

Welcome to

The California Child Death Review Toolkit

*Kit de herramientas para la revisión de muertes infantiles de California
(Interpretación al español comenzará pronto)*

THE TRAINING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY! WHILE YOU'RE WAITING...

 **Icebreaker Question**
(answer in the chat)

There are 25 hours in the day, how do you spend the extra hour?



Survey & Certificate of Completion

Available following the training.

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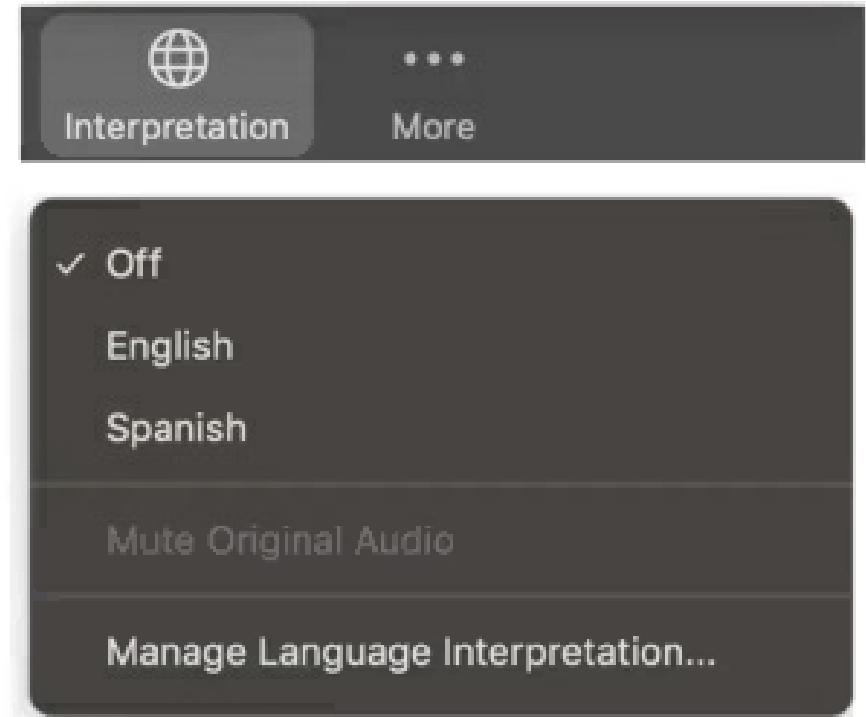
INTERPRETACIÓN AL ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE!

Today's training will be in both English and Spanish.

La capacitación de hoy será en español y inglés.

Click the "Interpretation" icon in your toolbar;
select "Spanish."

Seleccione el ícono "Interpretation" de las opciones al debajo de su pantalla. Elige la opción "Spanish."



Hi, We're CalTrin!

Who we are

- The California Training Institute
- Funded by the State of California, Dept. of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to support child abuse prevention through professional development and extended learning opportunities.
- Designed for staff of family strengthening and child abuse prevention organizations in California, including FRCs, CAPCs, CBOs, and other child and family serving systems.

What we offer

- Live webinars & small group training
- Virtual, self-paced courses
- Job aids & other resources



UPCOMING TRAININGS

mark your calendars!

Visit caltrin.org to view and register for upcoming webinars or workshops



Each Wednesday in April – Child Abuse Prevention Month webinar series



April 16: Protective Factor of the Month: Concrete Support



April 21: Reflective & Trauma-Informed Supervision



April 28: Building Inclusive Leadership: Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



May 6: CalKIDS Overview



May 7: Use of Self-Assessment Tools in Coaching

Before We Begin...

DURING



Access your notetaking slides now! The link can be found in the chat.



Review interactive features for today's session. Locate the controls on the toolbar at the bottom of your screen.



This presentation is being recorded.



External AI assistants are not allowed in CalTrin trainings due to California privacy laws.

AFTER



Complete the survey at the end of this webinar to receive your Certificate of Attendance.



A follow-up email will be sent to all participants within two days.



