



## "The Review" Division of Child Fatality Review

### *Child Fatality Committee and Coroner/Medical Examiner of the Year, 2009*

In January 2010, CFR teams were asked to provide nominations for a Child Fatality Review team and Coroner/ME whose work has gone beyond the call of duty. Gwinnett County CFR received three nominations, and Walker County and Alapaha Circuit both received one nomination. For Coroner/ME of the Year, Janice Brown from Wilcox County and the Gwinnett Medical Examiner's office were both nominated.

#### **AND THE WINNER IS:**

**GWINNETT COUNTY—CFR TEAM OF THE YEAR  
JANICE BROWN, WILCOX COUNTY—CORONER OF THE YEAR**

### *CONGRATULATIONS TO ONE OF OUR OWN*

Arleymah Raheem delivered Lailah Simone Gray who was born on June 3 at 2:18pm. She was 20in long and weighed 9lbs 3oz—Way to Go Arleymah! We Miss You!!

### *CDC SUIDI and CFR Reporting Update*

In January 2010, the Child Fatality Review division began a journey to improve infant death reporting in the state. Through the CDC pilot project, many of you have been involved whether it was filling out SUIDI forms or holding timely meetings on child deaths and filling out the national CFR form. As a reminder, all child death reports should be submitted online at: [www.cdrdata.org](http://www.cdrdata.org) and all counties have a specific user name and password. Please contact our office if you are in need of yours. [ocacfr@oca.ga.gov](mailto:ocacfr@oca.ga.gov) or (404) 656-4200.

#### **Update:**

1) The majority of unknowns thus far on the CDR reporting form include the following sections:

- Section A questions 34-53
- Section B questions 4-16
- Section E
- Section H "If adult bed, what type?"
- Section H d "usual sleep place"
- Section H - h & i
- Section L

2) There are concerns regarding the online reporting system process including:

- Section E on the CFR reporting form is cumbersome for counties to complete because not all of them have working knowledge of all the terms nor do they have the time to go through autopsy reports to ensure everything was done or not done, as requested by this section
- Committee unable to meet or complete review because they are still holding on autopsy and toxicology reports
- Some Coroners may not report a child death to chairs/designees when they have a death – this starts the CFR process. Some chairs/designees report that they are not getting notifications of deaths and coroners are not filling out the SUIDI RF despite requests to do so
- Per CFR statute, the initial CFR meetings are to be held within 30 days of a child's death notification. However, often times, the meetings are not held in this timeframe.

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## 2010 Legislative Action

**Anti-Bullying Law** - This bill sets a January deadline for the state Department of Education to develop an anti-bullying policy that can be a model for local school systems. It will also include age-appropriate consequences for bullying from kindergarten through 12th grade. The bill also requires school officials to notify parents when their child is involved as either the victim or instigator of bullying.

**No Texting Law:** - The Governor signed HB 23 making it illegal for anyone under 18 to use a cell phone while driving. He also signed SB 360, making it illegal for all drivers to text while driving.

**Seatbelts in Pick-Up Trucks:** SB 458 removes the pickup truck exemption to the law requiring seatbelts to be worn when driving on Georgia roads. The legislation excludes motorcycles, motor driven cycles, off road vehicles and pickup trucks being used in connection with agricultural pursuits. "This long-overdue legislation is a victory for all Georgians. We have fought hard for years to make sure that everyone driving on Georgia roads is safely buckled-up," said Sen. Thomas. "Thank you to the Governor and all in the legislature who worked diligently to ensure this life-saving measure becomes law."

**The Stillbirth and SUID Prevention, Education and Awareness Act of 2009**—S-1445) was filed by Senator Frank R. Lautenberg. A companion bill (HR-3212) was filed in the House by Frank Pallone, Jr. This bill is important to the Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel (GCFRP) because our work to raise awareness and prevent infant and child deaths depends heavily on the ability to define the causes and understand the circumstances of those deaths. The GCFRP is responsible for coordinating the investigation, review, and reporting of infant and child deaths every year, sharing the data with other state agencies and organizations, and supporting prevention efforts. Our data show that Georgia lost 268 infants in 2007-2008 to sudden and unexpected causes, most often during sleep. More robust data, supported through improved research and education around sudden and unexpected infant deaths, would enhance our ability to raise awareness and promote prevention.

