



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Allison Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W., Co-Chair
Martin A. Finkel, DO, FACOP, FAAP, Co-Chair

caused by child abuse and neglect. Deputy Commissioner Joseph Ribsam chaired the Advisory Committee on Child Fatalities. Commissioner Blake thanked Joseph for his leadership in this review process.

Presentation on findings of Advisory Committee on Child Fatalities
Deputy Commissioner Joseph Ribsam, Chairman, DCF Advisory Committee on Child Fatalities

Joseph Ribsam provided the presentation that reviewed the findings of the Advisory Committee on Child Fatalities. Following the presentation, it was the intent that members of the Task Force will provide recommendations for the final report that will be made public. Additionally, the recommendations are also expected to be incorporated into the statewide plan on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Some of the highlights of the presentation includes;

- There are two phases to the work of the Advisory Committee:
 - Phase 1 - The Committee reviewed 109 child fatality cases from January 2010 through December 2015. The reviews focused on a broader context of the family dynamics and/or the different systems of interactions.
 - Phase 2 -Present the findings to the three system review panels (NJTF CAN, Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee (SORS) and Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board (CFNFRB)) for their feedback and recommendations.
 - The key terms were discussed in terms of what gets counted as a fatality as a result of abuse or neglect. Abuse is the physical, sexual or emotional harm or risk of harm to a child under the age of 18 caused by a parent or other person who acts as a caregiver for the child. Neglect occurs when a parent or caregiver fails to provide proper supervision for a child or adequate food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care although financially able or assisted to do so. Child Fatality is a fatality of a person under the age of 18 which has been determined to result from child abuse or neglect. Caregivers are the persons that commit the act of abuse or neglect that result in the fatality. A perpetrator of child abuse or neglect must be a caregiver of the abused or neglected child.
- Statistical data and analyses were provided to the Task Force which will be included in the final report of the Advisory Committee on Child Fatalities.

Task Force members provided initial feedback and recommendations following the presentation for inclusion in the final report. Members of DCF's staff took notes to capture these recommendations and follow up on questions.

The Task Force was encouraged to send any additional comments and thoughts to Joseph Ribsam (Joseph.Ribsam@dcf.state.nj.us) and Leida Arce (Leida.Arce@dcf.state.nj.us) to be included in the final report.

Dr. David Sanders provided some feedback based on his work with the National Commission on Child Fatalities. Dr. Sanders commended DCF for having this type of open discussion with system partners and the



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continued efforts toward the transparency of the agency. He discussed the importance of the analysis to help identify potential characteristics that could trigger certain interventions and what to do with the information from the review. Dr. Sanders stated that DCF is headed in the right direction in its review process and recommendations.

Announcements

Information regarding the Prevention Planning meeting will be sent out to those that are interested in participating in the session.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting – November 17, 2017 in New Brunswick (Room 102)