



**DCY GUIDANCE LETTER 24-010
DIVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

TO: Directors and Administrators, Public Children Services Agencies

FROM: Diane Fox, Deputy Director of Training, Technical Assistance, and Practice

DATE: April 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Child Fatality Review Committee

Background

As discussed in the forums announced in [FCL 143](#), the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) is now implementing an improved process for reviewing abuse and neglect related child fatalities. As members of the [National Partnership for Child Safety \(NCPs\)](#), supported by [Casey Family Programs](#), the DCY is utilizing the Systems-Focused Critical Incident Review (SCIR) process developed by the University of Kentucky Center for Innovation in Population Health. The improved process provides a framework to accomplish several improvement goals:

1. Collect data to inform systemic change recommendations.
2. Evaluate the entire system in place around the family, caseworker, and agency involved in the critical incident.
3. Identify opportunities for improvement, implementing strategies for change, evaluating change over time, and implementing learnings.
4. Support a Culture of Safety for caseworkers, supervisors, and agencies.

National Partnership for Child Safety membership also provides access to data-sharing, coaching, crisis management/communication, and ongoing training.

In addition to this work, DCY is partnering with the Ohio Department of Health to evaluate current child fatality review processes to determine how practice may align with the goal to reduce duplicative reviews.



Purpose

As part of this ongoing collaborative effort and improvement to Ohio's child fatality review process, the DCY is convening a Child Fatality Review Committee.

The purpose of the Child Fatality Review Committee is four-fold:

1. Review aggregate child fatality data generated from the Safe Systems Improvement Tool (SSIT) and the SSIT Data Forms.
2. Identify systemic issues.
3. Make recommendations for systemic improvement(s).
4. Provide feedback on the Child Fatality Review Process.

Minimally, the committee will meet twice a year; however, the committee's structure, including meeting cadence and membership may evolve through implementation.

The Child Fatality Review Committee members will be selected from those public children service agencies (PCSAs) expressing interest, with consideration given to including five to eight PCSAs, representing various county sizes and locations. An application process may be instituted depending upon the number of interested counties.

Contact

Should you have any questions and/or if your agency is interested in participating in the Child Fatality Review Committee, contact Megan.Stevens@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov by Wednesday, May 15, 2024.