



# ***CCPT/CFPT Annual Report to the Durham County Board of Health***

*Cheryl Scott, MN/MPH, RN*

# Introduction



Community Child Protection Team (CCPT)  
Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)

- Review relevant cases
- Identify systemic gaps and issues
- Make recommendations to local and state leaders



# Statutory Establishment and Obligations

Procedures established by the county's DSS Director under *G.S. 7B-1409*

## CCPT

### *Case Reviews*

Child protective services died as a result of suspected abuse or neglect

### *AND*

Report of abuse or neglect has been made or recipient of child protective

### *OR*

Services within the previous 12 months



# Roster Requirements and Participants

North Carolina General Statutes §7B-1407

## CCPT-CFPT

**The DSS Director and a member of the director's staff**

- Director William “Ben” Rose/Interim Directors Sarah Bradshaw, Assistant Director Jovetta Whitfield



**A local law enforcement officer appointed by the board of county commissioners**

- Jonny Friedrick, Durham Police Department

# Roster Requirements and Participants

North Carolina General Statutes §7B-1407

## CCPT-CFPT

The superintendent of each local school administrative unit or designee

- Michael Somers

A member of the county board of social services, appointed by the chair of that board

- Janice Paul



# Roster Requirements and Participants

North Carolina General Statutes §7B-1407

## CCPT-CFPT

**A local mental health professional**

- Jennifer Meade, Alliance

**The local guardian ad litem coordinator or the coordinator's designee**

- Shirley Harley-Smith



# Roster Requirements and Participants

North Carolina General Statutes §7B-1407

## CCPT-CFPT

**The director of the local department of public health**

- Public Health Director - Rodney Jenkins

**A local health care provider, appointed by the local board of health**

- Beth Herold, Katherine Aviano (Duke CANMEC)



# Roster Requirements and Participants

Local Teams that review the records of additional child fatalities shall include the following five additional members:

## CCPT-CFPT

**An emergency medical services provider or firefighter appointed by the board of county commissioners**

- James Groves

**A district court judge appointed by the chief district court judge in that district**

- Judge Clayton Jones, Jr.





# Roster Requirements and Participants

Local Teams that review the records of additional child fatalities shall include the following five additional members:

## CCPT-CFPT

**A county medical examiner, appointed by the Chief Medical Examiner**

- Michael Artalejo

**A representative of a local child care facility or Head Start program, appointed by the director of the county department of social services**

- Vacant seat



# Roster Requirements and Participants

Local Teams that review the records of additional child fatalities shall include the following five additional members:

## CCPT-CFPT

A parent of a child who died before reaching the child's eighteenth birthday to be appointed by the board of county commissioners

- Keith Helmer

The Team Coordinator (Cheryl Scott) shall serve as an ex officio member of each Local Team that reviews the records of additional child fatalities



# Roster Requirements and Participants

Local Teams that review the records of additional child fatalities shall include the following five additional members:

## CCPT-CFPT

The board of county commissioners may appoint a maximum of five additional members to represent county agencies or the community at large to serve on any Local Team

- Kibwe G. MuDiwa, Charles Wood, Christy Malott

Each Local Team shall elect a member to serve as chair

- Christy Malott



# Summary of identified systemic issues



- Many infant deaths in Durham appear related to unsafe sleep environments.
- In 2022, there was a lack of health insurance for many parents of children in the child welfare system.
- Community access to low/no-cost grief counseling after deaths of infants or youth for families appears to be limited, not easily accessible, and/or not well advertised.
- The number of young children accidentally accessing Fentanyl in homes is increasing, leading to death or near-death experiences for children.

# Summary of identified systemic issues



- Language and cultural barriers may limit the ability of immigrant families and individuals to access services.
- The SAI Policy requires DSS to review/screen all reports regarding SAI and investigate (even when a medical provider does not suspect abuse or neglect) and determine whether to act. Action is not warranted in all cases but does still require the expenditure of resources and governmental contact with families.
- Youth in Durham continue to die from unnecessary gun violence.

# Summary of identified systemic issues



- There continues to be a lack of affordable housing for families in Durham, and the Team has noticed a connection between a lack of stable housing and infant deaths due to unsafe sleeping conditions
- The professionals who work on issues related to child welfare and public health have highly stressful jobs and need to be well-supported for the benefit of those professionals and the individuals and families they serve
- Children continue to die in car accidents related to substance impairment and lack of appropriate restraints

# Recommendations



It is recommended that the joint Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) and Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) of Durham County convene a subcommittee to explore strategies and solutions to reduce infant mortality rates and improve safe sleep practices within the community.

To support and continue funding for the valuable resources of a Family Navigator. The Family Navigator serves as a liaison between DSS, DJJ, and the Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organization (LME-MCO) and acts as a liaison for families receiving child welfare services and are engaged with or needed to be linked with other systems of care within the community.

# Recommendations



*Additional details can be accessed through the report that was distributed to the board.*



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**Cheryl Scott, MN/MPH**

Thank You!



Live. Grow. *Thrive.*