



## NATIONAL CENTER FOR FATALITY REVIEW & PREVENTION



October 2017

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## LONG-TIME DIRECTOR LEAVES NCFRP

MPHI CEO Honors Teri Covington



Teri Covington

Teri Covington, director of the National Center since it was first funded by HRSA in 2002, has left the Center for another position in Washington DC. Prior to her position with the Center, Teri began and directed Michigan's Child Death Review program at the Michigan Public Health Institute as well as other projects and grants.

In 2014 Teri was appointed by President Obama to the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities. For two years, the Commission took testimony from experts and others and researched ways to eliminate child abuse and neglect fatalities. The result was, *Within Our Reach: A National Strategy to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities*, published in early 2016, which includes numerous recommendations for actions to reach the goal.

Subsequently, the Casey Family Foundation provided funding to take steps to implement the recommendations and asked Teri to work with the Foundation and others to that end. The topic of child abuse and neglect is one about which Teri is passionate, and we know she will do an excellent job bringing the Report's recommendations to life.

Diane Pilkey, the National Center's HRSA Project Officer, also is sorry to see Teri go: "I have known Teri Covington since my days working on Child Death Review in Washington State back in 2001. Teri has been an incredible asset to the world of Fatality Review. As the Director, Teri worked tirelessly to ensure that communities have the tools and knowledge to understand why children die so we can prevent future deaths. She is leaving the Center in the very capable hands of Abby Collier, and the legacy of her work will continue. But she will be sorely missed. We wish her good luck on the new chapter of her career!"

Teri will very much be missed by the staff of the Center and all of MPHI.

ation is often sought after and actors are hard to find. Teri gton is such a colleague, innovative are. She came to MPHI in 1994 to Michigan's Child Death Review am at a time when CDR was new to ountry. She grew that program, and

then in 2002 she began growing the national resource center at MPHI for CDR programs across the country. The fact that there are now CDR programs in all 50 states and DC is no small testament to Teri's transformational and visionary leadership.

While Teri will no longer be an employee of MPHI, she will forever remain a valued colleague and partner. It's exciting that Teri is leaving to do national policy work to eliminate child abuse and neglect fatalities - I have no doubt she will leave her innovative mark there as well, and we wish her all the best.



Renee Canady  
CEO, MPHI

Renee

## NCFRP Welcomes New Director

NCFRP is pleased to introduce Abby Collier, the new director of the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention. She has been working for the Center as a contractor and

employee since 2015, and now assumes the position of director.

Prior to joining the staff at NCFRP, Abby worked in Wisconsin's fetal, infant and child death review program. During the eight years she worked with the program it grew from a handful of CDR teams to a robust statewide system. Additionally, Wisconsin was one of the first states to focus on enhancing collaboration between CDR and FIMR.

Abby has a master's degree in counseling with an emphasis on working with minority populations. Before joining the public health workforce, she worked in the Wisconsin prison system providing substance abuse and mental health counseling and referrals. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Midwest Injury Prevention Alliance.

## Greetings from the Director

by Abby Collier



Dear friends,

This summer has been a time of reflection. With the departure of our founding director Teri Covington, we've had a chance to reflect on how far we've come over the past 15 years. Teri's energy, commitment and passion for this work is unmatched. She has been our greatest cheerleader and creative problem solver. I know I speak for all of us when I say thank you to Teri for everything she's done to advance the field of fatality review.

It has been a whirlwind few months for the National Center. Our staff have been out doing site visits, trainings and attending conferences. Working side-by-side with each of you is the best part of our work. Your hard work, commitment and dedication are indescribable. At this time, we are working to finalize a Quick Look paper on Opiates as well as Data Quality Summaries for each state that uses the Case Reporting System. We continue to work on Version 5.0 of the Case Reporting System.

On another note, we very much want our newsletter to be interactive. Please send us your comments, questions, or items you would like us to include. We particularly want to hear about outcomes from your reviews. And thank you for all you do.

I look forward to getting to know you. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or needs. It is what we are here for.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abby Collier". The signature is written in a dark ink or color.



## NATIONAL CENTER BIDS FAREWELL TO HANNATU SADIQ

This summer, the Center was privileged to host summer intern Hannatu Jumai Sadiq. Hannatu, who is from Nigeria, is a student at Michigan State University, working on her bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She is a scholar with the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program, a program for talented young people from Africa and other areas. Hannatu's goal for her experience at MPHI was to further her ability to work with people across all ages and socio-economic groups and provide them with educational and health information so they can make decisions that will help improve their lives.



