



Brunswick County Health Services

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*David M. Stanley III, Executive Director
Health and Human Services Agency*

*Cris Harrelson, Director
Department of Health Services*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brunswick County Commissioners/Board of Health

FROM: Cris Harrelson, Health Director
Brunswick County Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)

SUBJECT: Local CFPT Annual Report

DATE: August 2, 2021

The North Carolina Statute Article 14, 7B-1406 and the CFPT Agreement Addenda with local health departments require Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams to advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist and submit a report annually to their local county commissioners and boards of health.

The purpose of the local CFPTs are to:

- Identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies
- Make and carry out recommendations for changes that will prevent future child deaths
- Promote understanding of the causes of child deaths

Attached is the Brunswick County CFPT Annual Report for calendar year 2020 for your review. Please feel free to contact me at 910-253-2298 if you have any questions.

Brunswick County CFPT Annual Report Calendar Year 2020

I. Introduction

In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPT) 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, and 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 Brunswick County Commissioners/Board of Health

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

III. Child Deaths - Cause, System Problem, Recommendation and Proposed Action


In 2020, the Brunswick County CFPT reviewed four child deaths and identified no system problems or recommendations for future prevention efforts. Causes of death included premature birth, brain tumor and suicide. There were less reviews in 2020 than in previous years as Brunswick County had no child deaths in the first quarter of 2019 and the 4th quarter child death data was delayed from the State resulting in three deaths being reviewed in February of this year which will be included in the 2021 annual report.

IV. Brunswick County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments

- a. Medication lockboxes were distributed to clients with small children.
- b. Smoke detectors were issued to families in need.
- c. Pak n' Plays were issued to families in need.
- d. Team members attended the Local CFPT Educational Webinars offered in May and June.
- e. Healthy Choices, Healthy Families – Health Services and Social Services staff continue to offer programming to address issues with substance use disorders and families with babies being born addicted. Issues include safe sleeping habits, no crib, and co-sleeping. Family planning options are also discussed. The target area for this one-hour class is pregnant women who are using drugs, people who have a drug-addicted baby, or people who are trying to get their child back. Anyone can refer someone to the class, including the courts and DSS. Classes are offered twice every month. The training is voluntary although the court system can choose to require attendance.

V. Conclusion

Thank you to the members of the Brunswick 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 Cris Harrelson (910-253-2298) or Cherie Browning, Chairperson (910-253-2319) should you have any questions about this report.



Health Director



Date



Chairperson



Date