

Texas State Child Fatality Review Team Committee
DRAFT - Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams Live Event

Table 1: Texas State Child Fatality Review Team Committee attendance at the August 20, 2021, meeting.

MEMBER NAME	IN ATTENDANCE
Chief Michael Baldwin, Chair	Yes
Ada Booth, MD	Yes
Judge Shane Brassell	Yes
Kim Cheung, MD, PhD	Yes
Tara Das, PhD, MPH, MLIS	Yes
Ms. Kristi Elliott	Yes
Ms. Elizabeth Farley	Yes – joined for position elections
Sanjuanita Garza-Cox, MD	Yes
Captain Michael Hayes	Yes
Ms. Letty Martinez	Yes – joined for position elections
Ms. Diane MacCleod	Yes
Ms. Clarissa Mora	Yes
Dr. Kenton Murthy, Vice Chair	No
Ms. Angelica Powers	Yes
Dr. Jennifer Ross	Yes
Ms. Kathryn Sibley	Yes
Ms. Amy Smith	Yes
Captain Steven Tellez	Yes
Lawrence Thompson, Jr., PhD	Yes
Mr. Jeremy Triplett	Yes
Jeannine Von Stultz, PhD	Yes
Gene Wu, Representative	No
VACANT	
VACANT	

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Chief Michael Baldwin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance.

Sallie Allen, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), HHSC, 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 May 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Allen called for edits/changes to the meeting minutes. Hearing none, she requested a motion to approve the May 21, 2021, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Ms. Amy Smith made a motion to approve the May 21, 2021 meeting minutes and Ms. Kristi Elliott seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried by majority.

Agenda Item 4: Update and announcements

Chief Baldwin announced that Ms. Amy Bailey is the new DSHS Injury Prevention Manager and turned the floor over to her to provide updates.

Ms. Bailey stated, for new committee members' benefit, the DSHS Office of Injury Prevention oversees the EMS and Trauma registries, the Child Fatality Review, the Safe Riders Program, and the Texas Violent Death Reporting System. To learn more about these programs, please contact Sarah Blezinger or go to the website for more information.

Chief Baldwin introduced Ms. Sarah Blezinger and she provided the following CFRT 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.
 - Committee works with local teams to provide recommendations which relate to changing current statute, increasing public education, and ways best strengthen existing systems.
 - The report contains aggregate child fatality data from local child fatality review teams along with recommendations to prevent child fatalities and injuries.
 - DSHS has requested local teams to complete data entry for 2017 through 2019 case reviews and provide recommendations by September 30, 2021.
 - A reminder email will be sent to local teams in the near future for data information.
- SCFRT Committee Text Mark
 - DSHS created a text mark to accommodate the variety of materials produced by the committee.
 - Members can use the text mark on all internal and external materials.
 - Text marks should not be shared with outside parties.
 - Members will receive the text marks via email in the coming weeks.
 - Any questions regarding the text marks or how to use them, contact Sarah Blezinger at: CFRT@dshs.texas.gov.

Agenda Item 5: 87th Legislative Session Updates

Chief Baldwin introduced Jeremy Triplett, Maternal and Child Health Section Director, DSHS, and he provided following update.

- The 87th regular Legislative Session met January-May 2021.
- US DSHS tracked approximately 700 bills during the session.
- The Community Health Improvement division, which houses the State Child Fatality Review team program, tracked 123 bills and the Maternal and Child Health Section tracked 36 bills.
- Senate Bill 790 passed and it related to waiving application fees for victims of family or dating violence seeking identifiable-by-identity documents. The DSHS Vital Statistics Department is working on that implementation.
- The recommendations and information outlined in the SCFRT biennial report will hopefully help legislators in the next legislative session to create meaningful legislation to prevent further children from being injured or harmed.

Chief Baldwin emphasized the largest concern is for the committee to promote and address actionable items that can be gained, supported or sponsored. The November meeting will be mostly directed towards reviewing all the local recommendations, and will rely on Mr. Triplett's expertise to help us develop a thorough and actionable 2022 report. Several members commented that their respective county has been meeting and working on their recommendations and should be able to submit them in time for review at November meeting. Member attendance at the November is vital for the success of this report.

