

**Alabama Child Death Review System  
State Team Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2009**

**State Team Members Present:**

Dr. Stephen Boudreau (Proxy-Michael Sparks)  
Aretha Bracy (Proxy-Representative Mike Millican)  
Richard Burleson (Proxy-Dr. Don Williamson)  
Cathy Crabtree  
Capt. Gerone Grant (Proxy-Col. J. Christopher Murphy)  
Sheriff Herbie Johnson  
Steve Lafreniere (Proxy-Comm. John Houston)  
Marian Loftin  
Johnny Long (Proxy-Dr. Robert Brissie)  
Chief Ray Moore  
Dr. Cheryl Outland  
Dr. Gillis Payne  
Shirley Scanlan (Proxy-Comm. Nancy Buckner)  
Dianne Sims (Proxy-Senator Linda Coleman)  
Dr. Dale Wisely  
April Holcomb Weaver

**Absent:**

Jannah Bailey  
Judge Jean Brown  
Joy Deupree  
Judge Bill English  
Bill Harris  
Dr. Beverly Jordan  
Dr. Karl Stegall  
Steve Marshall  
Dr. Kenneth Snell  
Sheriff Bobby Timmons  
Amy Trammell  
Steve Marshall

**Guests/Staff Present:**

Sharis LeMay  
Dr. Thomas Miller  
Theresa Wilson

**Call to Order**

On January 22, 2009 at 1:00 PM at the Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) Center in Montgomery, Alabama, the Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) State Team meeting was called to order by Richard Burleson.

**Welcome of New Members and Guests**

Richard Burleson welcomed everyone and introduced the new state team members in attendance: Marian Loftin, Dr. Dale Wisely, Cathy Crabtree and Sheriff Herbie Johnson. Absent team members recently appointed are John R. Sample and Jannah Bailey.

**Old Business**

**State Team Membership Update/Vacancies**

The twenty-eight member State Team positions are currently filled. State Team members due to expire in March are Dr. Cheryl Outland, Dr. Kenneth Snell, and Dr. Beverly Jordan.

**Minutes**

The members present voted, without objection, to approve the October 2008 meeting minutes as written.

**Annual Report Update**

Mr. Burleson reported that the final copy of the annual report for 2005 data is being sent to the printer and circulated draft copies for viewing. Copies of the Annual Report will be sent to the State Team upon delivery to the State Office.

## **Status of Cases Report**

Mr. Burleson reported that efforts are still being made to encourage low-performing teams to review cases. A letter will be sent to the district attorneys regarding their participation and special efforts will be made in Covington County, where the team has not reviewed cases in three years.

## **New Data System Update**

Mr. Burleson gave an update on the transition to the new online reporting system. Usernames and passwords will be provided to the State Team and members will have statewide de-identified access to the database.

## **Budget Update**

Agency spending will be scrutinized for the 2009 budget year. In-state travel is limited and out of state travel has been suspended.

## **Fetal Infant Mortality Review Update**

Dr. Miller provided a brief update on the Fetal Infant Mortality Review program, which begins conducting its reviews this calendar year.

## **New Business**

### **Mothering Bed-sharing/Co-sleeping Articles**

Mr. Burleson circulated some recent articles from *Mothering* magazine, including “The Science of Sharing Sleep” which promotes bed-sharing. Mr. Burleson said that infant sleep-related deaths, second only to vehicular deaths among Alabama children, are a top priority for ACDRS and that the SUIDI Training would address the risk factors associated with infants in unsafe sleep environments.

### **Ohio SUID Case**

Mr. Burleson shared a mother’s testimony of how her baby died due to bed-sharing. (An excerpt from the story)

*"Rather than suffer in silence, I tell the story of my son's death publicly in the hopes to prevent a nightmare for another family. Overlay asphyxiation is a national high, and no one knows about it, because no one wants to stand up and say "I rolled on top of my baby and he suffocated."*

This story is a stark example of why ACDRS staff members try to be available to make presentations about infant safety, and especially safe infant sleeping, whenever invited to do so.

### **Alabama Teen Driver Safety Coalition**

Mr. Burleson reported on staff participation with the Alabama Teen Driver Safety Coalition in their efforts to enhance Alabama’s Graduated Driver License Law. ACDRS’ primary role in this effort will be to provide the coalition with statistics and data on motor vehicle fatalities among teen drivers.

## **Governor Recommendations**

Mr. Burleson gave a brief overview on formal recommendations to the Governor. Previous recommendations can be reviewed on the ACDRS website. Mr. Burleson asked that State Team members please submit their recommendations to the office by the end of February and drafts would be sent out in March for discussion at the April State Team meeting.

## **2009 Plans**

Mr. Burleson reported on program budget constraints, protocol changes, and program priorities to include the new data system, teen driver efforts, SUIDI training, and hands-on outreach and education.

The remaining 2009 State Team meeting dates are April 23, July 23, and October 22.

## **Open Discussion**

### **Infant Vitality Legislation Efforts**

New Team Member Marian Loftin reported on the on-going efforts to enact a comprehensive infant safety education program in Alabama, to include SBS prevention and safe infant sleeping. She explained the proposed Infant Vitality Bill that is still in the developmental stages and asked if ACDRS staff could forward the draft language to all State Team members for their review and comments. The members present agreed that they would like to review it and ACDRS staff will forward that information for her.

### **Executive Session (if necessary)**

An executive session was not called during this meeting.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further items on the agenda and no further discussion requested, without objection, the meeting was adjourned.

ADB/TW