We are grateful to Hannatu for her work with us, and we know she will indeed be making a difference in the world. We wish her continued success in her senior year at MSU and beyond.

**Thank you and best wishes, Hannatu!**

## NCFRP WEBINARS

Dates/registration to be announced.

October 31, 2017, 2:00 pm Eastern (registration link to be announced via FIMR and CDR listservs): Join NCFRP for the first part of our two-part series on Opiates. The first webinar will focus on the history of the opiate epidemic, neonatal abstinence syndrome and innovative approaches to review opiate deaths.

November 2017: Part II: Effective intervention to support mothers and babies impacted by substance use

December 2017:  
Effective review, partnerships, and actions to prevent child suicide deaths

January 2017:  
Moving your team from review to action

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## Safe States Alliance Honors Colorado CDR Program and Personnel

Two employees of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Violence and Injury Prevention-Mental Health Promotion Branch, both of whom work with Colorado's CDR program, received awards at the 2017 Safe States Alliance national meeting in September. Lindsey Myers, branch chief, was awarded the Presidential Award, which is presented to someone who helps the Safe States Alliance President achieve the organization's goals. Kate Jankovsky, branch coordinator, was awarded the Rising Star award, which is presented to an individual who has made excellent contributions to the injury field. The award highlights new professionals who have been working in the injury field for less than five years.

Congratulations to Lindsey, Kate, and the Colorado CDR program for their award-winning work!

**STATE CDR COORDINATORS**

**FIMR COORDINATORS**

*Farewell to coordinators:*

*Farewell to coordinator:*  
Debbi Barnes-Josiah, Nebraska

*Welcome to new coordinator:*

Shannon Twist, Nebraska

## FIMR/CDR COORDINATORS

*Welcome to new coordinator:*

Matt Slanoc, Ohio

*Farewell to Montana FICMMR coordinators:*

Katlynn Reed  
Amy Ferguson  
Karyn Johnston

*Welcome to new Montana coordinators:*

Chris Hunter  
Nicole Hungerford  
Annie Young  
Gayle Sheldon

STATE  
Susanna Joy, MI  
(And welcome, Susanna, to NCFRP)

LOCAL  
Carole McGregor, Alameda County, CA  
Elaine Anthony, Kern County, CA  
Carly Ryan, Newark, NJ  
Ellen Davis, Philadelphia, PA

*Welcome to new coordinators:*

LOCAL  
Russ Hastings, Kern County, CA  
Caroline Miller, Alameda County, CA  
Jeanne Vaudiau, Humboldt County, CA  
Amber Harris Rabines, Newark NJ  
Annie Butusov, Stark County, OH  
Julia Reeves, Philadelphia PA

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

## CONSULTANT TO ASSIST CENTER AND DISPARITIES WORK GROUP

NCFRP is pleased to announce its partnership with the National Birth Equity Collaborative (NBEC) and Dr. Joia Crear-Perry, its Founder and President. NBEC works with organizations, communities and stakeholders to develop and implement strategies to achieve health equity goals. It provides training and technical assistance to organizations that value community voices and strive to improve the lives of Black families, keeping in line with the definition of true Birth Equity.

Dr. Crear-Perry will provide expertise and consultation to the Center and its Health Disparities Work Group, assisting the work group with education and resources for



teams, data gathering, and taking findings to action to address disparities. She will also work with the Center to update the FIMR maternal interview questions so they are culturally competent and will elicit information about equity barriers faced by the mother during pregnancy, and will assist in conceptualizing equity improvements in the case reporting system. Individual FIMR and CDR teams may also contact Dr. Crear-Perry for additional consultation on disparities/equities issues.

<http://birthequity.org/contact/>

## Frederick County, MD FIMR Honors and Engages Moms

Jan Sparks, coordinator of the Frederick County MD FIMR, has been using a unique strategy to honor and engage mothers in the FIMR maternal interview process. The FIMR program in Frederick County is one of 24 local FIMRs in the state; it meets quarterly and reviews about six cases of fetal and infant deaths per year.

Jan recognizes the unique and special contributions of the mother's voice to help fatality review teams understand the true circumstances of fetal and infant loss. In 2013, at a statewide gathering of FIMR coordinators, Jan learned of the Brown Star Story, adapted from author Kim Steffgen, included in the book, *When Hello Means Goodbye: A Guide for Parents Whose Child Dies Before Birth* (Pat Schwiebert, 1993).

