



Learning from the past to protect the future.

**Alabama Department of Public Health
State Team Meeting Minutes
Montgomery, Alabama
Via Conference Call
January 21, 2021**

State Team Members Present for Meeting via Conference Call:

State Team Members:

Representative Paul Lee (House Health Committee)
Colonel Charles Ward (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, M.D. (Proxy for Commissioner of Alabama Department of Mental Health)
Marsha Raulerson, M.D., FAAP (Alabama Academy of Pediatrics)
Lynn Bius (Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Center)
Bill Yates (Proxy for Jefferson County Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office)
Candice Dye, M.D. (Health Professional with Child Abuse/Neglect expertise)
Max Capouano, M.D. (Alabama Academy of Family Physicians)
Chris Newlin (Private Citizen Appointee)
Sallye Longshore (Private Citizen Appointee)
Cindy Hines (Private Citizen Appointee)
Robert Hinds (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 January 21, 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 and Central Office staff.

Approval of Minutes:

A quorum was present. April 30, 2020, July 23, 2020, and October 22, 2020 minutes were approved at this time.

Old Business:

Mrs. Gordon reviewed that the Alabama Mortality Prevention Program (AMPP) Contract through Medicaid has been renewed and the contract is in place through 2025.

Case Status Updates:

Mr. Stuart Hoyle provided an epidemiology update. He advised that 2019 case status reports were currently at 66.1 % and anticipates it to increase before data is gathered for the annual report. Mrs. Gordon reviewed that reviews are up from 57.1 % from the October 2020 State Team Meeting.

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 reviews are moving slowly as Covid concerns continue. 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. CDR staff is in process of getting a letter approved to mail to all DAs in the circuits that have not been participating, to encourage action. CDR is optimistic that those numbers will continue to improve as CDR staff continue to follow up and work with local teams.

New Business:

Mrs. Gordon reviewed the Alabama Health Newsletter has an article highlighting the Virtual Child Death Training held in Aug and September of 2020. Mrs. Gordon advised that she sent the link to the newsletter to all State Team Members earlier today with the meeting's agenda. Mrs. Gordon reviewed that local team surveys were sent out to local coordinators and 23 circuits responded. Two responses that were highlighted by Mrs. Gordon were: trouble that local teams had getting complete information about car accidents and complete pictures/information about

family backgrounds. Mrs. Gordon suggested that additional participation by ALEA and DHR could solve both issues. Mrs. Gordon asked that Team Members with suggestions contact her by phone or email. Additional issues addressed in responses involved redundancy with the National Database, but local CDR cannot make changes to the National Database, though we give input as allowed. A tool was provided to local teams highlighting core variables that could help streamline the process.

Mrs. Gordon also reviewed that CDR desires to have a SUIDI (Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation) training this year. CDR originally had this training scheduled for June 2020 but had to cancel it due to Covid. The original trainings provided participants the option of attending in Birmingham or Montgomery, but when rescheduling this training, CDR plans to provide additional training locations. CDR is still working on the contract to have these trainings and plans to have them scheduled by the summer. We plan to use the same trainer as last year, Major Connie Shingledecker, a 39- year veteran law enforcement officer retired from Manatee County Sheriff's Office in Florida.

Mrs. Gordon reviewed that the State Team continues to have a private citizen vacancy that must be filled by clergy and asked that anyone with suggestions, please contact her. Mrs. Gordon reviewed that Mr. Chris Connolly has replaced Jill Lee as the District Attorney's Association Representative. Mrs. Gordon also reviewed that Commissioner Beshear has retired from the Department of Mental Health and Kimberly Boswell has replaced her. Dr. Ileeia Cobb spoke on Commissioner Boswell's behalf and advised that they are excited to have Mrs. Boswell's leadership. Mrs. Gordon also reviewed that she has been unofficially notified of the appointment of Chief Justin Lovvorn of Greenville Police Department to represent the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police but continues to wait on the official letter of appointment from them.

Finally, Mrs. Gordon reviewed that the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention and the Alabama Academy of Pediatrics are providing \$5000.00 grants to state chapters to aide in getting pediatricians involved at the local level. Mrs. Gordon assisted the Alabama Chapter in submitting their grant proposals and they are still awaiting updates on whether Alabama will be awarded one of the national grants or not.

Open Discussion:

Dr. Marsha Raulerson inquired about online training modules for SUIDI trainings. Mrs. Gordon reviewed that the National Center has many online training modules but has no knowledge of any actual death scene investigation module available and is unsure if that training can be completed virtually due to its complexity. Mrs. Gordon advised that CDR can look further into it. Mr. Chris Newlin asked if there were any plans for legislation that may impact the CDR System in Alabama or if there needed to be at this time. Mrs. Gordon reviewed that due to state CDR turn-over and current staff trying to "catch up" many local teams, legislation efforts have been postponed. Mrs. Gordon advised that she hopes to return to legislative concerns soon and advised that she would email the Stet Team members to refresh them with past legislative issues, such as Graduated Drivers Licenses.

Tentative Meeting Date:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

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.