



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Regional Child Fatality Review Teams

Protection Program, Division of Family Services



Overview of Child Fatality Review

One team in each of Virginia's five regions.



Teams are made up of various providers and professions involved in protecting children's health and safety (CPS, LE, CA, OCME, Pediatricians, etc.).



Child Fatality Review (CFR) is a prevention-oriented process. CFR Teams seek to understand the "how" and "why" surrounding the death to prevent future deaths.



A child's death is a community tragedy and responsibility does not rest in any one place.

Restructuring

Now organized and facilitated by VDSS home office staff.

New criteria for deaths reviewed (details on next slide).

Improving recommendations through targeted reviews.

New Criteria:



- **Child Fatality investigation must be completed and closed.**
- **Clear of any criminal investigation/free of any pending court action.**
- **Open Department of Social Services referral/case at the time of the fatality.**
- **Valid or invalid Child Protective Services report within last 12 months.**
- **Child died while in foster care (not from natural death and no complaint in foster home).**
- **Child died in foster care on a trial home placement.**
- **Foster care case involving decedent or decedent's siblings was closed within the last 24 months.**

Forecasted Outcomes

- **To enhance the quality of the review process.**
- **To enhance the quality of the recommendations that are developed.**
- **Increase capacity across programs within VDSS to strengthen prevention work.**

Questions?

Brandi Peterson, Child Fatality Prevention Initiative Coordinator
brandi.peterson9@dss.virginia.gov

Carley Lansden, Child Fatality Specialist
carleya.lansden@dss.virginia.gov

Shannon Hartung, Protection Program Manager
shannon.hartung1@dss.virginia.gov