

**Texas State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT) Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

Location: Microsoft Teams Live Event

Table 1: Texas State Child Fatality Review Team Committee attendance at the November 8, 2021, meeting.

MEMBER NAME	IN ATTENDANCE
Chief Michael Baldwin, Chair	Yes
Dr. Ada Booth	Yes
Judge Shane Brassell	Yes
Dr. Kim Cheung	Yes
Dr. Tara Das	Yes
Ms. Kristi Elliott	Yes
Ms. Elizabeth Farley	No
Dr. Sanjuanita Garza-Cox	Yes
Captain Michael Hayes	Yes
Dr. Owais Khan	Yes
Ms. Letty Martinez	No
Ms. LaViza Mathews	Yes
Ms. Diane MacLeod	Yes
Ms. Clarissa Mora	No
Dr. Kenton Murthy, Vice Chair	Yes, joined at 10:11am
Ms. Angelica Powers	Yes
Dr. Jennifer Ross	Yes
Ms. Katheryn Sibley	Yes
Ms. Amy Smith	Yes
Captain Steven Tellez	Yes
Dr. Lawrence Thompson, Jr.	Yes
Mr. Jeremy Triplett	Yes
Dr. Jeannine Von Stultz	Yes
Gene Wu, Representative	Yes

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Chief Michael Baldwin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance.

Sallie Allen, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), Texas Health and Human Services, provided logistics, called roll, asked each member to introduce themselves, and determined a quorum present.

Agenda Item 2: Introduction of new committee members

Chief Baldwin introduced new members, congratulated them on their appointment, and also thanked the returning members for their continued service to the committee.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of the August 20, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Allen called for edits/changes to the meeting minutes. Hearing none, she requested a motion to approve the August 20, 2021, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Kim Cheung made a motion to approve the August 20, 2021 meeting minutes and Dr. Sanjuanita Garza-Cox seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried by majority.

Agenda Item 4: Update and announcements

Chief Baldwin introduced Ms. Sarah Blezinger, and she provided the following updates.

- SCFRT 2020 Biennial Report
 - Report is due April 1, 2022 and is made to the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - The report contains child fatality data from 2017-2019 from Local child fatality review teams along with recommendations to prevent child fatalities and injuries.
 - DSHS received 27 recommendations from local teams and those recommendations, as well as recommendations from the 2020 biennial report were reviewed.
 - The reporting deadline was extended to October 29th to allow teams extra time to enter data information into the case reporting system.
- Local CFRT Updates
 - Several new CFRT teams have been formed to review cases and they are:
 - 38th District CFRT, Hays County CFRT, and Bandera, Gillespie, and Kerr County CFRT, and North Texas Tri-County CFRT.
 - Some teams have reformed and/or added counties to review, and they are:
 - Panhandle CFRT and Central Texas CFRT.
 - Will continue to update the committee on local teams as they form to ensure efforts are being supported.
- DSHS Maternal and Child Health and Office of Injury Prevention Updates
 - Ms. Amy Bailey has left the agency to pursue a new career, and the Office of Injury Prevention is actively recruiting for a branch manager
 - Mr. Jeremy Triplett was promoted to Deputy Associate Commissioner for the Community Health Improvement Division. He will continue to serve as the Title 5 representative until a new member is selected.
 - The Office of Injury Prevention has received a notice of award for the State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Partnership Programs to Reduce Maternal Deaths due to Violence initiative.

Agenda Item 5: Child Mortality in Texas

Chief Baldwin introduced Dr. Paul Betts, DSHS, and he provided an overview and referenced a PowerPoint, *Child Mortality in Texas*. Highlights included:

- The CDC wide-range online data source (1999-2019) for Epidemiological Research is WONDER.
- Overview of data definitions
- Overview of mortality rates in Texas, by Natural and External causes for those less than 18 years old for the period (2011-2019)
- Material presented focused primarily on natural deaths, homicides, and suicides.
- In comparison to the "All Causes of Deaths" category in US, Texas ranks 27th
- Five leading causes of mortality in Texas for those less than 18 years old for the period (2011-2019) are:
 - Perinatal conditions, congenital anomalies, accidents, cancer, and suicide
 - Suicide, predominantly the 11-17 age group, was the second leading cause of death behind accidents.
- Statistics outlined mortality in Texas for those less than 18 years old for the period (2017-2019) by cause of death, gender, and race/ethnicity

- A summary outlined child morality by several categories, gender, and race.

