

Wake County Child Fatality Prevention Team/ Community Child Protection Team (CFPT/CCPT) Annual Report for 2016

I. Introduction

In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPT's) across the state to confidentially review medical examiner reports, death certificates and other records of deceased residents under age 18. Each local team consists of representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community such as law enforcement, Guardian Ad Litem, health departments, among others, that provide services to children and their families.

The purpose of this report is to give a summary of the causes of death, the number of cases reviewed, any recommendations for prevention, and to share local team activities and accomplishments.

II. Role of the Wake County Commissioners and Board of Health

- Receive annual reports which contain recommendations and advocate for system improvements and needed resources, if requested.
- Appoint members of the local team as identified by the membership.

III. Child Deaths by Cause, System Problems Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2016, the Wake County CFPT/CCPT reviewed 20 child deaths and identified 16 system problems and recommendations for future prevention efforts. Below are highlights:

Cause of Death	System Problem Identified	Recommendation	Proposed Action
Prematurity due to rupture of membranes	Smoking during pregnancy; lack of access to LARC (long acting reversible contraception)	Increase access to smoking cessation supports and LARC	Team participation in the Wake County Maternal Child Health Community Action Team promoting these strategies; strategies also promoted in WCHS Women's Health Clinics.
Accident (Drowning)	Unsafe area for swimming (quarry)	Increase awareness of risks of swimming in quarries	Letter sent to Orange County Eno River Park asking staff to assure prominent signage to warn visitors of risks.
Undetermined (co-sleeping)	Co-sleeping with parent	Increase awareness and capacity for safe sleep environment	Pack-n-Plays added to WCHS disaster response supplies. Grant application for education and distribution of pack-n-plays to Wake County homeless shelters submitted (not funded.) Module on safe sleep added to "Dads 2 Dads" community education program. Child Welfare Faith Partnership asked to donate Pack-n-plays. Community nonprofit Wake Up and Read supplied with infant and child safety brochures.
Accident (MVA)	Cell phone present in vehicle, but information about its use not available. Driver had graduated driver's license, but unclear which stage of GDL was active	Update DMV form 349 (rev. 1/09) to collect information about phone/device use. Update DMV form 349 (rev. 1/09) to include date driver's license initially obtained	Recommendations given to state CFPT.

Suicide	Lack of resources/follow-up when student has a history of substance use	Improve communication between school and medical home to promote treatment of substance use	Bi-directional consent form developed for sharing communication between WCPSS and medical providers developed and approved for use by WCPSS.
	Youth access to lethal prescription medications	Increase school access to drug recognition experts Promote safe disposal of prescription medications	CFPT/CCPT school representative shared resource contact information with school social workers. WCHS Medication Drop-off Box use promoted through media.

Cause of Death	System Problem Identified	Recommendation	Proposed Action
Suicide	Unsecured gun	Wake County Sheriff's Office to provide access to free or low-cost gun locks	Letter of Intent for gun lock grant submitted to John Rex Endowment (not funded). Chair to contact local non-profit (North Carolinians Against Gun Violence) that provides free gun locks.
Homicide (blunt force trauma by parent)	CPS not notified of siblings due to name variations	Implementation and use of a universal case management system across counties and states able to search for clients even when there are variations of their names	NC Fast implementation to address this need
Homicide (drowning by parent)	Staff to Supervisor Ratio above state standard	Child Welfare expansion request	Wake County Board of Commissioners approved 17 positions.
	Lack of resources to address domestic violence Access to offending caregiver	Increase capacity to respond effectively in cases involving domestic violence Ensure children are protected from offending caretakers	Collaboration between CPS and InterAct to place a grant funded domestic violence liaison within the Child Welfare workforce to provide consultation and training NC State policy has changed requiring increased oversight of cases where parents have restricted access to children.
Homicide	Injuries suspicious for child abuse were not reported to CPS by hospital personnel	Increase knowledge and skills of hospital emergency departments to recognize and protect child victims of non-accidental trauma (NAT)	Chair sent letters to involved hospital. Hospital representation on Wake County CFPT/CCPT increased, and Rex Hospital included on \$500K grant through UNC-Chapel Hill to improve response to childhood NAT.
Accident (Overdose)	Diagnostic blood sample never obtained	Support State Medical Examiner Office proposal requiring hospitals to save an admission blood sample in cases of suspected overdose	Letter sent to NC State Senator Dan Blue and Representative Yvonne Holley in support of ME proposal.

IV. Wake County CFPT/CCPT Activities and Accomplishments

Examples:

- The annual CFPT/CCPT Activity Summary was completed and sent by the date requested.
- The team developed recommendations to improve the safety of group home residents in collaboration with Kim Ruppel, Training and Development Program Manager, NC Division of Health Service Regulation and Mental Health Licensing Section.
- The team welcomed a workshop on opioid reversal (naloxone) presented by Cheryl Viracola, Network Pharmacy Program Manager, Community Care of Wake and Johnston Counties. Team members committed to spreading information about the new naloxone law to their agencies. Website: <http://www.naloxonesaves.org>
- Informational brochures on Futures Without Violence (FuturesWithoutViolence.org) in English and Spanish distributed to team members for youth distribution. Topics addressed include dating violence and suicide prevention.
- Team members participated in webinars on distracted driving and suicide prevention sponsored by the Children and Youth Branch, Division of Public Health.

- Individual reports were completed on child deaths reviewed by the team and were forwarded to the State Coordinator.

V. Conclusion

Thank you to the members of the Wake County Commissioners/Board of Health for the opportunity to share with you the successes and dedicated work of the local team as we continue to review child fatalities, make recommendations, and take actions to prevent future child deaths. Please feel free to contact the Health Director or Chairperson at 919-250-3762, respectively, should you have any questions about this report.

Kim McDonald, MD
WCHS Medical Director

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Theresa M Flynn, MD
Chairperson

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October 1, 2017