Agenda Item 6: Local Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) Spotlight

Ms. Blezinger introduced Ms. Julia Ramsay New, Hays County CFRT Presiding Officer and Coordinator.

Highlights included:

- In 2014 the State Coordinator reached out about getting the Hays County team up and running again. It lagged consistency with meeting, until DSHS sent email in April 2021.
- There was concern that Hays County, one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, was in a state with the highest number of child abuse related fatalities, and no longer had a functioning CFRT team.
- Every time the team felt it was going to "lift off"; it was put to the back of the line due to a crisis or other emergency.
- From old CFRT emails, I contacted those that might be interested in serving again.
- Based on good feedback, we started rebuilding the team and in late April, DSHS virtually presented the CFRT stakeholder information with around half of our team in attendance.
- The former data entry volunteer from the previous years agreed to serve in capacity.
- To get people to agree, to serve and to participate, you have to point out the primary function of the team and keep the focus on it, which is prevention.
- The local team members preferred to meeting quarterly in a virtual environment.
- The first meeting is scheduled for the end of August and will review both natural and injury deaths from the past two years as recommended by the State office.
- To honor the children who have died on our watch, we need to review the circumstances surrounding their deaths, and identify steps we can take as a community to prevent another life tragically taken before he or she has had a chance to really live.

Members expressed their appreciation for Ms. Ramsay's dedication and efforts to get the Hays Count SCFRT team started again.

Agenda Item 7: Public Comment

Dr. Daniel Dean, MD, a pediatric pulmonologist and specialist in children's lung problems. Dr. Dean provided the committee a written statement back in November 2020 which stated all pediatric deaths for asthma are considered preventable. He asked if the committee investigated deaths from chronic conditions such as asthma, and identified preventable causes and make recommendations for interventions. A staff member stated they would investigate, however he has not received any information regarding the inquiry. He also expressed concerns that children with asthma or not managed by pediatricians and the children that are high-risk do not have easy access to pediatricians. Published literature supports delayed referral by primary care physicians and other providers as an important criteria factor for mis-identifying the at-risk child which are not universally known in the private sector. Emergency room physicians and hospitals should be included in the education process to identify the at-risk child requiring early referral. Support for these programs and expansion of similar programs throughout the state should immediately impact the care of at-risk asthmatic children.

Chief Baldwin addressed Dr. Dean's concerns and stated he would work with the coordination staff to get a response back to him as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 7: Vote on two open SCFRT Committee Positions

Chief Baldwin announced the voting process is slated for the six 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 that the next meeting is November 8th and their participation and input would be very, very important. He turned the floor over to Ms. Sallie Allen to provide information related to the voting process.

Ms. Allen announced the names of the six permanent members: Dr. Tara Das, Ms. Elizabeth Farley, 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 each position and the candidates and the organization they represented. The process was followed for each position and voted on by the members.

Ms. Allen proceeded with the process, announced each position and called on each member to cast their vote aloud. At the conclusion of each position presented, the votes were tallied and the elected candidate was announced. Following is a summation of the votes cast.

Election for Provider Positions - Texas State Child Fatality Review Team Committee - August 20, 2021									
			VOTE BALLOT - Permanent Six Members						
#	POSITION	Candidate Name	Dr. Tara Das	Elizabeth Farley	Letty Martinez	Kathryn Sibley	Jeremy Triplett	Rep. Gene Wu	TALLY
1	Neonatologist	Owais Khan, MD,MPH	x	x	x	x	x	absent	5
	Neonatologist	Ajay Pratap Singh, MD							0
2	Representative of the Texas Department of Transportation	LaViza Matthews	x	x	x	x	x	absent	5

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

Agenda Item 9: Adjourn the meeting

Chief Michael Baldwin, Chair, reminded members that the November 8th meeting would mainly be focused on the SCFRT recommendations for the 2020 report; although he did ask for topics for the first 2022 meeting:

- Training session for team members and other local teams
- Review of the most current death data and include a subset in reference to the number of asthma related deaths.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2021. Chief Baldwin thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 10:59am.

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To view and listen to the archived webcast of the TSCFRT, August 20, 2021 meeting go to: <https://texashsc.swagit.com/play/08202021-664>