

Agenda Item Number:

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: May 25, 2016

Agenda Item Subject: Child Fatality Prevention Team Annual Report

Attachment(s): 2015 Child Fatality Prevention Team Annual Report

Staff or Board Member Reporting: Pam McCall

Purpose: Action
 Information only
 Information with possible action

Summary Information: The report is a review of CFPT in Orange County North Carolina. Included is a description of membership, duties, procedures and activities.

Recommended Action: Approve
 Approve & forward to Board of Commissioners for action
 Approve & forward to _____
 Accept as information
 Revise & schedule for future action
 Other (detail):

Orange County Child Fatality Prevention Team 2015 Annual Report

I. Introduction:

The 1991 General Statute 7-B-Article 14 of the North Carolina Juvenile Code established a Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) in every county in North Carolina. In 1993 the legislature added Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPT) in every county. The charge of these two teams is to reduce preventable deaths in our state. Since the mandates and purposes of these teams are so similar, the Orange County's CFPT and CCPT have functioned as one interagency review team since 1998.

The general statutes require that CFPT/CCPT membership include the Department of Social Services (DSS) Director, DSS Staff, *DSS Board, the Health Department Director, Law Enforcement, Superintendent of each School System, Mental Health, Guardian ad Litem Program, Health Care Providers, Emergency Medical Services, Medical Examiner's Office, Parent of a deceased child, *District Attorney's Office, Day Care/Head Start, *Community Action organization, *District Court Judge, and up to five at-large community members (* no current representation on CFPT/CCPT).

The general statute grants the CFPT/CCPT access to all medical, hospital, mental health, social service, and law enforcement records as well as records maintained by any state, county or local agency as necessary to carry out its duties. The local health director assures that the local CFPT completes mandated services while the local social services director assures that the local CCPT mandates are met. The CFPT/CCPT operates under strict confidentiality requirements; therefore, meetings are not subject to the Open Meetings Law. Both teams are required by statute to submit reports annually to the State of North Carolina, the local Boards of Health/Department of Social Services, and the local County Commissioners.

In 2015, the Orange County CFPT/CCPT functioned as a cohesive group of professionals with good attendance and participation. The Orange County CFPT/CCPT is comprised of excellent collegial professionals and community volunteers in keeping with the requirements of the governing statute.

II. Child Fatality Prevention Team

A. Purpose:

The CFPT meets at least quarterly to review deaths of children 0 through 17 years of age that occurred in the same quarter of the previous year for the following purposes:

1. To identify child death patterns,
2. To identify system problems or gaps in services to children and families, and
3. To make and carry out recommendations for change that will prevent future child deaths.

B. Activities—the CFPT met three times and reviewed a total of 10 fatalities in 2015:

1. Findings included:

- 6 yr. old died from malignant neoplasm of the brain

- 2 yr. old died from malignant neoplasm of the adrenal gland and respiratory failure
- 1 hr. old died from extreme immaturity
- 3 day old died from respiratory distress syndrome of newborn and unspecified pulmonary hemorrhage
- newborn (36 min.) affected by incompetent cervix
- 15 yr. old died from acute lymphoblastic leukemia, other specified disorders of white blood cells and unspecified renal failure
- 2 day old died from anencephaly
- 27 day old died from necrotizing enterocolitis of newborn
- 1 day old died from hypoplasia and dysplasia of lung and extreme immaturity
- 6 yr. old died from neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis

2. Potential System Problems identified:

- Undiagnosed genetic disorders
- Prenatal tobacco use contributing to the premature birth

III. Recommendations by CFPT/CCPT:

- A. The team recommended that new and potential parents be counseled and screened for genetic disorders. The CFPT Chair contacted the UNC Public Health Maternity Coordinator asking about services and resources for families.
- B. The team recommended that pregnant women be encourage and supported in stopping tobacco use. The CFPT Chair discussed partnering with the OCHD Tobacco Cessation Health Educator in future interventions.

IV. Actions and Accomplishments of the Orange County CFPT/CCPT:

- A. Met 3 times in 2015 to review child fatality and child protection cases. Thoughtful discussion with identification of system problems and subsequent recommendations occurred.
- B. Provided a clearinghouse through e-mail for member agencies to share information on community events, pertinent news articles and data, and training opportunities on child health, safety, and protection issues.