



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

STATE CHILD DEATH REVIEW

**June 23, 2026
12:00PM – 3:30PM**

Location:

Louisiana State Police Headquarters
7919 Independence Blvd (Room 3000)
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Meeting link for members of the public:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ALYIUE4aTam5G3itC2sg6Q

The Bureau of Family Health is committed to promoting transparency, accessibility, and public engagement in all board, commission, and council meetings. The link to access the meeting online is provided for convenience for members of the public as a part of that commitment.

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 12:09 pm by Kristen Sanderson, State Child Death Review Panel facilitator.
- II. Roll Call-Chair
 - a. In- Person and virtual members provided introductions.
 - b. Ms. Sanderson proceeded with roll call. It was determined that a quorum was present.
 - c. Members present: Regina Barrow, Sara Clark, Dr. Laura Clayton-Kleinpeter, Rebecca DeLaSalle (Zoom), Cindy Duplessis, Lisa Freeman, Benjamin Friedman, Laurel Kitto, Dr. Gina Lagarde, Levillia Moore, Susan East Nelson, Denise O'Guinn, Dr. Estelle Oertling, Crystal Pichon (Zoom), Julie Ralph (proxy), Kathleen Richey, Robyn Thomas, Dr. Rebecca Whittemore
 - d. Members not present: Pamela Cart, Jessica Domangue, Nicholas Heinen, Dr. Rebecca Hook, Lauren Meher, Barry Minnich, Melanie Montroll, Zachary Popovich
 - e. Bureau of Family Health Staff present: Debra Feller, Julie Johnston, Danielle Mistretta, Kristen Sanderson
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Time was allotted for public comment. No comments were made.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 2025 & March 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - i. Susan East Nelson motioned to approve the September 2025 and March 2026 meeting minutes. Laurel Kitto seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
- V. Legislative Mandate Review
 - a. Child Death Review Panel Mandate was introduced to new members and reviewed with existing panel members.
- VI. Vacancy Announcements

- a. The Vacant seat on the panel was reviewed. Panel members were advised to reach out to potential panel members along with contact information to fill the vacant seat. The current vacancy is 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. Agency & Panel Updates
 - i. Child Death Review (CDR) Reports
 - 1. The 2021-2023 CDR legislative report was submitted to the Louisiana Legislature in March 2026. This report has key data points and recommendations from regional and State panel members. The 2021 – 2023 CDR surveillance report is more in-depth with additional data and data visuals. This report is still in the LDH approval process.
 - 2. 2022-2024 CDR legislative report is currently being drafted. BFH will develop a 2022 – 2024 CDR data presentation that will be reviewed with panel members at the December 2026 meeting.
 - ii. Laurel Kitto proposed creating a protocol or criteria for selecting which CDR cases are reviewed at the State panel. Ms. Sanderson explained that regional panels review all unexpected deaths of children under the age of 15 within their region. Since the State panel only meets quarterly, they review 4 – 5 cases at each meeting. Case topics are selected based on data trends and recommendations from regional coordinators panels.
 - iii. Senator Barrow and Kathleen Richey asked how legislators are notified of CDR policy recommendations and if the report is sent to specific committees. The CDR legislative reports are sent annually to the Senate and House Health and Welfare Committees. There was discussion on what actions should be taken to ensure that legislators are provided with information on relevant policy recommendations before each session, as well as the purpose and importance of the panel. Dr. Lagarde and Ms. Sanderson suggested developing one-pagers or brief data presentations that panel members can use to explain the panel's purpose with key recommendations and findings. Panel members also suggested inviting CDR staff to present at committee and other meetings.
 - iv. Lisa Freeman suggested sharing CDR materials and having CDR panel member representation at the November Louisiana Injury Prevention Day event (last year held on November 18, 2025).

VIII. New Business

- a. Drowning Prevention Campaign launched in May for Child Drowning Prevention Month
 - i. Ms. Sanderson provided an overview of the Louisiana Child Drowning Prevention Campaign launched in May, led by the Department of Health, Children's Cabinet, and Louisiana Children's Trust Fund. This campaign was a result of a CDR presentation given at the Children's Cabinet meeting in April 2025. Campaign materials include the [Get a Swim Plan](#) website, flyers, infographics, social media messaging, resources, and more. Panel members were encouraged to share the information with partners and community members.
 - ii. The Bureau of Family Health is planning to apply for the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Pool Safety grant to secure additional funding for drowning prevention activities.
- b. 2026 Panel Goals and Planning

- i. Due to time constraints, the panel agreed to discuss updates on 2026 goals at the following meeting.
 - c. Louisiana Youth All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)/ Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) Safety Taskforce presentation
 - i. Donice Fletcher, Tri-Regional Coordinator for Regions 6, 7, & 8 for the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) presented on ATV trauma registry data. Ms. Fletcher also provided an overview of the Louisiana ATV/UTV Safety Taskforce efforts.
- IX. Public Comment
 - a. Time was allotted for public comment. No comments were made.
- X. Break
- XI. Case Review- ATV Fatalities
 - a. ATV fatality data among children aged 10-14 were presented to panel members.
 - b. Five 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. Adjournment
 - a. Laurel Kitto motioned to adjourn the meeting. Susan East Nelson seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Next Meeting Details

September 15, 2026

12-3 PM

Louisiana State Police Headquarters

7919 Independence Blvd (Room 3000)

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.

DRAFT