The California Child Death Review Toolkit

Presented by Stephanie Biegler & Stuart Oppenheim





Stephanie Biegler

Critical Incidents Citizen Review Panel member since 2017
Retired Chief Program Officer
Child Abuse Prevention Center



Stuart Oppenheim

Director Emeritus
Child and Family Policy Institute of California



Our Agenda

- **Overview of Citizen Review Panels (CRP)**
- **California's Critical Incidents CRP (CI CRP)**
- **CI CRP Areas of Focus**
- **Development of the Child Death Review Team (CDRT) Toolkit**
- **Why CDRTs matter**
- **Review of CDRT Toolkit**
- **CDRT Resources**
- **Questions**

What are Citizen Review Panels?

Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) were established by federal statute and implemented in 1996 as part of the **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)**.

CRPs evaluate the extent to which State and local agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities under:

- the State's CAPTA Plan;
- child protection standards under federal and state law; and
- any other criteria the CRP membership considers important to ensuring the protection of children.

How are CRPs Operationalized in California?

Beginning in 2017, California empaneled three new statewide volunteer groups to serve as its new Citizen Review Panels:

- **Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect CRP**
- **Children and Family Services CRP**
- **Critical Incidents CRP**

These current panels have the ability to select their areas of focus (e.g., research and activities) and make recommendations for improvement to the state within these topic areas.

Critical Incident Citizen Review Panel Mission

Promote cross-systems investigations at the state and local level of the causes of child abuse and neglect fatalities and near-fatalities to identify and recommend the adoption of actions that will reduce the occurrence of preventable child fatalities and near-fatalities.

Critical Incident Citizen Review Panel

Areas of Focus

Since 2017, the CI CRP has been concerned about three circumstances:

- The absence of a state-level Child Death Review structure to provide statewide oversight of child fatalities**
- The need for consistent, reliable, accurate statewide data related to child fatalities and near-fatalities**
- The lack of guidance for the establishment and maintenance of effective local Child Death Review processes**

Critical Incident Citizen Review Panel

Action Steps

- Since 2017, the CI CRP has annually made recommendations to the California Department of Social Services to address these concerns
- Areas beyond the control of the CI CRP
 - The establishment of a state-level Child Death Review structure relies on a willing state administration that has yet to appear
 - The collection of consistent, reliable, accurate statewide data related to child fatalities and
- An area that the CI CRP believed they could affect:
 - Guidance for the establishment and maintenance of effective local Child Death Review processes through the establishment

Critical Incident Citizen Review Panel CDRT Toolkit Goal

Promote a review process that contributes to a better understanding of the systemic factors that contribute to child fatality or near-fatality events and supports the identification of factors that could prevent future harm.

CDRT Toolkit Development

- 2020—Decision to develop Toolkit
- 2021—Surveyed California Counties to gauge status and needs of local CDRTs
 - Findings:
 - **Inconsistent understanding of CDRTs' role in responding to a child fatality**
 - **Wide variation in how CDRTs operate**
 - **Challenges in collecting and monitoring child fatality data**
- 2021—Key Informant Interviews for targeted follow-up from survey
- 2021-2022—Research national sources
 - National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention
- 2023—Released CDRT Toolkit in September
 - Living Document—continually updated with new resources

How Can the CDRT Toolkit Help?

<https://cfpic.org/what-we-do/citizen-review-panels/cdrt-toolkit/>





**California Child Death
Review Team Toolkit**
September 2023

Why Are CDRTs Important?

Primary Prevention

Improved Agency Systems

**Improved Identification,
Counting, and Reporting**

**Improved Communication
Among Agencies**

Review

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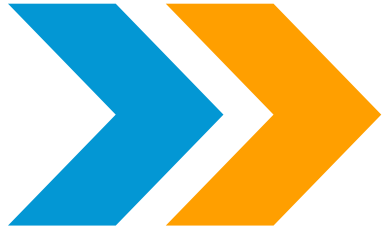
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CDRT Operating Principles



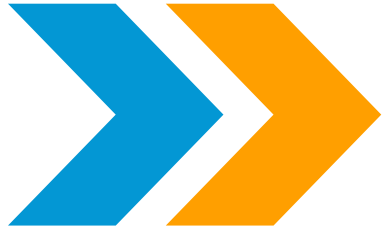
- **The death of a child is a community responsibility.**
- **A child's death is a sentinel event that should urge communities to identify other children at risk for illness or injury.**
- **A death review requires multidisciplinary participation from the community.**
- **A review of case information should be comprehensive.**
- **A review should lead to an understanding of risk factors.**
- **A review should contribute to a better understanding of the systemic factors that contributed to the child fatality or near-fatality and the identification of factors that failed to prevent it.**