Jan now uses the story to help engage mothers in the maternal interview. She sends a condolence card with a brief message about FIMR to bereaved mothers and tells them that she will be contacting them soon. The letter also includes the Brown Star Story and a brochure created by the FIMR team listing local bereavement resources. When Jan reaches out again to schedule the interview, moms often remember getting the story and consent to the interview. She also offers the poem in Spanish and Burmese. You can contact Jan for the story at [jsparks@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:jsparks@frederickcountymd.gov).

## NCFRP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS, CONTRIBUTES TO CENTER WORK

In May 2017, the Steering Committee for the National Center met with Center staff in Washington D.C. to discuss strategies for the Center's work on a number of key topics. The Committee is made up of representatives of national organizations, our Federal partners, and several CDR and FIMR coordinators from around the country. Topics discussed included:

- Building partnerships with local, state and national partners
- Addressing health equity through resource development and training
- Improving recommendations and moving data to action
- Promoting coordination between fatality review systems
- Identifying opportunities for sustainability and resource development
- Improving data quality with a focus on developing a guidance for states on data quality.

As a result of the meeting, National Center staff will be working with numerous partners to implement many of the strategies proposed by the members. Some of our first steps include partnering with national organizations to map prevention tools, developing a list of potential research questions, and finalizing the guidance on CDR and FIMR collaboration. The National Center staff thanks the dedicated Steering Committee members for their passion and support.

## Version 5.0 Due in Spring 2018;

### New Opportunity for FIMR Teams

As many of you know, NCFRP has been working hard to develop Version 5 of the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS). Why the new name for the Case Reporting System? That's because in Version 5 we will be adding FIMR questions to the tool. In fact, we are adding over 800 variables to support the work of our FIMR teams. FIMR users will have access to the child death review questions that are contained in Version 4, and, in addition, two new sections have been added to the tool for FIMR users to gather greater detail specific to FIMR cases, including maternal interview information.

The addition of FIMR questions is the biggest change to Version 5, but we are also restructuring the current Section I, Acts of Omission/Commission, to be more user friendly (and improving the consistency of reporting) and adding new skip patterns (for example, many questions will no longer be asked if the decedent was an infant who never left the hospital after birth).

There are many other improvements that are coming your way in Version 5, largely thanks to your feedback. The roll out of Version 5 won't happen until Spring 2018. We will keep you posted as the date draws near, and we'll also hold a webinar at launch time to present the changes and answer questions. Feel free to reach out to NCFRP in the meantime if you have questions.

## CDR-CRS Tip

To conduct in depth analysis of CDR-CRS data (for, say, writing CDR Annual Reports), we often recommend that analysts build one master data file that contains all 2,600 CDR-CRS variables. NCFRP currently has SPSS syntax we can share with you to help with that process, and, thanks to our colleagues in Colorado and Tennessee, we also have SAS syntax available. If you are interested in the SPSS or SAS syntax to create a master file, please contact the Center. Additionally, if you are a user of SPSS or SAS and you have written some syntax that you think would be helpful to other states, please feel free to share it with us, and we can make it available to other users.

### Get Your Version 4.1 Forms Now!

We have numerous paper forms of Version 4.1 of the Case Reporting System. Contact Nanette Richards if you would like us to send you some. When Version 5.0 launches early next year, they will become obsolete, but you can use them until then.

*If your FIMR team or program wants to begin using the Case Reporting System for data entry after your reviews, either now through the Infant Enhancement Module or the smaller FIMR Module, or when Version 5.0 launches, contact Esther Shaw ([eshaw@mphi.org](mailto:eshaw@mphi.org)) or Heather Dykstra ([hdykstra@mphi.org](mailto:hdykstra@mphi.org)).*

## CHILDREN'S SAFETY NETWORK: A prevention resource for teams

By Jennifer Allison PhD, CSN Director

The Children's Safety Network (CSN) works with states and jurisdictions to help them implement evidence-based programs and strategies and utilize injury data to prevent injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits.

In cooperation with the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA)

Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), CSN is coordinating the second cohort of the



Child Safety Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Network with participation by 17 states and jurisdictions. The Child Safety CollIN uses quality improvement concepts and methods to develop, test, implement, and spread successful strategies for prevention of injuries to children and infants.

CSN also facilitates a National Coordinated Child Safety Initiative with participation by leaders and experts representing national organizations, Federal agencies, universities, hospitals, and state health departments. The NCCSI works to create new synergy among public and private stakeholders and to provide guidance to the Child Safety CollIN.

