



“The Review” Office of Child Fatality Review

GA Child Fatality Review Awarded a CDC Grant for SUID Case Registry

In August 2009, Georgia CFR was one of only five state CFR programs to be awarded a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to participate in the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) Case Registry Pilot Project. This pilot project will be funded for three years, and will allow participating states to develop a case registry for all sudden unexplained infant deaths, using the web-based National Child Death Review Reporting System.

Some of the required action items include:

- Identifying all unexpected infant deaths statewide, including those due to SIDS or SUID, unexpected medical conditions, homicide, suffocation, or other types of injuries
- Completing a thorough and complete scene investigation and family interview on all unexpected infant deaths, and documenting that information on the SUID Investigation form (usually done by the coroner or medical examiner)
- Sharing the SUID Investigation form with the CFR committee to supplement the case information discussed in the review meeting
- Entering the case information into the web-based reporting system within 3 months of the death

Georgia CFR was a competitive applicant because of our existing strong case review protocols, our multidisciplinary team approach to case investigation and review, and our legislative supports for agency participation and case record sharing. CFR will use funds from the grant to support those agencies and individuals who provide necessary information for the case review process, develop and deliver trainings on SUID investigation, and to obtain certain materials or supplies needed for local CFR committees to complete a thorough and timely multidisciplinary case review on every unexpected infant death.

The case registry pilot project will begin on January 1, 2010, and all unexpected infant deaths after that date should be investigated, reviewed, and reported according to the CDC case registry project protocols. If you have any questions or concerns about this pilot project for SUID case review, please call the CFR office at 404-656-4200.



Updating The State Model Child Abuse Protocol

On August 20, 2009, CFR staff sponsored a multidisciplinary symposium at the GBI Headquarters in Decatur to determine how to best revise and update the state model child abuse protocol. Attendees came from many different professional disciplines, including DFCS, Child Advocacy Centers, public health departments, and district attorney’s offices. Topics of consideration included reporting, treatment, prevention, and investigation of child abuse.

There was a lot of discussion around every chapter of the model protocol, and we recorded several suggestions to add, delete, or edit certain areas to best fit the existing legislative requirements and “best practices” for agency policies. We also received several suggestions from professionals who could not attend, but had ideas to improve the way communities respond to reports of child maltreatment.

The final draft of the updated model protocol should be ready for communities by the end of the year, and will be available through the CFR website. If you would like to share your thoughts on updating the model protocol for “best practices”, please contact the CFR office at gacfrstaff@dhr.state.ga.us.

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Policies in Georgia: Suicide Prevention for Youth

A regular feature of this newsletter is to inform you of policies and regulations around certain products and activities that may affect you and the work that you do with children and families. In order to bring you the most up-to-date information on rules, requirements, and policies enacted to keep children safe from injury and death, we will be researching a different topic in each issue. If you would like to contribute to this article series at any time, please contact OCFR staff.



Each state has its own mental health legislation implemented at the state and local levels. State governments can pass suicide prevention legislation, recognizing suicide as a priority and mandating state suicide prevention plans, and often work together to discuss health and mental health policy for their constituents. The Governor and the Georgia General Assembly have appropriated funds to address the need for a prevention plan to address the serious problem of suicide in Georgia. The Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan was completed in 2001, developed through a contract between DHR and the Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN), and with input from stakeholders around the state. The Plan is designed to guide individuals, agencies, and organizations in local communities as well as at regional and state levels. The Plan contains a wide range of activities to promote suicide prevention including community awareness, education, implementing prevention programs such as screening youth in schools, making referrals for mental health services, parent and teacher gatekeeper training, promoting and supporting research and evaluation of suicide prevention. The Plan encompasses suicide prevention in many systems, including education, health care, media, the workplace, faith communities and criminal justice (*Division of Public Health; www.health.state.ga.us*).

