



## **Frequently Asked Questions about Changes to National Center's TA and Training to FIMR programs**

To respond to common questions we are hearing from FIMR programs, we have compiled the following answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" about the changes to the National Center's services to and resources for FIMR programs.

### **Why are we now getting technical assistance/training services from a new Center?**

In 2015, the Health Resources and Services Administration announced that it would integrate the FIMR and CDR resource centers into one Center. At that time NFIMR was housed at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and CDR was housed at the National Center for Review and Prevention of Child Death at the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI). MPHI competed for funding for the integrated center and was awarded the grant. The new Center, named the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention, has been operational for a full year. The Center's FIMR technical assistance components were provided by staff at ACOG through a contract with MPHI.

Early this summer, ACOG decided not to continue its partnership with NCFRP. Consequently, the FIMR technical assistance and training activities are now being provided to you by new NCFRP staff with extensive expertise and experience with FIMR.

### **Who is NCFRP?**

The National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention is housed at Michigan Public Health Institute. NCFRP is funded in large part by HRSA MCHB. Additional funding to provide technical assistance to states funded for the SUID and SDY Case Registry programs is provided by the CDC's Division of Reproductive Health.

### **Is NCFRP planning to eventually do away with FIMR?**

There is no question that we take more seriously than this one: we emphatically answer that we are NOT seeking to do away with FIMR. In fact, we are now building our capacities to provide more extensive training and technical assistance to FIMR teams, to build a network of regional FIMR leaders, and to continue the long tradition of creating important resources to help build, sustain and improve FIMR teams' abilities to understand and prevent fetal and infant deaths. We are also committed to

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building a national data system that will allow any FIMR team to enter, edit, analyze and report out on their FIMR data at a local, state and/or national level. The Center is also committed to engaging with national partners to support the FIMR process at the local and state level.

### **Who works at NCFRP?**

Rosemary Fournier is the Center's National FIMR Director. She is an infant health nurse with 18 years' experience with FIMR at the state and local level. Rosemary has provided extensive training and technical assistance to local and state FIMR programs over the course of her career. She also has significant experience with Healthy Start and home visiting programs. Teri Covington is the overall Director of the Center. Besides her 20 years with CDR, Teri managed the Michigan FIMR program for eight years, helping to expand the number of FIMR teams from 3 to 13 and obtaining consistent and substantial state funding for FIMR community teams. Other Center staff include Linda Potter, associate director; Esther Shaw and Heather Dykstra, senior data analysts; and Nanette Richards, Financial Analyst/Program Support coordinator. Meghan Faulkner manages the CDC's SDY Case registry program. The Center also has a contract with the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin that provides us with the services of Abby Collier, who is guiding the work to improve CDR and FIMR collaboration; and a contract with Dr. Patti Schnitzer, who is a nurse epidemiologist and is working with states to improve the quality of their review data.

### **How is NCFRP going to support me?**

Our Center will work with you to provide:

- **Regular teleconference calls for FIMR coordinators.** These calls have been an on-going feature of NFIMR and continued through the end of June. We will reconvene these calls beginning in late August.
- **Technical assistance and training to local and state FIMR programs:** The Center can provide you with technical assistance and training on all aspects of FIMR: starting a team, improving a team or expanding a team as well as on collaborating with other review programs. Requests for assistance can be made through Rosemary. She can be contacted by email ([rfournie@mphi.org](mailto:rfournie@mphi.org)) or phone (517-324-8378 or 800-656-2434). Our Center will try to meet your needs as well as we can within the bounds of our available resources. We provide training and technical assistance by phone, by email, in-person or virtually.
- **Webinars:** We will be providing regular monthly webinars on two types of topics. The first type will be webinars focused on specific topics related to causes of deaths and effective prevention strategies. The second will be webinars on the FIMR and/or CDR processes. We will soon announce the schedule of webinars. If you have a topic you would like the Center to address, please let us know.
- **Database:** Since 2005, NCFRP has had a web-based database system into which CDR programs enter data about the deaths they review. It is free to CDR programs, and 45 states now

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participate in the system. The states own their data; the system is housed at MPHI. One feature of the system is that de-identified data can be aggregated at the national level to help inform national policy and practice improvements. There have been numerous peer-reviewed publications using the data from this system.

FIMR teams currently are using one of five types of reporting systems: 1) their own state or local system; 2) commercial systems such as BASINET; 3) the ACOG non-web-based data tool; 4) the new FIMR Pilot web-based data tool developed by ACOG, MPHI and Michigan; or 5) the extra questions in the CDR Case Reporting System on infant deaths that some states are using for both their CDR and FIMR teams (called the Infant Enhancement Module).

