

Purpose, Principles & Objectives Worksheet

This worksheet is intended to help the Child Death Review (CDR) team identify its purpose, principles and objectives. These items guide the team's work and help it achieve the ultimate goal of improving the health and safety of the community. Once completed, this worksheet should inform the structure, processes and team member agreements of the CDR team. The worksheet provides an overview of the purpose, principles and objectives of CDR from a national perspective and includes considerations for state or local teams to customize them for the team context.

Purpose

The purpose of CDR is that a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of child deaths will lead to a better understanding of how and why children die. These findings are used to catalyze action to prevent other deaths, ultimately improving the health and safety of communities, families and children. Please consider the following:

- Does the purpose of the CDR team align with national recommendations? If not, what needs to be changed?

Discussion Question: How does the purpose of the team drive the principles and objectives?

Principles

There are seven key operating principles of CDR. These principles should govern the structure, purpose and goals of all CDR teams. Select which of these operating principles apply to the state or local CDR team.

- The death of a child is a community responsibility.
- A child's death is a sentinel event that should urge communities to identify other children at risk for illness, injury, maltreatment, or death.
- A death review requires multidisciplinary participation from the community.
- A review of case information should be comprehensive and broad with an understanding of implicit bias and health equity.
- A review should lead to an understanding of risk and protective factors.
- A review should focus on prevention and should lead to effective recommendations and actions to prevent deaths and to keep children healthy, safe and protected.
- Individual case reviews should also be balanced with accumulated data on non-fatal injuries and poor health outcomes to better understand and respond to trends that will impact larger population groups.
- Are there additional principles that need to be added?

Discussion Question: How is the team implementing these principles?

Objectives

In order to meet the needs of the multidisciplinary CDR team members, objectives are multi-faceted. These objectives touch on the many layers of fatality review, ranging from investigation of deaths, to systems improvement, to prevention. Select which of these objectives apply to the CDR team.

- Ensure the accurate identification and uniform reporting of the cause and manner of every child death.
- Improve communication and linkages among local and state agencies in order to enhance coordination of efforts.
- Improve agency responses in the investigation of child deaths.
- Improve agency response to protect siblings and other children in the homes of deceased children.
- Improve criminal investigations.
- Improve delivery of services to children, families, providers and community members.
- Identify specific barriers and system issues involved in the deaths of children.
- Identify significant risk factors and trends in child deaths.
- Identify and advocate for needed changes in legislation, policy and practices and expanded efforts in child health and safety to prevent child deaths.
- Increase public awareness and advocacy for the issues affecting health and safety?
- Are there additional objectives that need to be added?

Discussion Question: How is the team implementing these objectives?