CDRT Objectives



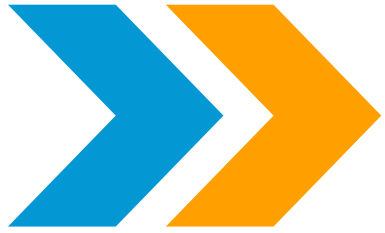
- **Ensure the accurate identification and uniform, consistent reporting of the cause and manner of every child's death**
- **Improve communication and enhance coordination efforts**
- **Improve agency participation in child death investigation**
- **Improve the transfer of evidence and information from all emergency responders to strengthen criminal investigation and support prosecution of severe maltreatment and homicide**
- **Improve delivery of supportive and preventive services**
- **Identify systemic barriers, risk factors, and trends associated with child fatalities and near-fatalities to better advocate for change and increase public awareness**
- **Identify better ways to coordinate emergency response protocols across agencies**
- **Improve data collection and coordination**

Legal Basis



- **Federal Statutory Authority**
 - **CAPTA Reauthorization of 1993**
 - **Title IV-E of the Social Security Act**
- **State Statutory Authority**
 - **California Penal Code 11174.32 et seq**
 - **Link in Appendix A of CDRT Toolkit**

Transparency and Confidentiality



In 1987, Sections 830 and 10850.1 were added to the State Welfare and Institutions Code and provided specific authorization allowing multidisciplinary child abuse teams to receive information related to incidents of child abuse and information that could be relevant to the prevention, identification, or treatment of child abuse.

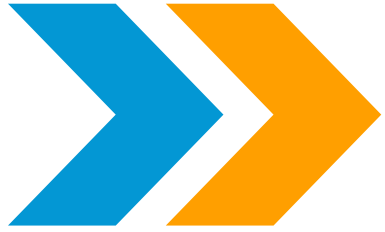
In 1988, Section 18961 of the Welfare and Institutions Code was amended to allow qualified persons not serving as standing members of such teams to be deemed a part of the team as necessary and to receive and disclose information relevant to cases as needed

Funding and Resources



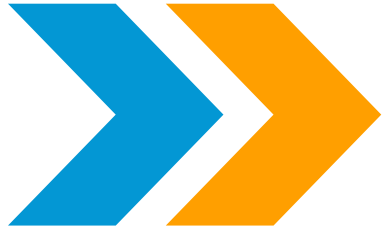
- **No legislated budgetary allocation of statewide or local financial support for CDRTs**
- **CDRTs can be funded through a variety of sources, including:**
 - **The County Children’s Trust Fund in counties that have established a commission for the distribution of funds under California Welfare and Institutions Code 18965 and 1896**
 - **Direct funding from the County Board of Supervisors**
 - **Direct funding from the County Health and/or Human Services Agency**
 - **Federal funds and/or grants targeted to the reduction of fatal family violence and/or child health and safety, including grants from the Center for Disease Control**
 - **State funds and/or grants targeted to the reduction of fatal family violence and/or child health and safety**
 - **Community foundation grants**

Team Members and Roles



- **Multi-Disciplinary Representation**
 - **California Penal Code Section 1174.32 (c) includes a nonexclusive list of core multi-disciplinary members**
- **CDRT Leadership**
- **Support Staff**
- **CDRT Champion**

Review Process



- **Case Selection Criteria**
- **Information Necessary for Reviews**
- **Access to Information**
- **Case Review Process: Three Stages**
- **Conducting Effective Reviews**
- **Individual Case Reports**

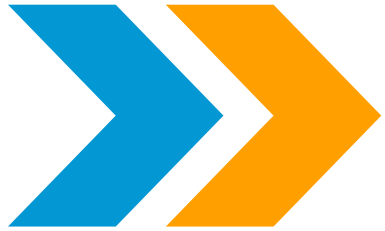
Data



- **State Reporting**
- **Local Data Collection**
- **Manner of Death vs. Cause of Death**

