



*Learning from the past to protect the future.*

**Alabama Department of Public Health  
State Team Meeting Minutes  
Montgomery, Alabama  
AIDT Training Center  
October 20, 2022**

State Team Members Present for Meeting:

**State Team Members:**

David Rydzewski, M.D. (Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences)  
Marsha Raulerson, M.D., FAAP (Alabama Academy of Pediatrics)  
Candice Dye, M.D. (Health Professional with Child Abuse/Neglect expertise)  
Robert Hinds (Private Citizen Appointee)  
Rebekah Boswell (Proxy Angelo Della Manna, Director Alabama Department of Forensics)  
Tonita Phipps (Private Citizen, Madison County DHR)  
Tim Davis (Private Citizen)  
David Peebles (Private Citizen/Clergy)  
Kristin Byrd (Private Citizen, Child Protect)  
Jennifer McCain, M.D. (Private Citizen, Children's of Alabama Pediatric Emergency Medicine)  
Lynn Bius (Alabama's Network of Children's Advocacy Centers)  
Michael Jackson (Alabama District Attorney's Association)

**Staff:**

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

**Call to Order:**

On October 20, 2022, at 1:00 PM, 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 and Central Office staff.

**Old Business:**

Approval of Minutes:

A quorum was not present to approve April 22, 2021, July 22, 2021, October 21, 2021 or July 21, 2022 minutes.

Case Status Updates:

Mr. Stuart Hoyle provided an epidemiology update. He advised that 2021 case status reports were currently at 35%. Mr. Hoyle reported that reviews are still coming in slowly due to staffing issues. Mr. Hoyle provided statistics to reflect how Alabama measures alongside the rest of the country regarding our review rates and our entries into the National Fatality Database. Mr. Hoyle advised that the data is available to any State Team member if they were interested in reviewing.

Local Team Reviews Update:

Mrs. Nicole Lovvorn reviewed that review rates are a reflection of the lack of staffing. Mrs. Lovvorn has transitioned into a new position outside of ACDRS, leaving the coordinator and the manager's positions vacant. Mrs. Lovvorn reviewed that some circuits are continuing to hold their reviews, but circuits really need regular follow up from staff to ensure they are staying on top of their reviews. At the present time, Mrs. Lovvorn is only available to assist if the circuits reach out to her. No one is actively following up with them regularly.

Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Training:

Mrs. Davis reviewed that Retired Major Connie Shingledecker came to Alabama to provide SUIDI Training to 27 participants in Thomasville and in Dothan during the month of September. Mrs. Davis also reviewed that Dr. Daniel Dye (Jefferson County Medical Examiner's Office) presented for both classes and has been a true champion for ACDRS. At each training location, participants completed a 2-day training and had positive reviews of their experiences. Mrs. Davis reported that the goal is to train more locals and to get law enforcement throughout the state to use the standard SUIDI form so data can be gathered more efficiently. Mrs. Davis is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the APOST Director and Mrs. Shingledecker to start setting up a Train the Trainer class. This will benefit the entire state as we will not be limited to one trainer coming from out of state. We are currently looking at Baldwin and Madison County as our next SUIDI Training locations.

**New Business:**

Mrs. Davis spoke more in depth about the staffing shortage and advised that she has been interviewing to replace Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Lovvorn. Mr. Hoyle presented the CDR Data Quality Summary for 2020 deaths. He advised that the National average for a child's death to be reviewed was around 265 days and Alabama is currently reviewing at a rate of 430 days.

Alabama is taking 35% longer to review their cases than the National average. Mr. Hoyle reviewed current staffing issues. Mr. Hoyle will make his data available for anyone who would like to review.

**New State Team Members**

Mrs. Davis introduced the newest members of the State Team: Dr. Jennifer McCain (Private Citizen, Children's of Alabama Pediatric Emergency Medicine), Rebekah Boswell (Proxy for Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences), and Kristin Byrd (Private Citizen, Child Protect).

**Open Discussion:**

Consistency among coroners across the state was addressed. Mr. Tim Davis asked about a snapshot of a coroner's role. Mr. Michael Jackson reviewed the process of qualifying and running for a coroner's office. Mr. Hoyle also reviewed that ADPH is working close with the Coroner's Association to offer CEUs to encourage additional training and for new coroners to establish a cooperative agreement and consistency among coroners. He reviewed that ADPH has funded and is currently working to develop digital based case management software for coroners.

**Proposed Meeting dates for 2023:**

January 19, 2023

**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.