

# Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) & Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) – Educational Review

Union County Human Services Board Meeting  
April 8, 2024



# Child Fatality Prevention Teams

- Established in 1993 by NC State Statute § 7B Article 14
- One Team in Every County
- Recommendations are shared with local policy makers & the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention Team, which incorporates local information into recommendations made to the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force.
- Union County uses a combined CFPT & CCPT structure which is co-chaired by the health director and DSS director and meets quarterly.

# Child Fatality Prevention Teams

- Local CFPTs review medical examiner reports, death transcripts, police reports, and other records for deceased county residents under age 18 whose fatalities are not due to abuse and neglect.
- Members discuss outcomes of services and circumstances surrounding the child's death and make recommendations as needed.
- Purpose
  - identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies;
  - make recommendations for changes that will prevent future child deaths; and
  - promote understanding of the causes of child deaths.
- Findings are used to determine trends, target prevention strategies, identify family and community needs, and support community agencies in their services for children and families.
- Local team recommendations are forwarded to the state team in order to make recommendations to the State Child Fatality Task Force.

# Community Child Protection Teams

A group of community representatives who promote a community-wide approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect. Local teams identify and respond to gaps in the county's prevention/protection response, maximizing the use of limited resources.

- Review active cases in which abuse, neglect, or dependency is found and that are:
  - selected from categories defined by the team
  - brought for review at the specific request of a team member
  - brought for review at the initiative of the director of the department of social services
- Review fatalities, including:
  - fatalities suspected to have resulted from child abuse, neglect or dependency
  - fatalities where the child or the child's family had received child welfare services within 12 months of the child's death
- Report to the Board of County Commissioners and the community about the status of families in the community
- Create an Annual CCPT End of the Year Report

# Local CFPT/CCPT Members

Core membership:

- County DSS Director
- Law Enforcement Officer
- District Attorney
- Community Action Agency
- School Superintendent
- DSS Board Member
- MH Professional
- Local Guardian Ad Litem
- County Health Director
- Local health care provider

Local Teams that review the cases of additional fatalities shall also include the following:

- EMS/Firefighter
- District Court Judge
- Medical Examiner
- Childcare facility/Headstart
- Parent

Note: A maximum of five additional members can be appointed to represent any discipline.

# Future Changes to the NC Child Fatality Prevention System

- Section 9H.15. of Session Law 2023-134; Goal of strengthening the Child Fatality Prevention System.
- Changes will take place during FY2025 (generally 1/1/25) with additional guidance & training forthcoming
- Highlights of future changes:
  - There will be a new State Office of Child Fatality Prevention at the Division of Public Health/ DHHS with staff whose primary role is to provide training, tools, resources, and technical assistance to help local review teams.
  - Instead of having both CCPTs AND CFPTs, there will be ONE “local team” with nearly the same membership as current CFPTs.
  - This new unified local team will not be required to review all child deaths but rather to review certain categories of deaths.
  - Starting July 1, 2025, information from required reviews will be collected via use of a national data system.
  - There is some additional funding for local teams.
  - The duties of the local DSS director and the local health director are largely the same as current statutory roles

# 2023 Union CFPT/CCPT Reports

A nighttime aerial photograph of a small town. In the center, a large, multi-story building with a prominent clock tower rises above the rooftops. The town is built on a hillside, with streets and other buildings visible in the background and foreground. The sky is dark, and the town is illuminated by streetlights and building lights.

# Questions

