

Local county commissioners and boards of health

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, recommendations for prevention, if any, that have been made and to share local team activities and accomplishments.

II. Role of the Chatham 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 2019, the Chatham County CFPT reviewed **9 child deaths** and **identified 2 system problems** and recommendations for future prevention efforts. Below are highlights:

Cause of Death	System Problem Identified	Recommendation	Proposed Action
Drowning and submersion while in swimming pool.	If the ladder would have been up and or a fence around the pool the child would not of been able to climb in the pool.	Fencing and ladders need to be around pools	Safety tips and education on pool safety to families.
Down's Syndrome, unspecified	None		
Person injured in collision between other specified motor vehicles.			
Respiratory distress syndrome of newborn.			
Assault by unspecified means. Injury of abdomen, lower back and pelvis.			
Respiratory distress syndrome of newborn. Pneumothorax originating in the perinatal			

period. Unspecified intraventricular (non traumatic) hemorrhage of newborn.			
Unspecified intraventricular (non traumatic) hemorrhage of newborn.			
Other ill- defined and unspecified causes of mortality. Unknown cause of mortality.			
Other ill- defined and unspecified causes of mortality. Unknown cause of mortality.	Risks of falling asleep holding a baby.	Safe sleep awareness for families with newborns.	Educational materials about safe sleep given to new parents.

IV. Chatham County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments

Examples:

- The annual CFPT Activity Summary was completed and sent by the date requested.
- An in-service on fire safety was provided for 15 local CFPT members.
- The team sponsored a tri-county workshop on child death scene investigation with guest speaker- Lisa Mayhew with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. There were thirty-five attendees.
- Twelve team members participated in a webinar on safe sleep 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 Chatham 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 919-542-8220, respectively, should you have any questions about this report.

Michael Zelek

Health Director

Michael Zelek

Chairperson

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