

Saving Lives Together

July 2018



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Greetings from the Director

Dear Colleagues,

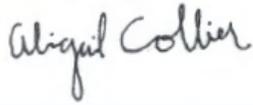
The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention is pleased to announce our continued funding to support fetal and infant mortality review (FIMR) and child death review (CDR) teams. This cooperative agreement with Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal Child Health Bureau, will support fatality review activities through June, 2020.



This funding will allow the National Center to provide leadership, training and technical support for all aspects of fatality review. The National Center's work on integrating FIMR and CDR in the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System will continue. Additionally, our focus on improving data quality will remain a key activity. Our staff at the National Center has many new, innovative ideas and partnerships planned for the upcoming four years. We will begin to share in the coming weeks and months.

As always, thank you for the continued support in this important work. The National Center would not be what it is without our state and local fatality review teams and partners.

All the best,



Upcoming Events

We are excited to provide opportunities for fatality review team members to connect, discuss, and learn from each other and from national experts. Please join us for one of these upcoming opportunities, or [browse our archived webinars!](#)

FIMR Regional Support Calls

Western Region: July 11th, 4:00-5:00 EST
Northern Region: July 17th, 10:00-11:00 EST
Central Region: July 23rd, 11:00-12:00 EST
Midwest Region: July 24th, 10:00-11:00 EST
Southern Region: July 26th, 11:00-12:00 EST

WEBINAR: *Planning for SIDS Awareness Month*

Join SUID and SDY Case Registry awardees to learn how to plan activities for October's 2018 SIDS Awareness Month

Presented by: Lorena Kaplan from NICHD, Emily Johnson from the CDC, and SUID Case Registry Coordinators Tina Ferguson from Kentucky and Katie Parker from Michigan

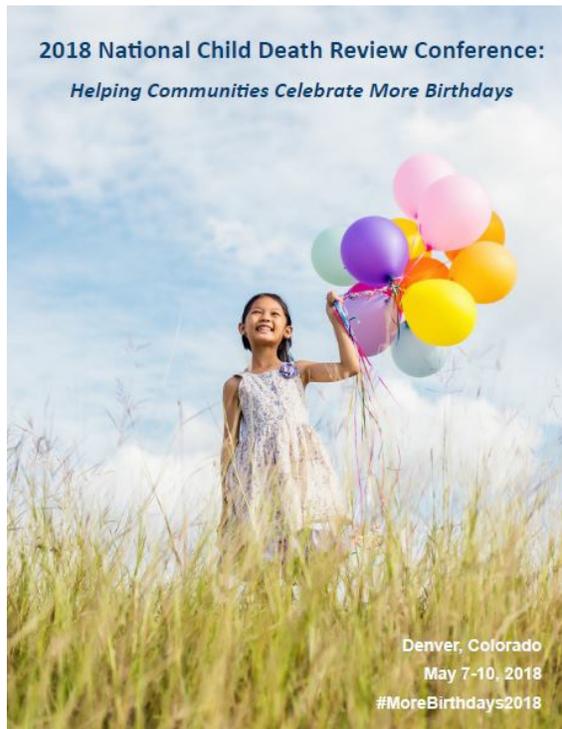
July 17th, 2:00-3:00 PM EST

[Register for the webinar!](#)

Field Notes

Highlights from state and local programs

Child Death Review National Meeting



State child fatality review coordinators from across the country convened in Denver in May for the **2018 National Child Death Review Conference: Helping Communities Celebrate More Birthdays**.

There was a strong focus throughout the conference on improving fatality review processes and partnering with communities, families, community organizations and agencies, maternal and child health programs, and with other fatality review processes to generate recommendations and drive community and state-level prevention initiatives. State coordinators were joined by partner organizations, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Resources Administration (SAMHSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Safe Kids Worldwide, CityMatCH, Safe States, Johns Hopkins University

Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Evermore.

The National Center was pleased to award the inaugural *Theresa M. Covington Award for Excellence in Fatality Review* to our founding director, Theresa Covington, currently serving as the director of Within Our Reach, housed within the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities.

The National Center extends a thank you to the participants and presenters for contributing your insights, and to our funder, HRSA, for its support of and participation in the national meeting. [The full meeting agenda and all of the presentation slides have been archived on our website.](#)

Taking action with state officials in Indiana

The FIMR team from St. Joseph, Indiana, recently hosted a meeting for key community leaders and stakeholders from a variety of organizations, including legislators and the Indiana State Health Commissioner, Dr. Kristina Box. FIMR team members expressed growing frustration that local efforts to address identified issues through education and connection to resources are not enough. Without resources committed to the issues and a



comprehensive plan from the policy makers in Indiana, the FIMR recommendations for local community action will fall short. "Indiana's infant mortality rate has ranked in the bottom ten states in the country for the last fifty years," remarked Dr. Box. "Governor Eric Holcomb recently set a goal for Indiana to have the best infant mortality rate in the Midwest by 2024. With Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa already having infant mortality rates less than 6, it will take a serious, coordinated effort for Indiana to get its rate of 7.2 to fall below these other states," according to Sally Dixon, FIMR Coordinator for St. Joseph County.

