**Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**

**Richmond, Virginia**

Meeting of the State Child Fatality Review Team

**September 13, 2016**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

**Beitz, Lisa**, Hanover County Community Services Board

**Board, Heather**, Virginia Department of Health

**Coyle, Betty Wade**, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia

**Hunter, Katharine,** Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

**Miller-Hobbs, Corri**, VCU Health Systems – Safe Kids Virginia

**Parr, Nancy**, Commonwealth’s Attorney, City of Chesapeake

**Saimre, Maribel**, Virginia Department of Education

**Sobey, Kimberly**, Bland County Department of Social Services

**Foster, Robin,** Virginia College of Emergency Physicians

**Gormley, William, Chair,** Chief Medical Examiner

**Wilson, Mary,** Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

**Bowers, Jennifer**, Assistant Chief Medical Examiner

**Milteer, Regina,** American Academy of Pediatricians

**Members Absent:**

**Blumberg, Michael**, Medical Society of Virginia

**Phipps, Deron¸** Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

**Pickett, Jessica,** Fairfax County Fire & Rescue

**Rainey, Janet**, Division of Vital Records

**Rose, Rutherfoord**, Virginia Poison Center

**Sonenklar, Neil**, Virginia Treatment Center for Children

**Invited Guests:**

**Ayers, Carl,** Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services

**Staff:**

**Powell, Virginia,** Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

**Ayres, Allison**, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Virginia Powell called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and went over the agenda for the day.

**Announcements and Business**

Minutes from the July 12, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

**Katharine Hunter** announced that the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services received an expansion grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Department received a planning and implementation grant four years ago and this current effort will expand the system of care statewide. The plan is to develop high fidelity wrap-around services by providing these grant funds to localities through a Request for Applications process. Katharine will provide more information in November once more details have been solidified.

**Mary Wilson** announced that the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services is creating a 1-day training program on child fatality investigation. The interdisciplinary training will include personnel from Child Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Medical Examiners, prosecutors, and regional child fatality review teams. The interdisciplinary training is focused on improving the quality and depth of child fatality investigations. The team plans to provide training to each region of the state between late 2016 and 2017.

**Child Protective Services Update**

**Carl Ayers** announced the Three Branch Institute, the most recent of three grants to the Department of Social Services from the National Governor’s Association. The previous grant is currently working with Rutgers University to evaluate programs and processes determining child well-being resulting from Department of Social Services’ interventions.

The current project will focus on the prevention of child fatalities and an outgrowth of the National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities, and will try to answer the following question: what can we do as a service and response system to reverse current trends in child death in Virginia? Its core leadership team draws on representatives of all three branches of government: the judiciary, the legislative, and the executive.

The Three Branch Institute will target children under age 4, with a special focus on children under age 1. The four main goals of the initiative are (1) to increase understanding of risk and protective factors that are predictive or associated with child maltreatment and fatalities; (2) to assess the effectiveness of existing screening, safety and risk tools while also exploring the development of new or expanded policies, practices, and protocols; (3) to strengthen existing efforts to enhance child safety through primary prevention and family engagement strategies across systems; and (4) to enhance child welfare recruitment and retention efforts in order to create and sustain a culture of safety in the workforce. An initial workgroup is meeting on October 13, 2016 to identify and prioritize strategies needed to meet these goals.

**Finalize Recommendations from Poisoning Review and Initial Reviews for Child Drowning Deaths.**

The Team went into confidential session to finalize their recommendations and to begin their review of drowning cases in Virginia.

The next Team meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 8, 2016.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Virginia Powell and Allison Ayres*