaths due to the flu every year. We need to make sure that because we have seen fewer severe responses in children to COVID, parents aren't disregarding the concern about the flu.
- The governor's authority to issue official proclamations for COVID-19 will be discussed at the special legislative session that could impact K-12 education which is a setting with direct link to community spread.
- Janice Zube- (LA Dept. of Ed) School systems are implementing safety procedures for COVID-19. School officials are aware of the increase in domestic violence and have been on the lookout for it.
- Laurel Kitto- (NICU/Neonatal Transport Services/Women's Hospital) Hospital task force on safe sleep has been distributing information to new mothers and asking about sleep arrangements. Enough pack and plays have been donated to provide for those without for a year.
- Robyn Thomas- (OBH) received the Zero Suicide Grant which began in August for 5 years. The COVID-19 Emergency Response for Suicide Prevention began in July and ends next November.
- Shana Toole- (US Consumer Product Safety Commission) If you would like additional information on Consumer product safety, visit: www.cpsc.gov or email Shana at stoole@cpsc.gov
- Jane Herwehe- (BFH) Injury State Action Plan is wrapping up. Plan will be ready in October. ACEs and child abuse and neglect and Suicide are the focus of the COVID-19 supplement for the injury grant. The Pool Safely grant will hopefully be extended for a 3rd year through September 2021 because the swim lessons and drowning prevention activities for this 2nd and final year were paused due to COVID.
- Rosaria Trichilo (BFH)
 - New SUID Investigation form can be found here: <https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/Center-PH/maternal/coroner/SUIDIForm.pdf>
 - CDR Report available here: https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/FamilyHealth/CDR/CDR_Report_2016-2018_FINAL.pdf
 - Resource for providers and caregivers on conversations about safe sleep: <http://giveyourbabyspace.org/>

Case Review: Three firearm fatalities were reviewed (1 suicide, 1 homicide, 1 accident) All deaths deemed preventable.

Recommendations

- Link family/child to appropriate services after a child runs away.
- Raise awareness around ACES and assessing for trauma when families are linked to services.
- Promote messaging around storage of guns in the home.
- Provide bereavement services for the family.
- Provide DCFS services for other siblings for trauma mitigation.
- Promote or create a school based program around firearm safety for school aged children education through 4H and Scouting programs (Hunter education).

- Promote affordable, responsible, and easy firearm storage within homes that appeals to firearm owners.
- Create shared definition of “responsible firearm storage” within culture to place responsibility.
- Promote programs, such as Be SMART, to promote modeling responsible behavior that reaches all communities and populations.
- Push for trauma informed school policies and linkage to services if not being received.
- Promote programs, such as Be Smart, to promote modeling responsible behavior that reaches all communities and populations
- Promote responsible storage of firearms especially in homes with small children
- Push for trauma informed school policies and linkage to services if not being received (ie. Social Emotional Learning (SELs) Services)
- Increase availability of alternative school services for children requiring services/referrals across all ages and across state
- Promote and build community trust with first responders to call 911 instead of transporting by private vehicle

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Next Meeting:

December 8, 2020

Time 12 PM- 3 PM

Location TBD- most likely Zoom

Adjourn 3:00

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



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- Ensure that the restraint is correctly installed in your vehicle

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