Agenda Item 6: Review and vote on the 2022 Biennial Report

Chief Baldwin opened the floor for discussion of each recommendation. Members went through and discussed each recommendation. Following is overview of discussion and vote for each category.

Motor Vehicle Safety

- Recommendation 2 –
MOTION: Chief Baldwin made a motion to accept the recommendation as written, to the extent of it being a criminal offense by the person who operates a passenger vehicle, transporting a child under two years of age that is not secured in rear-facing safety seat. A roll call vote was conducted and based on the members present, the motion failed, with nineteen objections and three abstentions.

Chief Michael Baldwin made a motion for the following recommendations as outlined and called for a vote.

- Recommendation 1 – TABLED
Discussed: This item was presented two years ago and members agreed nothing has been updated.
- Recommendation 3 – NO Action
Discussed: No action is required to this recommendation because of existing laws.
- Recommendation 4 – NO Action
Discussed: No action is required to this recommendation.
- Recommendation 5 – APPROVED, combined with recommendation 9
Discussed: Will combine these two recommendations
- Recommendation 6 – APPROVED, combined with recommendation 7
Discussed: Add language, *provide the appropriate child passenger safety seat or booster for transport.*
- Recommendation 7 – APPROVED, combined with recommendation 6
Discussed: Add language – *require the installing employee of all motor vehicles operators participating be trained.*
- Recommendation 8 – NO Action
Discussed: No action is required to this recommendation.
- Recommendation 9 – APPROVED, combined with recommendation 5
Discussed: Will combine these two recommendations.

Ms. Allen conducted a roll call vote for the approval of the Motor Vehicle Safety Recommendations as outlined above and the motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

Drowning Prevention

Judge Shane Brassell made a motion to combine Recommendations 1, 2, 4 and 5 and move forward to legislation. Recommendation 3 will be forward to DFPS and partnering agencies for collaboration. Captain Michael Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objections and one abstention.

- Recommendation 1 – APPROVED, combined with recommendations 2, 4 and 5
Discussed: Will combine these four recommendations, as they all relate to improve child passenger safety in Texas
- Recommendation 2 – APPROVED, combined with recommendations 1, 4 and 5
Discussed: Will combine these four recommendations, as they all relate to improve child passenger safety in Texas
- Recommendation 3 – APPROVED, recommendation to DFPS and partnering agencies
Discussed: Will recommend to DFPS to work with their partnering agencies on target messaging and explore additional funding opportunities through legislation.
 - Recommendation 4 – APPROVED, combined with recommendations 1, 2, and 5
Discussed: Will combine these four recommendations, as they all relate to improve child passenger safety in Texas
 - Recommendation 5 – APPROVED, combined with recommendations 1, 2, and 4
Discussed: Will combine these four recommendations, as they all relate to improve child passenger safety in Texas

Child Protective Services

Captain Michael Hayes made a motion to accept the Recommendation 1 as written. Dr. Kenton Murthy seconded the motion. A roll vote was conducted and based on the eighteen members present, the motion failed with eight approved, six objections, and four abstentions.

- Recommendation 1 – TABLED
Discussed: Recommend approval as written; if clarification is needed will refer to DFPS for further information.

Captain Michael Hayes made a motion to accept Recommendation 2 with language modification. Dr. Kenton Murthy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and based on the eighteen members present, the motion failed with ten approved, four objections, and four abstentions.

- Recommendation 2 – TABLED
Discussed: Recommend modify language, "...for all **emergency** medical personnel". If clarification is needed will refer to DFPS.

Safe Sleep

Ms. Amy Smith made a motion to table the Safe Sleep Recommendation. Dr. Kim Cheung seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and based on the eighteen members present, the motion to table Recommendation 1 passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

- Recommendation 1 – TABLED
Discussed: Recommend clarification from the local teams with regards to requirements and facts involved when considering prosecution. Also look at local teams expanding education and awareness efforts.

Suicide Prevention

Ms. Amy Smith made a motion for the following Suicide Prevention recommendations as outlined below. Dr. Kim Cheung second the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and based on the eighteen members present, the recommendations as presented below, passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

- Recommendation 1 – NO ACTION
Discussed: Recommend the committee coordinator obtain information from Ms. Kristi Elliott and send out to Local Teams and have them share with individuals.
- Recommendation 2 – APPROVED
Discussed: Recommend with contingency of clarifying joint funding to DSHS and participating agencies for public campaign.
- Recommendation 3 – APPROVED
Discussed: Recommend modify language, change, “should” to “shall”.

