

Item Title: Wake County Child Fatality Prevention Team/Community Child Protection Team (CFPT/CCPT) Annual Report for 2018

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners receives and reviews the annual childhood fatality report from the Wake County Child Fatality Prevention Team/Community Child Protection Team. This report describes causes of childhood mortality for Wake County in 2017 and recommends potential system interventions to reduce the likelihood of future deaths.

Item Summary:

Purpose: State statutes require local child fatality prevention teams to submit a child fatality report annually to their local County Commissioners and boards of health. The team also advocates for system improvements and resources to reduce child fatalities.

Background: Wake County's Child Fatality Prevention Team/Community Child Protection Team reviews representative child fatalities within the county and makes recommendations for preventing future fatalities. Local Child Fatality Prevention Team teams are the bedrock of the three-tier child fatality prevention system in North Carolina, which also includes the state Child Fatality Prevention Team and the Child Fatality Task Force. The 2018 report covers fatalities that occurred during calendar year 2017. The total number of Wake County child deaths changed little from 2016 to 2017, 103 to 102. Injury deaths in children aged 1-17 decreased from 20 to 11. The Black Non-Hispanic infant mortality rate was twice the total infant mortality rate. The annual report was submitted to the Human Services Board on July 25, 2019.

Board Goal: This annual report informs decisions related to Community Health initiative 2.4, Healthy Babies and Moms, and complements other Board initiatives.

Fiscal Impact: This action has no financial impact.

Additional Information:

This 2018 report presents infant and child mortality rates for calendar year 2017. State and county wide data are compiled and reported by the North Carolina Center for Health Statistics a full year after the calendar events. Representative 2017 child deaths were reviewed by the Wake County team throughout 2018. There was little change in the total number of Wake County child deaths between 2016 and 2017 (103 to 102). Injury deaths in children aged 1-17 decreased from 20 to 11. The number of infant deaths classified as "other cause" due to the presence of an unsafe sleep environment remained the same, at six. Most deaths continued to occur in infancy, particularly the perinatal period. The

Black Non-Hispanic infant mortality rate was twice the total infant mortality rate. Wake County's overall infant mortality rate and Black Non-Hispanic infant mortality rates were both lower than the state of North Carolina.

The Centers for Disease Control lists the top five causes of infant mortality as: birth defects, preterm births, maternal complications, SIDS, and injuries. Ways to reduce premature delivery and infant mortality include folic acid supplementation, improving maternal physical and mental health, reducing exposure to tobacco and other substances, assuring access to contraception, and addressing interpersonal violence.

In the last year, members of the Wake County Child Fatality Prevention Team/Community Child Protection Team took several steps to protect children affected by personal or family mental illness and substance use. Members met with hospitals and other behavioral healthcare providers to improve communication and coordination with the medical home and school. The County's Child Welfare division continued to strengthen its preventive services and its practice of Safety Organized Care, which builds a net of supportive adults to assure safety during episodes of parental disability.

Child Fatality Prevention Team members promoted community education efforts to reduce child deaths from unsafe infant sleep environments and unsafe gun storage. They educated community partners on prevention of violence, child maltreatment and substance use, as well as skills to promote resilience. They also advocated for federal changes in Medicaid policy to assure uninterrupted access to lifesaving medications.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners has two goals that are focused on healthy moms and babies, including addressing the disparity in infant mortality rates that remain higher for African American babies. A work group of community leaders and professionals will convene beginning in August, co-chaired by Dr. Michelle Bucknor, Medical Director, United Healthcare, and Chairwoman Jessica Holmes, Wake County Commission.

The Community Child Protection Team was established by law (General Statute 7B-1406) in May of 1991 as a means for the state and local communities to form a partnership to strengthen child protection. The Child Fatality Prevention Team was mandated by state law in 1995. The purpose of the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention System is to promote understanding of the causes of child deaths, identify deficiencies in the service delivery to children and families by public agencies and to assess, and recommend and implement systems changes that will prevent future child deaths and support safe and healthy development of children.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Outline for Annual Report
3. Official Membership
4. Cover Letter
5. Summary for 2018
6. CFPT 2017 Presentation
7. CFPT 2016 Annual Report and Presentation
8. CFPT 2015 BOC Presentation