In April, Ms. Dixon presented the first annual FIMR report on St. Joseph County reviews

conducted between 2015 – 2017, sharing recommendations and actions created from the FIMR findings. These included clinical, educational, and state policy proposals the team believes will begin to reduce the rate of fetal and infant death in their community. The overall theme of the findings was that the best way to ensure a healthy pregnancy and that a healthy infant will celebrate his or her first birthday is increasing maternal interconception health and well-being prior to becoming pregnant. Ms. Dixon explained to the state officials that cases of fetal and infant death reviewed by the team often share many similarities: “The mothers live in poverty with one or two children and the father of her baby, she often has a part time job with inflexible hours and poor pay and pre-existing health risk factors such as obesity, tobacco use, mental illness, and an unintended pregnancy. Because most of these mothers have Medicaid as their insurance, they often face a complex and frustrating system that creates roadblocks to applying for care, obtaining timely approval, and the ability to obtain medications and treatments prescribed by their provider.”

The team went on to outline both legislation and Family and Social Services Administration policies that are vital to improving infant mortality including housing, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), simplifying the Medicaid process during pregnancy, raising the smoking age, and increasing taxes on tobacco. The prospect of examining these policies was well received by the decision makers in attendance. Two policies have already been changed in Indiana: inclusion of reimbursement for community health workers for home visiting services; and working toward having one Medicaid product to cover pregnancy. “This meeting was an excellent first step in forging a long-term relationship with these leaders”, says Dixon, “We encourage all FIMR teams to reach out to their government representatives.”

To contact Sally Dixon or to learn more about the St. Joseph FIMR advocacy work, email SDixon@sjcindiana.com. To learn about broader maternal child health advocacy efforts, click [here](#).

Partnering to address teen suicide in Arkansas



Arkansas' Infant and Child Death Review Program recently identified suicide prevention as a prevention priority. As the team worked to create action steps, they observed a lack of suicide prevention resources directed to a teen audience to help support their peers. The team reached out to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Arkansas Chapter, to see if there were available

resources they were missing. The Foundation used this prompting from the Arkansas team to craft their [Seize the Awkward](#) campaign, an initiative to encourage teens to use even the most uncomfortable moments to see if their friends are struggling. You can see the campaign's public service announcement (PSA) video on [YouTube](#). In addition to the PSA, AFSP created campaign mirror clings and floor graphics to be put in schools that encourage youth to have a #RealConvo about mental health (floor clings with QR codes pictured). These clings and graphics are currently being piloted in several county high schools across the state.

To further address suicide deaths in Arkansas youth, the Program created a multi-faceted suicide prevention campaign that would:

- Engage schools in suicide prevention through both promotion of model suicide response policies, and promotion of school participation in Kognito training
- Promote drug take back events, and create and distribute promotional materials to advertise those events
- Create resources for parents of children under the age of 12 to increase their awareness of risk to youth
- Provide prevention messaging on billboards in rural areas
- Increase resources for teens to promote help-seeking behavior

Thank you, Arkansas, for sharing your innovative approach to suicide prevention in youth!

Data Matters

Update on Version 5 of the Case Reporting System



We launched Version 5 of the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS) on April 23rd, and so far over 4,500 new cases have been entered into the System from 41 states and 550 users. We expect the final pieces of Version 5, including the data flat file and the remaining standardized reports, to be ready by the end of June. Please contact [the Center](#) if you have any questions about this new software release. We are excited to have more and more FIMR teams using the NFR-CRS!

Data Tip: Improving intentional strangulation reporting for CDR



With the release of Version 5, all intentional strangulations (for example, suicide by hanging) should now be noted with the cause of death "Assault, weapon or person's body part" in question G6. In question H5A, note the type of weapon causing the strangulation. For example, select "rope," or select "other," and type "electrical cord" in the specify text field. Record "self-injury" in question H5q. Intentional strangulation should no longer be recorded in the Asphyxia section; the Asphyxia section (H4) was changed to Unintentional Asphyxia in Version 5.

Resources for Fatality Review Teams

Crisis preparation and response resources for K-12 schools

As communities face the challenges of youth suicide, natural disasters, gun violence, and other tragedies, they may



identify a need for school crisis response preparedness and postvention* resources. **The National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement** (NCSCB), housed in the Dworak-Peck School of Social Work at the University of Southern California, seeks to fill those needs. Funded in part by the New York Life Foundation, the NCSCB, through an interdisciplinary team of medical, mental health, and school professionals, provides

confidential on-site and remote technical assistance and consultation for K-12 school leadership and school professionals; practical and timely advice through a 24/7 toll-free number and via email; ongoing support in the immediate aftermath of a crisis and throughout the long-term recovery period; educational resources and crisis management tools; and staff training and community presentations, as well as professional development for a range of professional audiences.