Other Recommendations

Ms. Amy Smith made a motion for the following Other Recommendations as outlined below. Dr. Lawrence Thompson second the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and based on the eighteen members present, the thirteen recommendations as presented below, passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

- Recommendation 1 - APPROVED
Discussed: A grant funded position in Bexar County allowed a notable improvement in the amount of data collected, which lead to a permanent position. Continued funding would help on a regional basis, and in development of CRTs in surrounding counties.
- Recommendation 2 – TABLED
Discussed: This will require legislative requirement. Need clarification on specific responsible agency, local teams, etc.
- Recommendation 3 – TABLED
Discussed: Need clarification, possibly look at locals to provide discount coupons.
- Recommendation 4 - NO ACTION
Discussed: Request the Committee coordinator share information with Local teams to distribute throughout communities.
- Recommendation 5 – NO ACTION
Discussed: Request the Committee coordinator send information to Local teams to clarify method used for processing death certificates and what information is provided by the Texas Family Code.
- Recommendation 6 - TABLED
Discussed: Need clarification, who would be responsible for overseeing this service.
- Recommendation 7 – APPROVED, combined with 11
Discussed: Recommend the strikethrough of “statute issue”. These recommendations (7, 11) relate to education, and these should be target messaging for state agencies collaboration.
- Recommendation 8 – TABLED
Discussed: Recommend need more information, conduct a feasibility study and highlight the prevalence related to mental health and suicide issues.

- Recommendation 9 – NO ACTION
Discussed: New legislation was passed related to healthy relationships. Committee coordinator will research the bill number and send information to Local teams.
- Recommendation 10 – TABLED, combine with 12
Discussed: Recommend getting more information to share and review at future meetings
- Recommendation 11 – APPROVED, combined with 7
Discussed: Combine with recommendation 7 and 9, see above.
- Recommendation 12 –TABLED, combine with 10
Discussed: Recommend getting more information to share and review at future meetings
- Recommendation 13 – NO ACTION
Discussed: No action is required to this recommendation.

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Agenda Item 7: Discussion: 2022 Biennial Report review and approval process

Chief Baldwin introduced Ms. Sarah Blezinger, and she outlined the process for review and approval of the 2022 biennial report.

- The recommendations discussed and voted on at this meeting will be included in that report, as well as their justification and the aggregate child fatality data for 2017 through 2019.
- Committee members will have the opportunity to review this report and provide feedback via email, with the deadline fast approaching

Agenda Item 8: Public Comment

No public comment was received for the meeting.

Agenda Item 9: Vote on open SCFRT Committee Position

Chief Baldwin announced the voting process is slated for the permanent members of the committee. He advised that remaining members were free to leave the meeting as their attendance was not required. He reminded everyone the next meeting is February 18th. He turned the floor over to Ms. Sallie Allen to provide information related to the voting process.

Ms. Allen announced the names of the current five permanent members: Dr. Tara Das, Ms. Letty Martinez, Ms. Kathryn Sibley, Mr. Jeremy Triplett, and Representative Gene Wu. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the members’ vote is not confidential, and they will be called on to cast their vote aloud for the record.

Ms. Sarah Blezinger announced the position, the candidate, and the organization they represented. Ms. Allen proceeded with the process, announced the position, and called on each member to cast their vote aloud. The votes were tallied, and the elected candidate was announced. Following is a summation of the votes cast.

Election for Provider Position-Texas State Child Fatality Review Team Committee-November 8, 2021							
		VOTE BALLOT - Five Current Permanent Members					
POSITION	Candidate Name	Dr. Tara Das	Letty Martinez	Kathryn Sibley	Jeremy Triplett	Rep. Gene Wu	TALLY
Sheriff	Christopher Forbis	Absent	For Vote by Proxy	For	For	Absent	3

Chief Baldwin thanked, Ms. Allen and Ms. Blezinger for the coordination of this voting process.

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn the meeting

Chief Michael Baldwin, Chair, reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2022. Chief Baldwin thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 1:27 pm.

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To view and listen to the archived webcast of the SCFRT, November 8, 2021 meeting go to: <https://texashsc.new.swagit.com/videos/151562>