



***Learning from the past to protect the future.***

**Alabama Department of Public Health  
State Team Meeting Minutes  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Via Conference Call  
July 21, 2022**

State Team Members Present for Meeting via Conference Call:

State Team Members:

Sergeant Jeremy Baker (ALEA)

Bill Yates (Jefferson Co Coroner, Med Examiner Office)

David Rydzewski, M.D. (Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences)

Sheriff Bill Franklin (Alabama Sheriff's Association)

Bruce Wilson (Alabama Coroner's Association)

Marsha Raulerson, M.D., FAAP (Alabama Academy of Pediatrics)

Bob Hinds (Private Citizen)

Shaundra Blakemore, M.D. (State of Alabama Medical Association)

Tim Davis (Private Citizen)

David Peebles (Private Citizen/Clergy)

Lynn Bius (Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers)

Marsha Raulerson, M.D (Alabama Academy of Pediatrics- did not answer roll call- emailed after meeting to advise that she was in attendance)

Staff:

Gloria Davis (Proxy Dr. Harris Alabama State Health Officer, ADPH)

Nicole P. Lovvorn (ADPH)

Stuart Hoyle (ADPH)

### Call to Order:

On July 21, 2022, at 1:00 PM via conference call hosted through ADPH, the Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) State Team meeting was called to order by Mrs. Gloria Davis.

### Welcome of Members and Guests:

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

### Approval of Minutes:

A quorum was not present to approve April 22, 2021, July 22, 2021, or October 21, 2021, minutes.

### Case Status Updates:

Mr. Stuart Hoyle provided an epidemiology update. He advised that 2021 case status reports were currently at 25.89 % and continuing to climb with teams meeting regularly.

### Local Team Reviews Update:

Mrs. Nicole Lovvorn reviewed that efforts to maintain contact with all 41 circuits remain ongoing and mostly successful. Mrs. Lovvorn continues to travel to circuits and participate local team meetings. Mrs. Lovvorn reported that John Walker with the Product Safety Commission has retired to Alabama and is participating in local team meetings as he is available. Mr. Walker is an asset to local meetings and CDR is pleased to have his participation. Mrs. Lovvorn also reported that Circuit 34, Franklin County, has finally had their first CDR meeting (01/25/2022) and the local DHR director, Amber Steward, is heading their team. Mrs. Lovvorn recognized State Team Member, Tonita Phipps, for sharing Mrs. Steward's information. Mrs. Lovvorn advised that Circuits 17, 37, 10B, 13 18 and 19 have reviews scheduled for this summer. Mrs. Lovvorn reported that on 06/24/22, she traveled to Circuit 20 for their team meeting and was pleased to report, that because of their CDR meeting, a death investigation has been reopened and will be presented to grand jury. Parents claimed their 1-month-old child had rolled off the bed and obtained rib and skull fractures. Investigators accepted the story given and did not realize that a child that age was not able to roll off the bed on his own. After the pediatrician, pediatric trauma nurse, coroner and chief of police began to review, the Chief advised the death needed further follow up and he is reopening the case. The Circuit is also changing their local protocols so that the pediatrician is called when law enforcement receives any report of infant death to review along with law enforcement.

### Old Business/Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Training and Train the Trainer

Mrs. Davis reported that after much delay, CDR's Professional Services Contract has been approved by the legislature and is now at the governor's office. Staff is currently working on scheduling the next SUIDI trainings for September 2022 for Thomasville and Dothan and she encouraged State Team members to attend and to share the information with anyone that may benefit from attendance. Mrs. Davis reviewed that this contract will also cover the training that CDR has been working on with the Director of APOST Law Enforcement Academy and Chief Lovvorn in a new initiative for SUIDI trainings in the state with a Train the Trainer approach. This approach will train local law enforcement SUIDI Investigation techniques through APOST who can go out and train others around Alabama. This will benefit the entire state as we will not be limited to one trainer coming from out of state.

#### New Business:

Mrs. Davis reported that 2 team members had rolled off the State Team and she has submitted 2 new names to the governor's office and is awaiting their approval. Dr. Jennifer McCain is an associate professor at UAB with Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Christine Byrd, the current director of Child Protect. Mrs. Davis reviewed that Sheriff Bobby Timmons and Scott Belton have retired from the State Team. Mrs. Davis reported that CDR is in process of filling 2 positions within the State Office. Mrs. Kimberly Gordon left in December to accept a promotion in another Bureau and Mrs. Nicole Lovvorn has accepted a promotion within the Bureau and continues to assist until vacancies are filled. Mrs. Davis also acknowledged the passing of Bill Harris, Lee County's Coroner and recognized him as a friend to Public Health and Child Death Review.

#### Open Discussion:

Dr. Shaundra Blakemore inquired about returning to in- person team meetings and multiple members agreed that the team needs to return to face-to-face meetings. Mr. Bruce Wilson asked about the possibility of allowing coroners to participate in the train the trainer classes. Mrs. Davis reported that the possibility can be explored. Mr. Bill Yates inquired about how statistics were listed on the case completion report, Mr. Hoyle reviewed how circuits were broken down in his report. Mr. Hoyle's also reported that the coroner database is slow going as state finance has reassessed all financial practices and he is currently working through a Request for Proposal, but the case management software is in process and moving forward.

#### Next Proposed Meeting date for 2022

October 20, 2022

#### 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.