



Learning from the past to protect the future.

**Alabama Department of Public Health
State Team Meeting Minutes
Montgomery, Alabama
Via Conference Call
April 22, 2021**

State Team Members Present for Meeting via Conference Call:

State Team Members:

Sergeant Jeremy Baker (ALEA)
David Rydzewski, M.D. (Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences)
Michael Taylor, M.D. (Private Citizen, UAB Pediatrics)
Chris Connolly (Alabama District Attorney's Association)
Jerry Williams (Alabama Coroner's Association)
Scott Belton (Proxy for Director of Alabama Forensic Sciences)
Ilecia Cobb, M.D. (Proxy for Commissioner of Alabama Department of Mental Health)
Beverly Johnson (Proxy for Commissioner of Alabama Department of Mental Health)
Marsha Raulerson, M.D., FAAP (Alabama Academy of Pediatrics)
Chief Justin Lovvorn (Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police)
Sheriff Bill Franklin (Alabama Sheriff's Association)
Candice Dye, M.D. (Health Professional with Child Abuse/Neglect expertise)
Shaundra Blakemore, M.D. (State of Alabama Medical Association)
Chris Newlin (Private Citizen Appointee)
Sallye Longshore (Private Citizen Appointee)
Robert Hinds (Private Citizen Appointee)
Tim Davis (Private Citizen Appointee)

Staff:

Kimberly Gordon (Proxy Dr. Harris Alabama State Health Officer, ADPH)
Gloria Davis (ADPH)
Nicole P. Lovvorn (ADPH)
Stuart Hoyle (ADPH)

Call to Order:

On April 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM via conference call hosted through ADPH/CDR Line, the Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) State Team meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kimberly Gordon.

Welcome of Members and Guests:

Mrs. Gordon welcomed State Team Members, guests and Central Office staff.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes:

A quorum was present. January 21, 2021 minutes were approved at this time.

Case Status Updates:

Mr. Stuart Hoyle provided an epidemiology update. He advised that 2019 case status reports were currently at 72 % and he has scheduled a deadline of May 31, 2021 for data to be gathered for the 2019 annual report. Mr. Hoyle advised that 2020 reviews are already at 8.4% even though their reviews are not due at this time.

Local Team Reviews Amid Covid-19 Updates:

Mrs. Nicole Lovvorn reviewed that efforts to maintain contact with all 41 circuits remain ongoing and mostly successful. If not available by phone, most circuits are able to communicate through email. Local team are returning to reviews. Mrs. Lovvorn continues to travel to circuits willing to complete reviews and continues to encourage and participate in circuits reviewing by phone or web services. Local coordinators are seeing a lot of turnover and Mrs. Lovvorn travels to train new staff as they are willing. Mrs. Lovvorn reviewed that some teams continue to ignore efforts of CDR staff to review their local deaths. Franklin, Monroe, Lowndes, Crenshaw, Lawrence, Perry and Wilcox have no history of review. Though, Lowndes, Crenshaw and Lawrence are reportedly working towards a review. Mrs. Lovvorn reviewed that phone calls, email and letters have been sent in an effort to reach these counties.

NCFRP/American Academy of Pediatrics Grant update

Mrs. Gordon reviewed that Alabama Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics was awarded the NCFRP grant. Mrs. Gordon, Dr. Kathy Monroe, Linda Lee and Dr. Grant Allen have been assisting in recruiting 42 pediatricians/family physicians to participate in the process of Child Death Review. They have had one Zoom meeting and Mrs. Gordon will keep the State Team updated on the 6-month project.

Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Training

Mrs. Gordon also reviewed that SUIDI training dates and locations have been set. Ms. Connie Shingledecker will be presenting a training in Birmingham on August 16th and 17th and in Montgomery on August 19th and 20th.

New Business:

Legislative update

Ms. Katie Jeter with Alabama Children First and Heather Davis of Heather Davis and Associates provided a legislative update. Ms. Davis is a lobbyist and reported that Aniah's Law has passed legislation and is ready to be voted on by the people of Alabama. The law provides that those deemed to be a threat to society can be denied bond. Under the current law, someone can only be denied bond if they are charged with a capital offense.

New State Team Members

Mrs. Gordon introduced two new members to the State Team. Chief Justin Lovvorn is the Chief of Police in Greenville, Alabama and is the new representative for the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Lovvorn advised that he appreciates the opportunity to work with Child Death Review and values the role to serve. Chief Lovvorn also took the opportunity to advise that he would be willing to take road trips with other team members to visit with local authorities in counties that were not participating with Child Death Review. Mrs. Gordon also reviewed that Reverend David Peebles has been appointed by the Governor to represent a private citizen/clergy member. His name was suggested by Ms. Sallye Longshore. Though he was not available for today's meeting, Ms. Longshore spoke on his behalf and she is excited to have him as part of the team. Mrs. Gordon reviewed that all 28 State Team positions are filled.

Open Discussion:

Dr. Marsha Raulerson reviewed the National Center's online training modules for SUIDI trainings. She asked if more advertising could be provided to allow more people to be aware of the free training. Mrs. Gordon reviewed that she would inquire with the National Center. Dr. Shaundra Blakemore inquired about the possibility of video conferencing in the future, as phone meetings are very impersonal. Ms. Gordon reviewed that the July meeting is traditionally held via phone conference but hopes to be back to face to face meetings by the fall.

Proposed Meeting dates for 2021

July 22, 2021

October 21, 2021

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.