Annual Reports

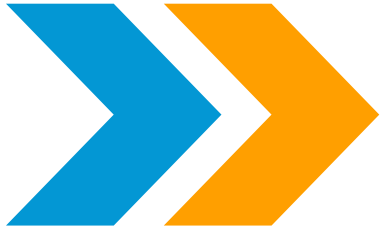
The annual report compiles information from individual cases and takes a more systemic view of the incidence of child fatality in the county or jurisdiction, including:



- An aggregate description of the causes of child fatalities and contributing risk factors
 - Descriptions of the services provided or the services identified as needed but not available
 - Recommendations for new services or referrals
 - Recommendations and actions taken for the prevention of other deaths
 - Factors affecting the quality of case review meetings
-
- Other recommendations from the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention

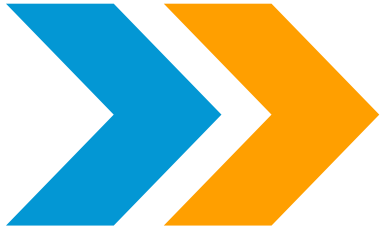
Distribution of Reports

Once approved by the Board of Supervisors, possible recipients for the distribution of the annual report include:



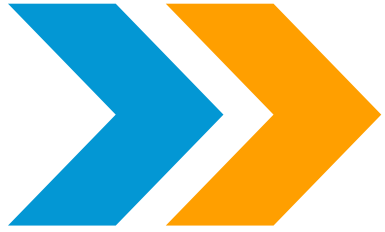
- **Local CDRT team members**
- **Media organizations**
- **Partners in the child welfare inter-agency team (human services, public health, health services, probation, education, regional centers)**
- **Legal system (courts, police, DA, county counsel)**
- **Service providers**
- **Academics/educators**
- **Advocacy organizations**
- **Community leaders**

Multi-County Approach for Small Counties



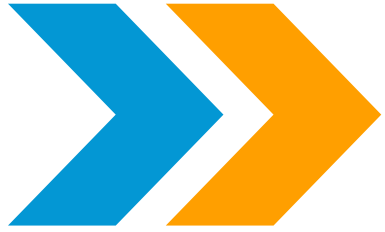
- **Small rural counties can benefit from working together to convene a regional collaborative CDRT that will review, and report on, fatalities and near-fatalities from several counties.**
- **The lack of numbers or resources in a small or rural county should not prevent the children in those counties from benefiting from the work of a well-functioning CDRT.**
- **In many circumstances, small counties share one medical examiner, which facilitates collaboration.**
- **County partnerships can also be created by counties served by the same regional hospital**

California Resource Inventory



- **CDRT By-Laws, Policies and Governance**
- **Meeting Management Tools**
- **Interagency Agreements**
- **Case Review Procedures**
- **Case Review Forms**
- **Record Request Tools**
- **CDRT Member Orientation**
- **Annual Report Protocol and Sample Reports**
- **CDRT Publications**
- **Other Tools**

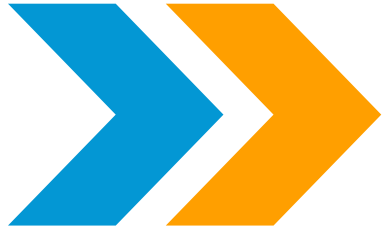
Operating Protocols, Policies, Procedures and Forms



Links to all documents are included in the Resource Inventory:

- Operating bylaws
- Internal management protocols for staff
- Confidentiality agreements that help ensure members and attendees respect information privacy
- Case review forms to track data
- Annual report formats to help CDRTs communicate child fatality data (including causes), systemic improvements that may reduce the number of fatalities, and recommendations for preventive strategies that communities can adopt
- Meeting agendas
- Pre-meeting case summary forms
- Case presentation formats and guidelines
- External communications materials (records requests, findings reports, publications)

Training and Technical Assistance Resources



- **Los Angeles County's Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) developed a comprehensive training program.**
- **CDRTs can access ICAN's training curriculum and that of other counties. Links to training materials are available in the Resource Inventory.**
- **CDRTs can also benefit from peer learning opportunities by attending neighboring CDRT meetings to observe and adopt effective practices.**
- **Additional training materials are available from the National Center for Child Fatality Review and Prevention and the Centers for Disease Control.**

Questions?

Thanks for joining us!

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Survey and certificate in the chat now
- Follow-up email with resources within two days
- Watch your inbox for the next issue of *CalTrin Connect*



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