



FATALITY REVIEW: **CONSIDERATIONS FOR PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Telling Each Story to Save Lives Nationally



Prioritizing Personal Wellbeing

The content of today's meeting may include information about individual or aggregate fetal, infant, or child deaths. This may evoke strong feelings or other distress. Please prioritize your own wellbeing during this meeting, even if you need to step away from the meeting. Contact the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 via phone or text for additional support.

A woman with curly hair, wearing a bright blue jacket, is shown in profile, looking out over a cityscape. The background is a blurred view of buildings and a cloudy sky. The overall mood is contemplative and forward-looking.

10 Steps to Effective Reviews

Successful fatality review teams implement a consensus-driven and consistent structure that focuses on prevention. The 10 steps covered in this presentation provide a strong foundation for a successful fatality review process.

PEOPLE CRAVE CONSISTENCY

Step 1: Be Prepared



SET CONSISTENT MEETINGS

Set quarterly meetings for the entire year. It is better to cancel a meeting than scramble to schedule one. Develop an agenda that is always used.



DEVELOP TEAM AGREEMENTS

Implement and follow team agreements that outline expectations about participating in meetings, information sharing, data collection and prevention.

TRAIN AND ORIENT MEMBERS

Step 2: Start from the Same Place

- Teams should be retrained at least every three years.
- Create a new team member orientation packet that includes an overview of the team, expectations of members, specific data collection needs, and prevention goals.
- Develop a process for team members to notify team leadership about potential guests so they can be prepared.





STEP 3: EYES ON THE PRIZE

PREVENTION

- Fatality review teams are encouraged to catalyze prevention.
- Teams that focus on prevention are most successful.
- Ask “How does this contribute to prevention” when the team is stuck.
- Keep the mission/vision of the team visible during the meeting.
- Revisit mission and vision every few years.

SHARE, QUESTION AND CLARIFY

STEP 4: CURIOSITY LEADS TO GREATER UNDERSTANDING

Discuss Case Information

Have each team member share what they know about the death including history with the child and family, how the agency responded to the death, and any delivery of services to the family or community.

Clarify Conflicting Information

Team members may have conflicting information. Discuss these conflicts with open-ended questions. Use the Adult NFR-CRS data dictionary to identify primary sources of data.



Prevention Activities

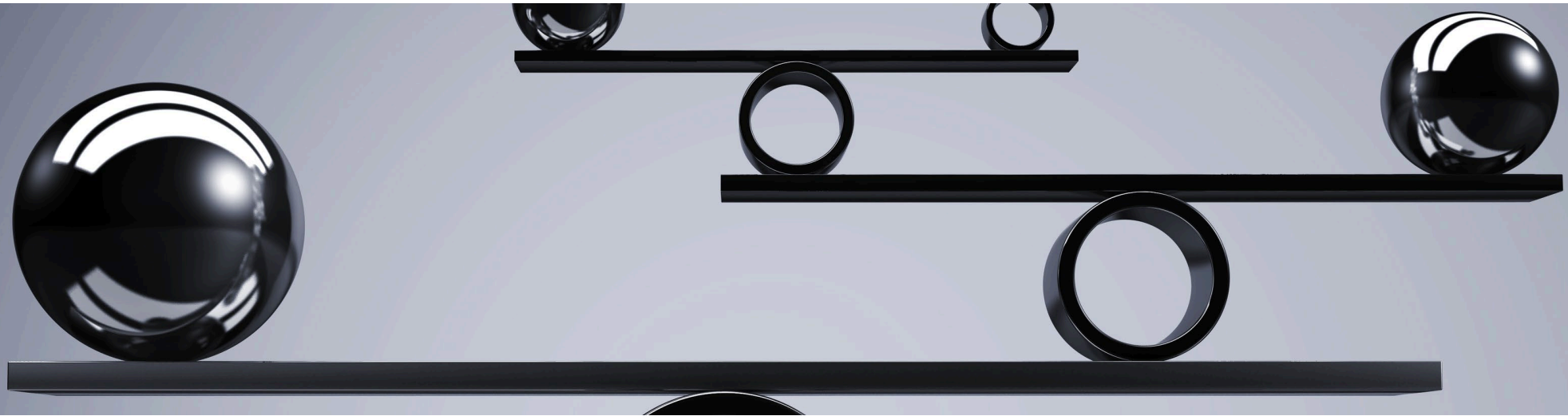
Create findings for each case that will ultimately drive prevention recommendations.

