

**Alabama Child Death Review System
State Team Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2006**

State Team Members

Present:

Robert Brissie
Frank DeGraffenried
Sharron Richard Denman
Don Williamson (Proxy – Tom Miller)
Bill English
Tara Kyser
Steve Lafreniere
James Lauridson
Holley Midgley
Representing Gerald Dial)
Mike Millican (Proxy – Dianne Sims)
Cheryl Outland
J. R. Sample
Shirley Scanlan
Bobby Timmons
Olga White

Absent:

Jean Brown
Hoyt Childs, Jr.
Gerone Grant
Jim Grigg
James Hayes
Tara Johnson
Larry Means
Taylor Noggle
Mike O'Dell

Randy Thomas
Beth Twitty
Jay Wolf

Guests/Staff Present:

Bob Hinds
Gordon Jones
Tarina Moores
Sandy Powell
Dianne Sims
Linda Tilly
Hank Williford
Nancy Wright
Hilda Oglesby

Call to Order

On May 18, 2006 at 1:00PM 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 for its required quarterly meeting. Mr. Bob Hinds called the meeting to order, welcomed new members and guests and presided over the proceedings.

Guest Speakers

Ms. Sandy Powell, Adolescent & School Health Coordinator, ADPH/FHS, spoke to the Team about her newly created position. As a long-time school nurse, Ms. Powell is well aware of the problems involving the health of our school-aged youth and looks forward to trying to make a difference in our schools with her program. She also looks forward to working with the ACDRS to synergize our efforts to protect our children.

Dr. Hank Williford, Professor, Distinguished Research Professor, Department Head, Auburn University at Montgomery, School of Education, gave a very enlightening presentation on the “CY 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results”. Dr. Williford’s presentation detailed the results of an extensive survey of Alabama’s school aged youth regarding their behavior, particularly those behaviors that might not be known to parents, teachers and/or counselors. An extensive Question and Answer session followed the presentation. Copies of Dr. Williford’s presentation are available through the ACDRS office.

Unfinished Business:

Minutes of Last Meeting

A quorum of members being present, the minutes of the February 2006 meeting were approved as written.

State Team Membership Update

Mr. Hinds was happy to announce that all three of the Governor appointed vacancies has been filled. Ms. Tara Kyser, Kinston, AL, and Mr. J. R. Sample, Columbiana, AL, were introduced to their fellow members at this meeting. The third new appointee is Ms. Beth Holloway Twitty, Mt. Brook, AL. Ms. Twitty was not able to make this meeting. This leaves two vacancies on the Team. Replacements for Mr. Holley Midgely and Dr. Jim Lauridson are expected to be announced very soon.

Status of Cases Report/Comparison

Mr. Hinds reported on the status of ACDRS cases. The news continues to be good with current trends indicating even better future news. Participation rate among our 50+ Teams is at 96% - an all time high for the ACDRS. But since participation is required by law and we really won't achieve everything we might achieve until we reach the 100% mark, we still have work to do. All our non-participating Teams have been contacted and promise immediate participation. The case review rate for CY 2003 was the highest on record at 89%, which was the third year in a row that the ACDRS has exceeded an 80% case review rate. As of May 18, 2006 we have 57 CY 2004 cases that have not been reviewed, so we stand an excellent chance of exceeding the current all time high.

New Business:

Budget Issues

A couple of significant events are affecting the ACDRS budget for FY 2006. The first was an act passed by the Alabama legislature requiring all excess funds from the Children First Trust Fund to be transferred to the State General Fund. This in essence removed any funds that might have been available to offset the results of the second event.

The second event resulted when two large tobacco companies significantly reduced their annual settlement payments. This reduction is being disputed by several states and may require litigation to resolve the issue.

The bottom line is that the ACDRS budget has lost about 60% of this year's planned budget. This is not an immediate disaster since the ACDRS had long been planning for a slight reduction in budget which was to last for several years. A significant carry-forward had been accumulated to accommodate this predicted reduction. The carry-forward is enough to cover this year's shortage and possibly a similar shortage next year.

Although ADPH has promised to cover our shortages in the future, exactly how that would be done is unknown.

ACDRS/OMA Issues

Mr. Hinds recently received a letter from Nancy Worley, Alabama Secretary of State, in which she declares that as a result of several questions concerning the new Alabama Open Meeting Act and the issue of electronic attendance at announced meetings, she was providing an Alabama Attorney General (AG) opinion on the matter. In his opinion the AG declares that electronic attendance at covered meetings is not allowed and should not be used to obtain a quorum.

However, the statute creating the ACDRS specifically states that the use of electronic attendance is permitted for the ACDRS State Team (not for Local Team meetings...). The ADPH/GC has given us his written opinion that our statute takes precedence over this AG opinion and therefore we will continue to use this technique as needed in our State Team meetings.

ATV Safety Program

On Memorial Day 2006, the ACDRS kicked off a new safety awareness program. The ACDRS ATV Safety program was announced on Montgomery TV and through numerous "Letters to the Editor" letters in hometown newspapers across Alabama. The ACDRS has created a new educational brochure to send to various agencies and locations throughout the State. We are looking for appropriate distribution points at which to display this brochure.

Status of the CY 2003 Annual Report

The CY 2003 CDR Annual Report has been received from our contractor and has been given final editorial approval from the State Health Officer. It is currently receiving final cosmetic changes before being sent to the printer. We anticipate formal publication of the report in August 2006.

Recent ACDRS Publicity

The ACDRS has recently been "spotlighted" on the *Children's Safety Network* web page and has been featured in the *Alabama's Health* publication. Guest spots on both WAKA-TV and WSFA-TV have further promoted our efforts to save the lives of our children.

Open Discussion

No new items were proposed or discussed during this period.

Executive Session

Without objection the Team agreed to move to Executive Session. Upon completing discussions on several topics the team agreed to return to Open Session.

Next Meeting Scheduled

Due to the Local Team Training Conference in August, the next “regular” State Team meeting will be in November 2006 at a place and time yet to be determined. State Team members are encouraged to attend the Local Team Conference

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.

RH:tm

Enclosure