## Policies in Georgia:

**Governor's Task Force on Abuse in the School Setting:** The Governor's charge is to address the method for reporting abuse perpetrated by educational professionals; the system for receipt of reports and investigation of allegations; the responsibility for determining appropriate response to allegations; and the transparency of the process.

*The Task Force has made recommendations as of July 2010 specific to the following:*

- Update language in the mandated reporter statute to provide clarity on the school reporting procedures to eliminate multiple tiers of review, so that abuse may be reported directly to DFCS.
- School policies, local child abuse protocols, and existing laws should be updated to require full disclosure to parents of any allegations concerning their child(ren) and training for education and child welfare professionals should be developed and delivered.
- Current best practices are not being followed, particularly with regard to alleged victims with special needs.
- Resources to improve practices are currently available, including specialized training offered by the Office of the Child Advocate.
- A new section addressing best practices in the investigation of abuse in a school setting was developed and added to the State Model Child Abuse Protocol which was disseminated on July 1, 2010.
- O.C.G.A. § 19-15-2 should be amended to require that local child abuse protocol committees address abuse in school settings.



## RESOURCES YOU CAN USE:

### SAFE SLEEP RESOURCES:

- New Safe Sleep and Shaken Baby Prevention website:  
<http://safesoundbabies.com> and this website also has PSAs and materials available for parents and caregivers.
- Back to Sleep Campaign:  
<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sids/>
- Free SIDS materials:  
[http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/upload/bts\\_order\\_form\\_2006.pdf](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/upload/bts_order_form_2006.pdf)
- **Additional Websites include:**

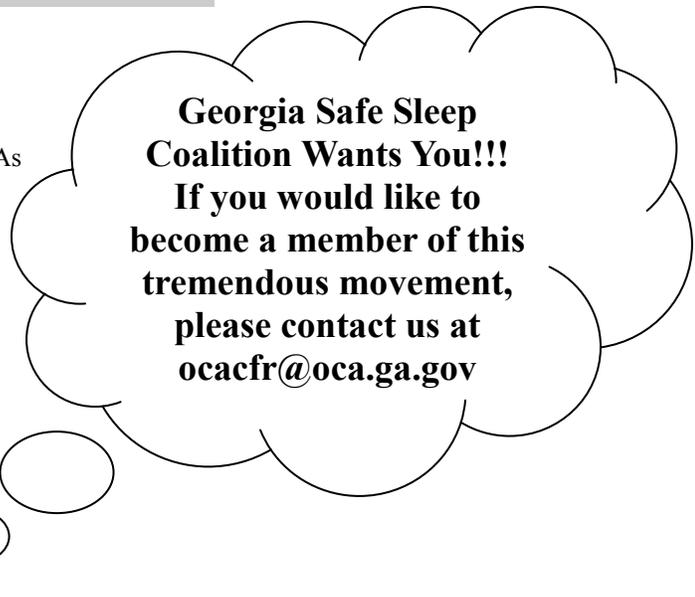
[www.cribsforkids.org](http://www.cribsforkids.org)  
[www.firstcandle.org](http://www.firstcandle.org)  
[www.cdc.gov/sids](http://www.cdc.gov/sids)  
[www.sids.org](http://www.sids.org)  
[www.cjsids.org](http://www.cjsids.org)

### TEXTING SAFELY:

<http://www.gahighwaysafety.org/textingsafety/>

### BURIAL ASSISTANCE IN GEORGIA:

- **FEMA:** Monies are available for disaster-related funeral and burial costs. [www.fema.gov/assistance/process/assistance](http://www.fema.gov/assistance/process/assistance)
- **Medicaid:** [www.workworld.org/wwwwebhelp/ga\\_medicaid\\_financial\\_eligibility.htm](http://www.workworld.org/wwwwebhelp/ga_medicaid_financial_eligibility.htm)
- **U.S. Armed Forces**—Surviving minor children may be eligible for burial in a national cemetery. <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>
- **Georgia Department of Human Resources:** When a child in foster care dies, state participation in burial expenses is limited to \$1,000, unless the county director designee grants a waiver.