Develop Standard Questions

Create a standard list of questions that can be discussed during each case review. This will ensure all cases are discussed the same way.

FINDINGS SUPPORT PREVENTION

STEP 5: FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM



FINDINGS FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM

Findings allow the team to target very specific systems gaps and highlight successes. This is the power in a multidisciplinary review.



RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDE SOLUTIONS

Once every 12-24 months, gather a group of professionals to review the findings and generate formal prevention recommendations.

THE SHIFT TO FINDINGS

Moving From Recommendations to Findings

Create Findings

Findings are objective facts about the case that identify key risk and protective factors.

Review Findings

Assemble a broad group of partners to review findings to identify opportunities for prevention.



Prevention Activities

Hand-off prevention recommendations to partners and evaluate implementation.

Write Recommendations

Use that same group of partners to write prevention recommendations ensuring unintended consequences are considered.

Paint a Complete Picture

STEP 6: INCORPORATE COMMUNITY CONTEXT

- Understanding the context in which a person lived and how it impacted their health and wellbeing is crucial to making fatality review findings and systems-level prevention strategies.
- Gather information about how community factors, such as access to health care services and community resources, may influence individual deaths.
- Use supplemental data sources, if appropriate.
- Ensure the team has a common language.
- Utilize the Life Stressors section of Adult NFR-CRS to help guide discussion.



Action Steps

Combine multiple action steps for a comprehensive approach

Consider the representativeness of your fatality review team

Review representative sample of deaths

Consider neighborhood & community context

Engage with families and community

Focus the conversation on systems

Identify strengths, not just deficits

Make findings and recommendations at multiple levels

Analyze and disseminate data



STEP 7: ADDRESS CONFLICT

Proactive Facilitation

- Standardize team process and procedures to ensure team members feel comfortable sharing information.
- Develop a key question, “How does this contribute to prevention” to help redirect the team.
- Give team members an opportunity to express their feelings respectfully.

Learn More, Learn Together

STEP 8: SEEK EDUCATION



- Use team meetings as a mechanism for training by identifying common training priorities and use team meetings for this work.
- Ask team members to present on topics that are relevant to the team. This is a great strategy for engaging team members.
- Use professional organizations, recorded webinars and other resources for training.



Team-Based Resiliency

Team health is contagious. Focus on how the team relates to each other to reduce friction.



Role of Culture

Culture drives actions, beliefs, and norms. Focus on creating a safety culture.



Team Strategies

Implement strategies that help the team learn together, fail quickly, and collectively problem solve.



Individual Strategies

Support individual needs through self-care strategies. Ensure that physical, emotional, and spiritual needs are met.



Resources

Team Health is Contagious: Strategies for Fatality Review Teams



STEP 9: TEAM HEALTH



Adult NFR-CRS

Adult NFR-CRS is a web-based data system available to SMRC's for data collection, entry, and analysis.



Multidisciplinary Data Collection

Information from death scene investigations, medical and social history, and military service can be documented.



Standardized Reports and Dashboards

Standardized reports, including Individual and cumulative responses for the SCRAP are available. Tableau dashboards will be available in Summer 2025.



Data Use Agreement

DUA will be facilitated and signed by MPHI and the home agency for the SMRC. Adult NFR-CRS cannot be used until DUA is completed.



Connect with the National Center

Reach us at SMRC@ncfrp.org for questions or technical assistance.



**Step 10: Data Collection,
Entry, and Analysis**



CONTACT INFORMATION



2395 Jolly Rd., Suite 120
Okemos, MI 48864



Phone: 800-656-2434



SMRC@ncfrp.org



www.ncfrp.org