There are a number of web-based resources that are easily accessed, some provided in English, Spanish, and Japanese.

*According to the [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#), *postvention* is an organized response in the aftermath of a suicide to accomplish any one or more of the following: facilitate healing of individuals from the grief and distress of suicide loss; mitigate other negative effects of exposure to suicide; or prevent suicide among people who are at high risk after exposure to suicide.

New & Departing Coordinators

WELCOME

- Nikki West, TN state FIMR
- Patty Pigman, Bartholomew Co., IN FIMR (new site)
- Roderick King, Fay Glasgow, Danielle Lewald, & Dan Johnson with Palm Beach Co., FL FIMR
- Maura Dwyer, MD State FIMR (interim)
- Kim Houston, Delta Region FIMR, MS
- Trevor Crowder, Nashville FIMR
- Audra Brummel, MI state FIMR
- Nicole Frank, Macomb Co., MI FIMR
- Angie Gudal, Ravalli County, MT FICMMR
- Frances Augare, Roosevelt County, MT FICMMR
- Heather McMurtie, Broadwater County, MT FICMMR

FAREWELL

- Krystin Budds, TN FIMR
- Glennis Patton, Delta Region FIMR, MS
- Cheryl Bury, Berrien Co., MI FIMR
- Noel Brunner, Sedgwick Co., KS FIMR
- Joni Brooks, Broadwater County, MT FICMMR
- Kris Gunsten, Missoula County, MT, FICMMR



We rely on state and local coordinators to let us know of arriving or departing coordinators, and we appreciate it when you let us know. Thank you!

National Center Staff Out & About

Working with programs is the best part of our job.

- Abby met with Idaho state CDR partners and representatives from the Shoshone-Bannock tribe in Idaho on February 15th, followed by a trip to connect with CDR partners in Utah on the 16th.
- Rosemary provided FIMR training for St. John's County, Florida, in March; all Florida FIMR sites were invited to attend. She met with State FIMR and Child Abuse Death Review (CADR) leaders and attended a local case review team meeting in Escambia County.
- Abby participated in the annual meeting of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Suicide Prevention Program from March 19-21 in Washington, D.C.
- Rosemary exhibited and presented *Using Fatality Review to Understand and Address Disparities* at the National Healthy Start Association Spring Conference, in Washington, D.C., March 25-27.
- Rosemary presented *Moving Data to Action* at the statewide Indiana Fatality Review training on April 9th.
- Abby and Susanna participated in the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention Summit in Raleigh, April 9th and 10th. They presented in several sessions during the two-day event.
- Rosemary attended the Healthy Start Annual Regional Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 10th and Chicago on June 26th. Federal Healthy Start Grantees from the states of MS, AL, AR, LA, FL, and GA were in attendance for Region 1, and KS, MO, IA, OK, NE, and IL met in Region 3. She hosted FIMR round tables using *World Cafe* strategy.
- On April 11th, Abby participated in the Wisconsin Opiate Forum, presenting on the benefits of fatality review.
- Abby participated in the Oregon State Child Fatality Review meeting on April 16th. On April 17th, she joined Wisconsin's statewide CDR meeting.
- Susanna presented *Review of Natural Infant Deaths* and *Taking Action to Prevent Deaths* at the Michigan CDR Annual Training April 22-24.
- Abby gave a guest lecture at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health's MPH Injury Center on April 23rd, before joining the Delaware's child death review partners on the 24th. On the 26th, she participated in a briefing on Capitol Hill focusing on improved identification of child abuse and neglect.
- Rosemary met with the Weld County, Colorado FIMR team on May 7th.
- The entire staff of the National Center participated in the CDR national meeting in Denver, CO May 8-10.
- Susanna presented at South Dakota's Statewide Infant Death Review Committee Meeting in Pierre on May 16th.
- Rosemary attended the March of Dimes Prematurity Summit in Crystal City, VA, May 21-22.
- Rosemary attended and presented to faculty in the College of Medicine at the Central Michigan University Day of Research, on *Using Fatality Review Data to Advance Evidence-Based Studies for the Prevention of Infant and Child Deaths*.
- Abby participated in the meeting of the National Children's Alliance on June 12.



Connect with us!

One Stop Shop

The National Center is your one stop shop for all things related to your FIMR and CDR programs. Questions? Concerns? An exciting idea? We would love to hear from you!



Center for Fatality Review & Prevention

[Contact the National Center](#)

Thank you to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration:

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National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention
800- 656-2434 | 2479 Woodlake Circle, Suite 340 Okemos, MI 48864 | ncfrp.org

