

State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT) Committee

Friday, August 8, 2025

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 Hayes, Chair, called the SCFRT Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chief Hayes welcomed committee members, staff, and members of the public in attendance. Chief Hayes then called for a moment of silence for those lives lost in Kerr County and in surrounding counties.

Francesca Kupper, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Texas 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 conducted the member roll call and announced the presence of quorum.

Table 1: SCFRT Committee member attendance at the August 8, 2025, meeting.

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
Ms. Lindsey Anzaldua	X	Ms. Natalie Lopez	
Ms. Lauren J. Butschek-Neisler	X	Chief Onesimo Lopez	X
Dr. Tara Das		Dr. Savannah Lusk	X
Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney	X	Ms. Letty Martinez	X
Judge Joanne Garcia Flores	X	Mr. Sergio Martinez	X
Ms. Katia Gonzalez		Ms. LaViza Matthews	X

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
Ms. Donna Hansen	X	Ms. Maricela Morales	X
Chief Michael Hayes, Chair	X	Dr. Jennifer Ross	X
Ms. Stacey Head	X	Sheriff Brian Thomas	X
Sergeant Ryan Howard	X	Dr. Lawrence Thompson, Jr., Vice Chair	X
Ms. Wykesha Kelley-Dixon	X	Dr. Davlyn Tillman	X
Dr. Natalie Kissoon	X	The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu	

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of May 9, 2025, Draft Meeting Minutes

Chief Hayes referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. Hearing none, Chief Hayes called for a motion to approve the May 9, 2025, meeting minutes.

Motion: Dr. Thompson moved to approve the May 9, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 18 yeas (Anzaldua, Butschek-Neisler, Gabbert Charney, Garcia Flores, Hansen, Hayes, Head, Howard, Kelley-Dixon, O. Lopez, Lusk, S. Martinez, Matthews, Morales, Ross, Thomas, Thompson, Tillman), 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of Child Fatality Review Team Operations Protocol

Chief Hayes tabled this agenda item.

Agenda Item 4: Child Safety Review Subcommittee (CSRS) Update

Chief Hayes introduced Ms. Lindsey Anzaldua, co-chair of the CSRS. Ms. Anzaldua provided an update on the CSRS meetings and recommendations. All subcommittee members reviewed the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) citizens review report. Members reached a unanimous decision they would not provide a recommendation for DFPS for the SCFRT Legislatively Mandated Report at this time.

Agenda Item 5: Child Mortality In Texas Presentation

Mr. Frederick Thompson II, MPH, DSHS Injury Prevention / Analytics Branch, provided the committee with child mortality data in consideration of the upcoming legislatively mandated report. Chief Hayes asked about Geographic Information System (GIS) heat mapping to look at geographic identification for specific areas. Mr. Thompson responded that they are working with some syndromic data for mapping.

Agenda Item 6: 2024 SCFRT Legislatively Mandated Report Recommendations

Chief Hayes led the committee through a review of the 2024 SCFRT Legislatively Mandated Report (LMR) recommendations. Group discussed possible continuation of recommendation(s) into the 2026 LMR. Chief Hayes also noted any action items, assignments, and deadlines for the April 2026 LMR. Dr. Thompson spoke about supporting mental health recommendations (#1, #2, #3). Chief Hayes spoke about Texas Commission on Law Enforcement T(COLE) trainings for law enforcement officers and how they need to support additional trainings. Sergeant Howard and Sheriff Thomas agreed. Ms. Gabbert Charney supported keeping safe sleep recommendations (#5) as DSHS continues work to promote safe sleep. Members felt all 2024 recommendations should be brought to the November discussion of the FY2026 LMR.

Ms. Blezinger clarified the recommendations presented today were from the 2024 report. The SCFRT November meeting will include recommendations from local CFRTs as well.

Agenda Item 7: Public comment

No public comment was received.

Agenda Item 8: Comments, Adjournment, and Thank You

Chief Hayes noted the next SCFRT meeting is scheduled for **9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, November 7, 2025. The extended meeting will allow the committee to review local CFRT recommendations and select recommendations to include in the April 1, 2026 LMR.

Chief Hayes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Below is the link to the archived August 8, 2025, SCFRT Committee meeting video recording to view and listen for approximately two years from the date the meeting is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule.

<https://texashhsc.v3.swagit.com/videos/352025>