

Getting Ready: Organizing Your Team

- Identify team members.
- Identify a chairperson and/or facilitator.
- Develop confidentiality and memorandum of agreement documents.■
- Develop a process for identifying deaths and obtaining information.
- Decide on your time frame.
- Select a meeting location.
- Set your first meeting date.
- Understand your local responses to a death

Team Members



- Medical Examiner/
Coroner
- Law Enforcement
- Social Services
- Public Health
- DA/PA
- EMS
- Education
- Health care
- Injury Prevention
- Fire
- Day Care Licensing
- Juvenile Court
- Mental Health
- - Advocates
 - Ad hoc
 - Child Advocates
 - Clergy
 - Funeral Home

Do We have the Right People?

- Are any key members missing?
- Do we represent our children most at risk?
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- Are we politically connected?
- Do we have the potential to be a unified voice?
- Do we support differences of opinion?

Think Outside the Box

- Who best knows the child's reality? ■
- Who represents the child's world?



Types of Deaths to Review



What
Deaths are You
Reviewing?

Why?



Expanding Reviews to All Deaths

- Process has proven its power with the review of child abuse and neglect deaths.
- Vast majority of deaths are not abuse-related.
- Most preventable deaths are unintentional injuries and suicides.
- Even natural deaths have many elements important to review.

Reviewing Natural Infant Deaths



Most deaths are due to conditions in the perinatal period, and include:

- Congenital anomalies
- Low birth weight
- Prematurity

PREVENTABLE?

Studies suggest 50% are preventable if attention is paid to prenatal health.

- Were there access or compliance issues related to prenatal care:
 - Lack of money for care
 - Language barriers
 - Services not available
 - Lack of transportation
 - Referrals not made ■
 - Caregiver distrust of health care system
 - No phone
 - Unwilling to obtain care
 - Cultural differences
 - Lack of child care.
 - Intimate partner would not allow care

Review them and find out- to impact systems of care

- During pregnancy did mother?
 - Have medical complications/infections?
 - Use illicit drugs[■]?
 - Have heavy alcohol use?
 - Smoke tobacco?
 - Experience intimate partner violence?

Decide On Your Time Frame

- **Rapid Response**
 - Designed to aid in investigation.
 - May only need smaller number of team members
- **Retrospective**
 - Investigation should be near completion.
 - Focus is on systems improvements and prevention.



Most teams are hybrids