## DATA RESOURCES YOU CAN USE:

### DROWNING STATISTICS

Our office has been compiling some of the drowning data to prepare for a state-wide response. The counties in Georgia that have the highest rate of drowning deaths to children under 18 years of age (based on population size) and for years 1999-2007 include:

Baldwin—rate of 6.99 per 100,000  
Catoosa—rate of 3.83 per 100,000  
Spalding—rate of 3.40 per 100,000  
Troup—rate of 3.32 per 100,000  
Lowndes—rate of 3.15 per 100,000

Please contact the Prevention Specialist in our office to organize prevention efforts in your local community and to let us know how you want to get involved.



Together  
Everyone  
Achieves  
More

Please submit your stories of success or other ideas by **Sept. 11, 2010** to:  
OCA— Division of Child Fatality Review • 55 Park Place - Suite 410 • Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
**Phone: 404-656-4200 or Fax: 404-656-5200 or Email to: [ocacfr@oca.ga.gov](mailto:ocacfr@oca.ga.gov)**

## *Upcoming Events*

- **September 12-14, 2010** - 11th International Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma in Atlanta, GA. Visit [www.dontshake.org](http://www.dontshake.org) for more information.
- **September 26-29, 2010** - International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) International Congress in Honolulu, HI.
- **November 4-7, 2010**—The International Conference on Perinatal and Infant Death, Washington, DC
- **November 4-6, 2010**—Healthy People 2020—Scaling New Heights
- **November 6-10, 2010** - American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

## *Important Information for YOU*

- Annual Child Fatality Investigation Training Academy—September 2010—More information will be sent to CFR Teams and Coroners. If you need this information, please contact your program manager.
- The updated State Model Child Abuse Protocol is now available for you to use in your communities. The revised edition contains information on mandated reporting, school abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, and special needs children. Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy (404-656-4200 or [ocacfr@oca.ga.gov](mailto:ocacfr@oca.ga.gov)). Per CFR legislation, all county child abuse protocol committees are required to “meet at least semi-annually for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the protocol and appropriately modifying and updating same” (O.C.G.A. 19-15-2).
- If you were unable to attend one of the ten trainings offered by CFR staff between February and April 2010, please contact your program manager if you would like to have a training in your community.

### *GEORGIA CHILD FATALITY REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS, EFFECTIVE JULY 2010*

<p><b><u>Chairperson:</u></b>  <b>Honorable Velma Tilley</b>            Associate Judge            Bartow County Juvenile Court</p> <p><b><u>Co-Chair:</u></b>  <b>Vanita Hullander</b>            Catoosa County Coroner</p> <p><b><u>Members:</u></b>  <b>Myra Tolbert</b>            Criminal Justice Coordinating Council</p> <p><b>Mary Burns, M.D.</b>            Board Chair            Georgia Dept. of Human Resources</p>	<p><b>Nancy Fajman, M.D.</b>            Pediatrician            Emory University School of Medicine</p> <p><b>Honorable Melvin Everson</b>            Member, Georgia House of Representatives</p> <p><b>Vernon M. Keenan</b>            Director            Georgia Bureau of Investigation</p> <p><b>Mark Washington</b>            Assistant Commissioner,            Division of Family &amp; Children Services</p>	<p><b>Frank Shelp, M.D.</b>            Director, Division of DBHDD</p> <p><b>Honorable J. David Miller</b>            District Attorney            Southern Judicial Circuit</p> <p><b>Melissa Carter</b>            Child Advocate for the Protection of Children</p> <p><b>Kris Sperry, M.D.</b>            Chief Medical Examiner            Georgia Bureau of Investigation</p>	<p><b>Honorable Gloria Butler</b>            Member, Georgia Senate</p> <p><b>M. Rony Francois, M.D.</b>            Director, Division of Public Health</p> <p><b>Honorable Latain Kell</b>            Cobb County Superior Court Judge</p> <p><b>Beverly Losman</b>            Injury Prevention            CHOA/Safe Kids of Georgia</p> <p><b>Vacant</b>            County Law Enforcement</p>
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