*The Children's Safety Network has been a close partner of the Center for many years. Currently, CSN is a member of our Steering Committee, and we are working with it on the Child Safety CollIN.*

In addition, CSN provides technical assistance on injury and violence prevention planning, programs, and evidence-based practices to state and jurisdiction health departments and health and safety services and systems. We work with states to help them implement proven strategies to prevent a wide variety of injuries affecting infants, children and youth in a broad range of settings, including injuries related to motor vehicles, violence, and recreational activities, and injuries sustained in homes and schools.

We can help you:

- Identify injury prevention practices that evaluation and research have shown to be effective
- Benefit from the experiences of other states through opportunities for peer-to-peer discussions, and
- Locate and make use of the latest research on injury prevention.

CSN's recent resources include:

- Webinar Archives
- Evidence-Based Strategies and Readings in Five Injury Topics
- Teen Driving Safety: 2017 Resource Guide
- Youth Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention: 2017 Resource Guide
- [Infographic] The Facts On Childhood Drowning
- [Infographic] Disparities in Child Passenger Safety

A full selection of CSN resources can be found on our website at:

<https://www.childrensafetynetwork.org>

## NATIONAL STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

The National Center is funded to provide technical assistance, training, database and support, webinars, and other digital and printed resources to CDR and FIMR programs across the country. We are always available by phone and email; we can do webinars for your state and/or local teams on any number of topics; and we can travel to your state for state training or consultation, within budget limits. The following are examples of where we've been since the last newsletter:

- Abby Collier exhibited at the Safe States Conference in **Denver** in September.
- Abby also presented to the **Massachusetts** statewide CDR meeting and attended the annual meeting in **New Hampshire** of the NE Regional Coalition of CDR Coordinators in June.
- Abby and Rosemary Fournier presented on FIMR for the Children's Health Alliance of **Wisconsin**.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics Annual Convention was held in **Chicago** in September. Linda Potter and Abby Collier were there to exhibit and attend the AAP Child Death Review Section meeting.
- Rosemary and Nanette Richards attended the September CityMatCH conference in **Nashville**, where the Center exhibited and presented on Zika and FIMR reviews, and on FIMR and Healthy Start.
- Rosemary also presented on FIMR and Healthy Start collaborations and on the Center and its resources/services at Healthy Start regional meetings in **Staten Island NY**, **Detroit MI**, and **San Antonio TX**.
- Esther Shaw exhibited at the September annual meeting of SAVIR, the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research, in **Ann Arbor MI**.
- In July, Abby attended the annual Safe Kids Worldwide Childhood Injury Prevention Convention (PrevCon) in **Baltimore**.
- Rosemary presented on FIMR at the **Michigan, Ohio** and **Kansas** statewide FIMR trainings.
- In August, Rosemary presented on FIMR at the Emergency Medical Services for Children grantee meeting in **Arlington, VA**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*FIMR/CDR Disparities Work Group Meeting*,  
Teleconference, October 11, 2:30-3:30 pm ET

*Unintentional Infant Drownings: A Descriptive Analysis of the Characteristics and Risk Factors from the National Child Death Review Case Reporting System*, Presentation by Heather Dykstra at the ILS World Conference on Drowning Prevention, Vancouver, Canada, October 17-19

SUID/SDY Programs Reverse Site Visit, Atlanta, October 24-26

*Creating the Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health*, APHA 2017 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 4-8

## FIMR REGIONAL SUPPORT CALLS

*Call-in numbers to be provided*

Western Region: October 11, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET

Central Region: October 23, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm ET

Northern Region: October 24, 10:00 am - 11:00 am ET

Midwest Region: October 24, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET

Southern Region: October 26, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET

## NATIONAL CENTER MAILING LISTS

You can join the **Child Death Review Listserv** and/or the **Fetal and Infant Mortality Review**

**Listserv.** If you join either, you'll also receive the newsletter. Or you can choose to receive the newsletter only. You can change any selection any time by contacting [info@ncfrp.org](mailto:info@ncfrp.org).

**JOIN NEWSLETTER  
EMAIL LIST**

**JOIN CDR LISTSERV**

**JOIN FIMR LISTSERV**

**If you have comments, suggestions, or questions about this newsletter,  
contact Linda Potter: [lpotter@mphi.org](mailto:lpotter@mphi.org).**

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