

**Alabama Child Death Review System  
State Team Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2005**

**State Team Members**

**Present:**

Robert Brissie (ViaNet B'ham)  
Jean Brown  
Hoyt Childs, Jr. (ViaNet Huntsville)  
Sharron Richard Denman  
Jane Ferguson  
Gerone Grant  
Jim Grigg  
Steve Lafreniere  
James Lauridson  
Larry Means (Proxy Tom Parker, Jr.)  
Mike O'Dell  
Shirley Scanlan  
Michael Taylor (ViaNet Tuscaloosa)  
Bobby Timmons  
  
Olga White  
Don Williamson (Proxy Tom Miller)  
Jay Wolf

**Absent:**

Frank DeGraffenried  
Bill English  
James Hayes  
Tara Johnson  
Holley Midgley  
Mike Millican  
Taylor Noggle  
Randy Thomas  
Gerald Dial

**Guests/Staff Present:**

Mark Barlow  
Richard Burleson  
Chris Haag (ViaNet Montg.)  
Bob Hinds  
Bob Johnston  
Sharis LeMay  
Tarina Moores  
Leroy Riddick  
Dianne Sims  
Al Stone  
Jack Tillman  
John Wible  
Albert Woolbright  
Hilda Oglesby (Representing  
Gerald Dial)

**Call to Order**

The Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) State Team met for its required quarterly meeting on November 17, 2005 on the campus of Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM), in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Bob Hinds, Director, ACDRS, called the meeting to order and welcomed guests and new members to the assembly (see attached). Mr. Hinds also announced that the State Team meeting had been identified by the ADPH/GC as falling within the guidelines of the new Alabama Open Meeting Act (OMA) of 2005, Act number 2005-40. As such, the meeting and all subsequent meetings will be announced to the public via the Secretary of State's web site and all proceedings will hereafter follow the provisions of the CDR Act and the OMA. In addition, all future ACDRS State Team meetings will adopt Alice Sturgis's "The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure" as the guide for the Team's standard operating procedures.

**Guest Speakers**

**Sheriff Jack Tillman, Mobile County**

Sheriff Tillman and his Chief Investigator Mark Barlow, presented a very interesting and alarming presentation on the dangers of All Terrain Vehicles. In particular since Alabama has no law to limit driver ages, require safety clothing/helmets...or to even require registration/title documents, our youth are in serious danger. Child after child is injured or killed throughout our state...with some deaths occurring to infants 2-3 years old! While

parents and siblings are very sorry when it happens...very little support is available from parents and lawmakers prior to tragedy striking. Sheriff Tillman recommends new laws to protect our youth and to make it easier to identify ATV's and their rightful owners. (See the attached data sheets—[Alabama Data](#); [All State ATV Requirements](#); [News from the CPSC](#))

### **Mr. John Wible, ADPH/GC**

Mr. John Wible was asked to present his legal opinion as to the applicability of the new Open Meetings Act (OMA), Act number 2005-40, to the ACDRS. In Mr. Wible's opinion ([see attached opinion](#)) normally at least a portion of the State Team meetings do fall within the purview of the OMA, but, since the Local Teams meet only to discuss confidential case reviews, the Local Team meetings do not ([see attached opinion](#)). As a result all State Team meetings must be announced to the public via the Alabama Secretary of State's web page a minimum of 7 days prior to the meeting. In addition minutes of the meeting must be kept available for public review and all votes of the team must be recorded and also kept available for public review. Since the State Team frequently also discusses and reviews confidential case reviews and other similar data, the OMA allows the State Team to revert to an Executive Session for any appropriate confidential discussions. The public is not allowed to attend the Executive Session portions of any meetings.

### **Old Business**

#### **State Team Membership Update**

Mr. Mike O'Dell, the new President, Alabama District Attorney Association, attended his first meeting as the newest member of the State Team. Mr. O'Dell is the District Attorney for Judicial Circuit #9 (DeKalb/Cherokee Counties) ([see attached](#)).

Unfortunately three of our Governor appointed members reached the end of their terms. Dr. Bob Beshear, Rev. Jane Ferguson and Judge Sandra Ross Storm all concluded their terms on the State Team with distinction. Each provided noteworthy contributions to the Team and will be missed. We are expecting new Governor appointments to replace the outgoing members very shortly.

#### **Status of Cases Report/Comparison**

Richard Burleson, Assistant Director, ACDRS, presented the update on the current Status of Cases Report. This quarter's report is very good. To begin he congratulated several Local Teams by name on their performance ([see attached](#)). Numerous Teams received "Atta Boys" for total or 90% case completion rates. In addition Mr. Burleson reported that for CY 2003, our next annual report will show a record case completion rate of almost 88%. This is the third year in a row that our rate has exceeded 80%...while this is great news...our goal of course is 100% case completion ([see attached](#)).

Likewise our goal is 100% Local Team participation. We are getting closer and closer to this goal with only four Teams continuing to show up on our non-participation performance list. (See attached.)

Mr. Burlison also prepared a set of charts that shows a very noticeable trend of declining total deaths and deaths that meet our criteria for review. The trends point to the fact that since CDR began we have played an extremely instrumental part in reducing preventable infant/child deaths in Alabama! (See attached.)

## **New Business**

### **Infant/Child Death Investigator In-Service Course Schedule**

The next installment of the Infant/Child Death Investigator Training Course will be held in Gadsden, AL on December 8, 2005. The course continues to receive positive reviews as new material is added to it with every presentation.

### **“Cribs for Kids” Status**

The Cribs for Kids of Montgomery County pilot program has already proven itself to be a worthwhile and needed program. Since August 2005 over 21 needy families have received cribs through this program. Although the pilot program was planned to last six months, it is obvious that the program is worthwhile...therefore we intend to start canvassing possible financial supporters to take over the Montgomery County program so we might expand the program to other counties. We have already received inquiries from groups in Calhoun and Mobile counties who wish to start the program as soon as possible.

### **New American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommendations**

Dr. Michael Taylor, AAP representative to the State Team, discussed the new AAP “...Recommendations on Reducing the Risk of SIDS”. (See attached) These new recommendations have received quite a bit of publicity. There is a lot of controversy surrounding some of the recommendations...particularly the one recommending against bedsharing. The ACDRS applauds the new recommendations and agrees with them completely. The only possible change we might suggest would be to tie the recommendations to associate them with all risks facing infants...including suffocation/asphyxiation...not just those associated with SIDS.

### **Open Discussion**

No new items were proposed or discussed in the Open Discussion section of the agenda.

### **Executive Session**

Without objection, the Team unanimously agreed to move into Executive Session.

### **Return to Open Session**

Without objection the Team unanimously agreed to return to Open Session to conduct a vote. Without objection the Team unanimously agreed to include in this year's Recommendations to the Governor Dr. LeRoy Riddick's list of improvements required by the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences...to include new all encompassing laws, which would detail improvements needed to standardize death investigations, laboratory requirements, certification of technicians and improved resources for the entire system.

### **CY 2006 Meeting Schedule**

As the final item on the agenda the State Team was given a tentative list of planned meeting dates for CY 2006 (see attached).

### **Adjournment**

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

RH:tm

Enclosures (13)