Georgia has also recently been awarded federal funds from the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, which will be used to promote awareness that suicide is a serious public health problem that is preventable; to develop and expand broad-based state support for youth suicide prevention; and to develop and implement community-based suicide prevention programs. In addition, SAMHSA is moving to provide urgent funding to suicide prevention centers around the nation that are dealing with the enormous hardship wrought by the economic downturn. Many of these centers must cope with a sharp rise in the number of callers in crisis (often because of financial problems). At the same time, these centers are threatened with significant cutbacks in funding from state and local governments and other sources of support.

For more information on suicide prevention activities in Georgia or how you can get involved, please contact DBHDD: Sally vander Straeten at 404-657-1686, or Adam Lesser at 404-463-4166.

Framework for Childhood Injury Prevention Planning

In January 2009, the Framework for Childhood Injury Prevention Planning (CIPP) was completed. This document was developed in partnership with the CFR Panel, Emory University, and the Division of Public Health, and was designed to be a guide for agencies and communities to successfully address child injuries and fatalities. The guide contains statewide data on child injuries, hospitalization rates, and fatality rates due to selected mechanisms of injury. There are also many evidence-based prevention strategies recommended to address each of the most significant causes and circumstances of child injuries. This guide is most useful for those who have data on their community, and need ideas to develop effective, data-driven prevention strategies.

Throughout the year, CFR has held bi-monthly meetings for a steering committee, made up of several agency partners and child advocates, in order to develop a plan for introducing the CIPP statewide. One of our goals was to encourage as many agencies and organizations to publicly support the evidence-based strategies presented in the planning guide, and we currently have fourteen agencies in agreement. We have also worked to encourage agencies and organizations to include the CIPP in their strategic plans or RFPs, and we thank GOCF and GOHS for their full support in this effort. We also thank Family Connection Partnership, Safe Kids Georgia, Department of Education, and the Office of Mental Health—Child and Adolescent Services for their work in promoting the prevention concepts of the CIPP in their local activities and programs.

For more information on the CIPP, or to view a copy, please visit the CFR website at www.gacfr.oqa.georgia.gov. The CIPP is also available for you to view or print on the websites of several supporting agencies and organizations.



New Case Reporting Tools for Child Fatality Review

We are excited to announce that the **National Child Death Review Case Reporting System** is currently activated! Although this new system is similar to our previous on-line reporting system, the National CDR system offers a host of additional features enhancing our ability to collect, analyze, and report on child deaths and prevention strategies in the state of Georgia. Additional features include case report editing and saving, data downloading, and standardized reporting which will allow CFR committees to generate up to 32 county-specific reports. You do not need any specialized software for this web-based application. However, this system requires Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or Firefox.

All 2009 reviewable child deaths must be entered on the National CDR form. Any 2008 deaths should be entered on the 2008 version of the CFR on-line form. You can access the CDR system by logging onto www.cdrdata.org. The CDR form is password protected; therefore, county/circuit representatives can only access data specific to their jurisdiction. Password information was mailed out in July. If your team has not received this information, please notify your program manager.

****Note:** If the case reporting system is left dormant for longer than 60 minutes, the system will time out, and prohibit entrance into the system. You can regain access to the system after 45 minutes or contact the National CDR Help desk at 1-800-656-2434 or our main office at 404-656-4200 for further assistance.

Beginning in January 2010, CFR will require the **Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation (SUIDI) Case Reporting Form** to be used by coroners and medical examiners for submitting the initial death report on ALL infant deaths. This form is currently only available in a paper format. CFR staff is researching the feasibility of developing a web-based reporting format as well as exploring options to convert this form into the sole “CFR coroner form” for all child deaths. We will notify local coroners and CFR committees as this process develops. To view and print a copy of the SUIDI form and the accompanying instructions, please visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/sids/suid.htm>.

If you have questions about the content of this report form or how to use it, please contact the CFR staff as soon as possible.



