



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA STATE CHILD DEATH REVIEW

December 10, 2019

Attendees: Dr. Kanter, Amanda Perry, Debra Perna, Jane Herwehe, Julie Johnston, Karen Webb, Kelly Bankston, Dr. Clayton Kleinpeter, Danita Leblanc, Frank Edwards, Janice Zube, Jim Groody, Lisa Freeman, Laurel Kitto, Pam Cart, Robyn Thomas, Etrene Gerard, and Tommy Clark

Telephone Attendees: Lisa Norman, Rosa Bustamante-Forest, Sara Dickerson and Shelly Ryan Gray, Marty Hennegan

Meeting Notes:

Introductions:

Case Reviews – 4 Total- Firearm Fatalities (2 suicides and one unintentional shooting) and one CAN homicide

- a. Panel deemed all deaths preventable

Recommendations:

Firearm Safe Storage

- 1) Lethal means restriction and ammunition restrictions – safety lock or storing firearm in locked container to prevent firearm in hands of children at play or individuals contemplating ending their lives; removal of ammunition,
- 2) Inform others who may have unsecured guns located where person showing signs and symptoms may frequent (i.e. grandparents);
- 3) Means Matter: raise awareness around the amount of time between decision to end life and action and the fatal outcomes resulting with easy access to the most lethal means. 9 of 10 people who attempt suicide and survive never attempt again. Means matter – less lethal means increase chance of survival and recovery. Harvard site – meansmatter.org

Recognizing emotional crises in children and adolescents for parents, peers and professionals

- 1) Training or familiarity with signs and symptoms of adolescents who may be contemplating suicide; training on where to refer children in need of screening and need to call 911 if unable to access mental health professionals for more urgent needs;
- 2) Training on adolescent brain development and the role impulsivity plays in moments of emotional crisis; recognition that all people who die by suicide may or may not have prior mental health needs; often life disappointment or pressure can trigger an adolescent's thoughts of ending life.

Post event support

- 1) Ensure access to bereavement and trauma services for surviving siblings and parents

Coroners

- 1) Use of CDC Suicide definitions to better classify suicide vs. accidental and suicide vs. undetermined fatalities;
- 2) Training on emotional autopsies to be conducted by coroner investigators to better discern suicide intentions from family and witnesses.

Homicide case:

Autopsy lost and never provided for review or law enforcement. However, review panel did have CoD and manner from a death certificate to adequately fulfill the functions of the CDR panel. The case sheds light on challenges with getting records in homicide cases. Local teams need guidance from the CDR panel on recourse when coroners, law enforcement and district attorneys do not cooperate with requests for CDR documentation. Prosecution is not the charge of the CDR panel, but the panel was shocked this particular case never went to trial.

Data Collection:

- 1) Work with child welfare expert attorneys to better understand the process and needs of prosecutors to bring cases to a grand jury and better understand recourse when agencies do not comply with CDR data requests and ignore LS RS 40:2019

Child with special health needs

- 1) Ensure parent liaison and home visitation support for families with special needs children; work with partners on safely managing infant and child actions.

Increased data sharing opportunities

- 1) Explore sharing of info between health care providers (HCP) who report cases and DCFS- HCP never know the result of the reports they make. – HCP and any mandated reporter should report anything they suspect and DCFS will investigate. Info on mandated reporting process is on the DCFS website.

Subcommittee Work

MVC prevention and Firearm Safe Storage Groups met briefly to schedule another meeting time due to lack of time and worsening weather and need to adjourn a bit early.

- Firearm Safe Storage scheduled for Monday, January 6th, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the Bienville Building (628 N. 4th Street and via Zoom.
- Motor Vehicle Crash Prevention conference call scheduled for Tuesday, January 7th, 2020, 1:00 – 2:00 PM via Zoom.

Agency Updates

- LDH/OPH – Dr. Kanter reminded everyone the flu outbreak and need to get vaccinated
- LOPA- Coroners annual conference, February 7-8, 2020 in Lafayette, LA – focusing on Opioid investigations
- Highway Safety – Will share training for Tall Cop – how to recognize alcohol and drug concealment trends

- Woman's Hospital - Poverty Simulation (free)
 - March 27th
 - May 15th
 - August 7th
 - October 23rd

Next Meeting:

March 24, 2020

12:00 PM- 3:00 PM

State Fire Marshal HQ - 8181 Independence Blvd

Adjourn