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# State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT) Committee

Friday, February 9, 2024

10:00 a.m.

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Virtual: Teams Meeting Platform

In Person Meeting Site: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)  
Robert D. Moreton Building, Room M-100, First Floor  
1100 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756

## Agenda Item 1: Call to order, roll call, and welcoming remarks

Chief Michael Baldwin, Chair, called the SCFRT Committee meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Francesca Kupper, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) read the logistical announcements and stated the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ms. Kupper provided logistical announcements, conducted the member roll call, and announced the presence of quorum.

Chief Baldwin, Chair, welcomed committee members, staff, and members of the public in attendance.

**Table 1: SCFRT Committee member attendance at the February 9, 2024 meeting.**

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
<b>Dr. Simi Abraham</b>	Y	<b>Ms. Diane Macleod</b>	N
<b>Chief Michael Baldwin, Chair</b>	Y	<b>Ms. Letty Martinez</b>	N
<b>Judge Shane Brassell</b>	N	<b>Ms. LaViza Matthews</b>	Y
<b>Dr. Kim Cheung</b>	Y	<b>Dr. Kenton Murthy, Vice Chair</b>	Y
<b>Dr. Tara Das</b>	Y	<b>Ms. Angelica Powers</b>	N

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
Ms. Kristi Elliott	N	Dr. Jennifer Ross	Y
Ms. Madelyn "Maddie" Fletcher	Y	Ms. Kathryn Sibley	Y
Sheriff Christopher Forbis	N	Ms. Amy Smith	Y
Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney	Y	Captain Steven Tellez	Y
Dr. Sanjuanita Garza-Cox	Y	Dr. Lawrence Thompson, Jr.	N
Captain Michael Hayes	Y	Dr. Jeannine Von Stultz	Y
Ms. Kerrie Judice	Y	The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu	N
Dr. Owais Khan	N		

## Agenda Item 2: Consideration of November 17, 2023, draft meeting minutes

Chief Baldwin, Chair, referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. Hearing none, Chief Baldwin called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2023 meeting.

**Motion:** Dr. Kenton Murthy moved to approve the minutes as presented from the November 17, 2023 meeting. Dr. Kim Cheung seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 14 yeas (Abraham, Baldwin, Cheung, Das, Garza-Cox, Hayes, Judice, Matthews, Murthy, Ross, Sibley, Smith, Tellez, Von Stultz), 0 nays and 2 abstentions from (Fletcher, Gabbert Charney).

## Agenda Item 3: Consideration of 2024 Biennial Report final draft

Chief Baldwin opened the review of the 2024 Biennial Report final draft and introduced Sarah Blezinger, State Injury Prevention Coordinator, who provided a high-level overview of the 2024 draft biennial report. Ms. Blezinger outlined the 5 report recommendations to the Texas Legislature and asked for any committee feedback or questions.

Ms. Kerrie Judice asked a question pertaining to one of the report recommendations and the discussion of the recommendation at the November SCFRT Committee

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meeting. Chief Michael Baldwin provided a response to this question that the recommendations would be voted on by committee members during the current meeting and any necessary changes to recommendations should be discussed for the 2026 SCFRT biennial report.

**MOTION:**

Chief Baldwin called for a motion to approve the draft 2024 Biennial Report. Dr. Murthy made a motion and Dr. Kim Cheung seconded it. The motion to approve the draft 2024 biennial report was approved with 13 yeas (S. Abraham, M. Baldwin, K. Cheung, L. Gabbert Charney, S. Garza-Cox, M. Hayes, K. Judice, L. Matthews, K. Murthy, J. Ross, A. Smith, S. Tellez, J. Von Stultz), three abstentions (T. Das, M. Fletcher, K. Sibley), and no nays.

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## **Agenda Item 4: Consideration of Open SCFRT positions**

Chief Baldwin announced this agenda item is to provide the six permanent SCFRT members the opportunity to consider and vote on the open SCFRT Committee positions – Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) representative and medical examiner. Ms. Sarah Blezinger, Injury Protection Coordinator, Injury Prevention Unit, DSHS, introduced each applicant; Ms. LaViza Matthews and Ms. Jolie Person for the TxDOT representative and Dr. Jennifer Ross for the medical examiner.

Ms. Kupper called on each of the six permanent members to record their individual vote for the TxDOT representative member position:

Dr. Tara Das voted for Ms. LaViza Matthews.

Ms. Madelyn Fletcher voted to abstain.

Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney voted for Ms. LaViza Matthews.

Ms. Letty Martinez was recorded as absent.

Ms. Kathryn Sibley voted for Ms. LaViza Matthews.

