

Alabama Child Death Review System
State Team Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2008

State Team Members Present:

Frank DeGraffenried
Joy Deupree
Bill English
Chris Haag (Proxy- Mike Millican)
Bill Harris
Amy Hinton
Steve Lafreniere
Johnny Long (Proxy- Dr. Robert Brissie)
Dr. Thomas Miller (Proxy- Dr. Don Williamson)
Dr. Gillis Payne
J.R. Sample
Shirley Scanlan
Dr. Kenneth Snell
Andra Sparks (Proxy- Linda Coleman)
Dr. Michael Sparks
Dr. Karl Stegall
Russell Thomas
Bobby Timmons
Amy Trammell

Absent:

Jean Brown
Gerone Grant
April Holcomb
Dr. Beverly Jordan
Dr. Cheryl Outland
Beth Twitty
Tara Kyser

Guests/Staff Present:

Melanie Bridgeforth
Richard Burleson
Jamie Durham
Julie Farmer
Sharis LeMay
Tirrell Martin
Dr. Kathy Monroe
Mary Murphy
Dianne Sims
Al Stone
Theresa Wilson

Call to Order

On February 12, 2008, at 1:10 PM at the Alabama Industrial Development Training center in Montgomery, Alabama, the Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) State Team meeting was called to order by Richard Burleson.

New Members and Guests

Present for their first meeting as new members were Governor's appointees Joy Duepre, Bill English, Dr. Karl Stegall, and Amy Trammell. Other new members attending their first meeting were Bill Harris, AL Coroner's Association Representative; Amy Hinton, AL Network of Children's Advocacy Centers Representative; and Russell Thomas, AL Sheriff's Association Representative.

Presentations

Julie Farmer of the Southeast Child Safety Institute gave an update on the Booster Seat Initiative. Ms. Farmer reported that the initiative has been successful so far and that there have been 248 booster seats distributed at the ten identified sites. Those sites include Blount, Clarke, Cullman, Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, Marion, Shelby, Sumter, and Winston counties. She also reported that Clarke County is the leading the other nine sites in distribution with 38 seats distributed.

A breakdown of the budget for the initiative was presented as well. In FY 08, ACDRS awarded the Southeast Child Safety Institute \$10,000 to start up the initiative. Each site was given \$1,000 to purchase booster seats, pay for travel, and for coordination of the events held to distribute the seats.

Ms. Farmer noted that future plans include reaching more rural counties, cultivating local partnerships, and train local volunteers to provide booster education. Team members suggested that fire departments and fire chiefs should be involved in future trainings as well.

Dr. Kathy Monroe of the Injury Free Coalition for Kids spoke with the group about ATV Safety. Dr. Monroe reported that in 1997 there were 19 trauma alerts related to ATV accidents. That number grew to 60 in 2006. She reported that a vast majority of the injuries occurred in children ages 10-15. Dr. Monroe feels as though legislation should be strengthened and that no one under the age of 16 should be allowed to ride ATVs.

Mary Murphy, coordinator for the Jefferson County (10-A) team spoke with the group about the strategies used by the team to review cases. She reported that the team meets bi-monthly to discuss cases in specific categories. The team is also looking into forming a sub-group that will be allowed to visit death scenes in order to get first hand knowledge of deaths as they occur.

Unfinished Business:

Minutes from the Last Meeting

The minutes for the conference call held on November 1, 2007, and the minutes for the regular quarterly meeting held on November 15, 2007, were approved due to a quorum being present.

Annual Report Update

Mr. Burlison reported that the 2004 Annual Report is in the process of being printed. He will provide copies to the State Team as soon as they are available.

State Team Membership Update

The State Team only has one vacant position to be filled by the Alabama District Attorney's Association. Three more members' terms will end in March. Those members include J.R. Sample, Tara Kyser, and Beth Twitty.

Status of Cases Report/Comparison

Tirrell Martin reported that 75% of the cases for 2005 have been reviewed. He also noted that once 90% of the cases have been reviewed that ACDRS would move forward with developing the 2005 Annual Report.

Local Team Recommendations

Mr. Burluson presented recommendations made by the local review teams to State Team members. He also asked the State Team members to send their own recommendations that would be sent to the Governor to review.

New Business:

2008 Training Conference

An update was given to the team about the 2008 Training Conference to be held on July 15-17, 2008. The team will be given further information regarding registration and accommodations once those details have been finalized.

Open Discussion

J.R. Sample requested assistance from the group regarding legislation that would allow DHR workers into, exempt church daycare facilities to complete investigations.

Bill Harris suggested that the team revitalize promotion of the Safe Haven Law. Dr. Kenneth Snell suggested that if the group decides to promote the law, that there should be more than one campaign each year.

Andra Sparks suggested that new mediums should be explored when promoting initiatives and programs under ACDRS. Some of those mediums included Facebook and Myspace. Mr. Burluson said that he would bring in someone from, ADPH Health Promotion to discuss different means of advertising that the program can use.

Amy Hinton noted that there should be more awareness regarding child deaths that involve domestic abuse.

Bill English suggested that ACDRS staff should get teams more motivated to participate in reviews. He noted that one way of doing so was to get a local child advocacy group to contact the district attorney to let him/her know that they are willing to help.

Executive Session:

An executive session was not called during this meeting.

Next Meeting Scheduled

Our next regularly scheduled ACDRS State Team meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 17, 2008 at 1pm. Location to be announced.

Adjournment

There being no further items on the agenda and no further discussion requested, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

TM: tw