HRSA is funding the Center to develop a new web-based data system that can be integrated with the current CDR web system as a comprehensive fetal, infant and child mortality case review reporting system. We have spent the past year working with volunteer FIMR leaders to develop the questions for the FIMR component of this system. When the software is built and the system is launched, we will be able to readily move data from the last two systems described above into the new FIMR module. Persons with their own or other commercial systems may be able to migrate old data into the new system.

We anticipate the new completed system will be ready to launch by September 2017.

In the meantime, we welcome your participation in either the new FIMR Pilot or the CDR Infant Enhancement Module. If you are interested, contact Esther Shaw at [eshaw@mphi.org](mailto:eshaw@mphi.org).

- **Work groups:** NCFRP has a philosophy that our resources should only be developed in partnership with those of you working in states and communities. In addition to the database work group mentioned above, the Center currently facilitates 3 other active work groups. If you would like to participate on one, please contact us. If you have an idea for a new work group, let us know.
  - **Data Quality Workgroup:** This group, facilitated by Patti Schnitzer, has undertaken several activities to improve the quality and completeness of entries into the data system.
  - **Work Group on Coordination between CDR and FIMR:** This group is coordinated by Abby Collier. It is working on a Guidance to improve the coordination between CDR and FIMR that will be released to the field soon. In addition, Abby is available for phone and/or in-person TA and training to CDR and FIMR programs that want to increase their collaboration.
  - **Health Disparities Work Group:** The goal of this group is to develop specific strategies to improve CDR and FIMR reviews in communities with high health disparities. The group has met once and will begin meeting again in September.
- **Regional Network of FIMR Leaders:** The Center will be working with you to build a regional network of FIMR leaders who can support one another and work on regional issues of interest. Rosemary will be working on building this network. If you are interested in providing leadership in your area of the country, please let her know. Currently there are five CDR regional networks:

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the NE, SE, West, Mid-Atlantic and MW. The Center helps these regions convene by phone monthly or bi-monthly; some regions work on policy issues that cross state boundaries; and the Center funds bi-annual regional meetings. We are seeking funding to expand this to FIMR regions as well.

- **Website:** The Center is in the process of creating a website for the new Center, bringing together much of the information from the existing NFIMR and CDR websites. FIMR resources in PDF format will still be available to you. The website will have descriptions of all the FIMR programs throughout the US, using the results of the survey most of you completed last fall. There will be numerous links to resources and organizations. It will be a portal where FIMR and CDR programs can share prevention strategies developed by their teams. We want the website to be interactive, with information flowing both to you and from you. We hope to have the new website up and running by mid-October at the latest. The ACOG NFIMR website is on-line at this time.
- **The FIMR Listserv:** This will continue but with a new address: [FIMR@NCFRP.org](mailto:FIMR@NCFRP.org). We have taken all the addresses from the former NFIMR listserv and built them into the new one. If you find that you are not receiving any emails from it, please let us know so that we can check your address. One change to the listserv is that it will no longer be moderated, meaning no one from our staff will pre-approve any posting. It will be an open exchange for members, and you can post to it directly without going through the Center by sending an email to [FIMR@NCFRP.org](mailto:FIMR@NCFRP.org).
  - To be added to the listserv: send name and email address to [info@ncfrp.org](mailto:info@ncfrp.org).
  - To unsubscribe: Follow the one-step process set out at the bottom of any listserv posting.

We also host a CDR listserv. You are invited to join that listserv as well. It operates exactly the same but with a different address: [CDR@ncfrp.org](mailto:CDR@ncfrp.org). To join, send us an email at [info@ncfrp.org](mailto:info@ncfrp.org).

- **Report on the status of FIMR Programs in the US and program descriptions:** This past January, many of you completed a survey for the Center describing your FIMR programs, resources and needs. The results are being tabulated and will be available on-line in a comprehensive report by the end of September. You will be able to log into the new website and click on a program to review its description. This survey and the report will be an annual event!

#### **Is ACOG's NFIMR still available to us?**

ACOG has a rich history with FIMR. It has not announced what work it will continue to do with FIMR; and questions could be directed to ACOG.

***We look forward to engaging with you, supporting you and helping you in all ways possible as we work together to keep our moms, babies and families healthy and safe.***

#### **SUMMARY OF CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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