County Prevention Efforts in 2009



Dale Cook of the Gwinnett County CFR shared this story:

Lynne VanBuren from Gwinnett Medical Center (GMC) who is on our committee has been very influential in having GMC mandate SIDS training for all of their nurses. GMC had to pay the nurses to attend the mandatory training and in these economic hard times that was a big financial commitment. They have trained approximately 300 nurses from the Curriculum for Nurses (CEP) on SIDS Risk Reduction. Lynne will also be able to track statistics before the training and after the training to see if there is a reduction in SIDS deaths. The Curriculum they use to train the nurses is amazing. She also reported that many nurses did not know some of the info that was discussed during the training. Emory at Eastside in Snellville is now trying to partner with GMC to provide training for their nurses as well. What an undertaking by one person—great job!

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

Please submit your stories of success or other ideas by **December 11, 2009** to:
OCA– Division of Child Fatality Review ● 55 Park Place - Suite 410 ● Atlanta, Georgia 30303
www.gacfr.oca.georgia.gov or email to: gacfrstaff@dhr.state.ga.us

Upcoming Events

- Register early for the 26th National Symposium on Child Abuse, March 22-25, 2010 in Huntsville, Alabama. More than 130 workshops will be presented; workshop tracks are specifically designed for law enforcement officers, child protective service workers, program administrators, prosecuting attorneys, medical personnel, mental health and treatment providers, victim advocates and others working in the child maltreatment arena. For more information, please visit their website at www.nationalcac.org.
- Prevent Child Abuse Georgia is offering free one-day Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) prevention workshops. CEU credit is available at a cost of \$25 for the professional disciplines of: psychology, social work, counseling, marriage/family therapy, POST, and DECAL. For registration information, please contact Anna Curtis at annac@pcageorgia or call (404) 870-6561
*October 14, 2009 at MUST Ministries– Marietta
January 20, 2010 at Georgia Southwestern State University–Americus*

Important Information for YOU

- In July 2009, the CFR Panel established sub-committees to research the opportunities for prevention around three significant issues affecting children in Georgia: teen driver deaths, toddler drowning deaths, and the Safe Place for Newborns Act. These three committees are charged with gathering and analyzing data, identifying existing barriers to successful prevention measures, and defining opportunities to address selected risk factors. We will continue to provide status updates on these important Panel projects as they develop.
- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is once again urging all parents and caregivers to immediately stop using convertible "close-sleeper/bedside sleeper" bassinets manufactured by Simplicity Inc., of Reading, PA. To date, CPSC is aware of four infants who have died in the close-sleeper bassinets. Please see the full press release at this link: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09319.html>.
- The Governor's Office for Children and Families recently announced \$2,946,755 in grants awarded to multiple Georgia communities. It is expected that more than 4,170 children, youth, and families in ten Georgia counties and cities, and one statewide program, will be served. The grants will fund recommended activities during the next year that use a "systems of care" approach. For more information on the SOC funding, please visit the GOFC website at www.children.georgia.gov.
- On September 9-11, 2009, the first Three-Day Basic Child Abuse Training for Teams was held in Forsyth, Georgia. Trainees from law enforcement, DFCS, district attorney's offices, coroner's offices and other related agencies attended, receiving free training from child abuse experts from the legal, investigative and medical fields. Feedback from the trainees, from all over the state, was extremely positive. One trainee has since begun working a potential child homicide case and made contact with a faculty member to let her know that the training greatly affected the direction of the current investigation. The faculty will be available for advice and assistance on pending cases as well. This training will be offered again in **November 2009**. For further information on registration, please contact Rachelle Carnesale at rcarnesale@oca.ga.gov.
- You are invited to participate in the first "Family Forum," convened by the Georgia Strengthening Families Leadership Team, to be held **Tuesday, October 27, 2009 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at several statewide locations. The Family Forum is FREE to registered participants. As there is limited space at each of the above locations, registration is on a first-come, first-served basis; so, early registration is strongly encouraged. The registration deadline is October 15, 2009. A boxed lunch will be provided for each registered participant. A \$50 stipend will be provided to registered parents, only one (1) per family, who participate in the entire forum. For questions regarding the Family Forum, please contact Carol Wilson at (404) 921-0338. For questions regarding registration, please contact Myra Soto at (212) 979-2369.

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