The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu was recorded as absent.

Ms. Kupper noted three votes approving the selection of Ms. LaViza Matthews to the open SCFRT TxDOT representative member position (T. Das, L. Gabbert Charney, K. Sibley), one abstention (M. Fletcher), and two absences (L. Martinez and G. Wu) and announced Ms. LaViza Matthews was selected to fill the open TxDOT representative member position.

Ms. Kupper called on each of the six permanent members to record their individual vote for the medical examiner member position:

Dr. Tara Das voted for Dr. Jennifer Ross.

Ms. Madelyn Fletcher voted to abstain.

Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney voted for Dr. Jennifer Ross.

Ms. Letty Martinez was recorded as absent.

Ms. Kathryn Sibley voted for Dr. Jennifer Ross.

The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu was recorded as absent.

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Ms. Kupper noted three votes approving the selection of Dr. Jennifer Ross to the open SCFRT medical examiner member position (T. Das, L. Gabbert Charney, K. Sibley), one abstention (M. Fletcher), and two absences (L. Martinez and G. Wu) and announced Dr. Jennifer Ross was selected to fill the open medical examiner member position.

## **Agenda Item 5: Review and adoption of Officer Election Procedure and Officer Elections – full committee**

Chief Baldwin turned the floor over to Ms. Kupper and she read the procedure and process for electing presiding officers to the group and noted the Officer Election Procedure was adopted at the February 18, 2022 SCFRT Committee meeting.

Ms. Kupper noted Dr. Kenton Murthy was self-nominated and was also nominated by Chief Michael Baldwin for the Chair position. Ms. Kupper called for additional nominations for the Chair position and received none. Ms. Kupper asked Dr. Murthy to inform members of his qualifications for the position and he provided a brief statement outlining his qualifications and desire to serve as committee Chair. Ms. Kupper asked for a motion to elect Dr. Kenton Murthy as Chair by acclamation.

### **MOTION:**

Dr. Kim Cheung made a motion to elect Dr. Murthy as committee Chair and Dr. Sanjuanita Garza-Cox seconded it. The motion to elect Dr. Kenton Murthy as SCFRT Committee Chair was approved with 14 yeas (S. Abraham, M. Baldwin, K. Cheung, T. Das, L. Gabbert Charney, S. Garza-Cox, M. Hayes, K. Judice, L. Matthews, J. Ross, K. Sibley, A. Smith, S. Tellez, J. Von Stultz), two abstentions (M. Fletcher, K. Murthy), and no nays.

Ms. Kupper noted Captain Michael Hayes was nominated by Chief Michael Baldwin for the Vice-Chair position. Ms. Kupper called for additional nominations for the Vice-Chair position and received none. Ms. Kupper asked Captain Hayes to inform members of his qualifications for the position and he provided a brief statement outlining his qualifications and desire to serve as committee Vice-Chair. Ms. Kupper asked for a motion to elect Captain Hayes as Vice-Chair by acclamation.

### **MOTION:**

Dr. Kenton Murthy made a motion to elect Captain Hayes as committee Vice-Chair and Ms. Amy Smith seconded it. The motion to elect Captain Michael Hayes as SCFRT Committee Vice-Chair was approved with 14 yeas (S. Abraham, M. Baldwin,

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K. Cheung, T. Das, L. Gabbert Charney, S. Garza-Cox, K. Judice, K. Murthy, L. Matthews, J. Ross, K. Sibley, A. Smith, S. Tellez, J. Von Stultz), two abstentions (M. Fletcher, M. Hayes), and no nays.

## **Agenda Item 6: Public comment**

No public comment was received.

## **Agenda Item 7: Adjournment and Thank You**

Chief Baldwin noted the next SCFRT meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. May 10, 2024. Sarah Blezinger, Injury Prevention Coordinator, referred committee members to the current open SCFRT positions and Chief Baldwin expressed concern related to the need to fill the open member positions. Dr. Kim Cheung asked if committee members with complete terms are required to continue to serve on the committee and Chief Baldwin reminded members that per the SCFRT committee bylaws, members can continue to serve until their replacement. Dr. Jeannine Von Stultz asked Ms. Blezinger to resend the remaining 2024 committee meeting dates to members. Captain Steven Tellez asked whether the DPS representative is a broad description covering the diverse divisions of the department and Chief Baldwin confirmed. Chief Baldwin adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Below is the link to the archived video recording of the February 9, 2024, SCFRT Committee meeting to view and listen for approximately, two years from date meeting is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule.

[State Child Fatality Review Team Committee Meeting](#)