
State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT) Committee

Friday, May 10, 2024

10:00 a.m.

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Virtual: Teams Meeting Platform

In Person Meeting Site: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Robert D. Moreton Building, Room M-100, First Floor
1100 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756

Agenda Item 1: Call to order, roll call, and welcoming remarks

Dr. Kenton Murthy, Chair, called the SCFRT Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Francesca Kupper, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) stated the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ms. Kupper provided logistical announcements, conducted the member roll call, and announced the presence of quorum.

Dr. Murthy welcomed committee members, staff, and members of the public in attendance.

Table 1: SCFRT Committee member attendance at the May 10, 2024, meeting.

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
Dr. Simi Abraham	Y	Ms. Diane MacLeod	N
Chief Michael Baldwin	N	Ms. Letty Martinez	N
Judge Shane Brassell	N	Ms. LaViza Matthews	Y
Dr. Kim Cheung	Y	Dr. Kenton Murthy, Chair	Y

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
Dr. Tara Das	Y	Ms. Angelica Powers	N
Ms. Kristi Elliott	Y	Dr. Jennifer Ross	Y
Ms. Madelyn "Maddie" Fletcher	Y	Ms. Kathryn Sibley	Y
Sheriff Christopher Forbis	N	Ms. Amy Smith	Y
Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney	Y	Captain Steven Tellez	N
Dr. Sanjuanita Garza-Cox	Y	Dr. Lawrence Thompson, Jr.	Y
Chief Michael Hayes, Vice Chair	N	Dr. Jeannine Von Stultz	Y
Ms. Kerrie Judice	Y	The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu	Y
Dr. Owais Khan	N		

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of February 9, 2024, draft meeting minutes

Dr. Murthy referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. Hearing none, Dr. Murthy called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2024, meeting.

Motion: Dr. Kim Cheung moved to approve the minutes as presented from the February 9, 2024, meeting. Dr. Lawrence Thompson, Jr. seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed with 15 yeas (Abraham, Cheung, Das, Elliott, Gabbert Charney, Garza-Cox, Judice, Matthews, Murthy, Ross, Sibley, Smith, Thompson Jr., Von Stultz, Wu), 0 nays and 1 abstention (Fletcher).

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of Open SCFRT positions

Dr. Murthy announced this agenda item provides the six permanent SCFRT members the opportunity to consider and vote on the open SCFRT Committee positions – child educator, Child Protective Services (CPS) specialist, Department of Public Safety (DPS) representative, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider, neonatologist, and pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect. Ms. Sarah Blezinger, Injury Prevention Coordinator, Injury Prevention Unit, DSHS, introduced each applicant: Ms. Katia Gonzalez for the child educator position; Ms. Lindsey Anzaldua and Ms. Robyn Muennink for the CPS specialist position; Sergeant Ryan Howard for the DPS representative position; Chief Michael Hayes, Chief Rachel Parker, Ms. Rebecca Wratten, and Mr. Tyler Moore for the EMS provider position; Dr. Davlyn Tillman for the neonatologist position; and, Dr. Melissa Kwan and Dr. Natalie Kissoon for the pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect position.

Ms. Kupper called on each of the six permanent members to record their individual vote for the child educator member position:

Dr. Tara Das voted for Ms. Katia Gonzalez. Ms. Madelyn Fletcher abstained. Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney voted for Ms. Katia Gonzalez. Ms. Letty Martinez was recorded as absent. Ms. Kathryn Sibley voted for Ms. Katia Gonzalez. The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu voted for Ms. Katia Gonzalez.

Ms. Kupper noted four votes approving the selection of Ms. Katia Gonzalez to the open child educator member position (T. Das, L. Gabbert Charney, K. Sibley, G. Wu), one abstention (M. Fletcher), and one absence (L. Martinez) and announced Ms. Katia Gonzalez was selected to fill the open child educator member position.

Ms. Kupper called on each of the six permanent members to record their individual vote for the CPS specialist member position:

Dr. Tara Das voted for Ms. Lindsey Anzaldua. Ms. Madelyn Fletcher abstained. Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney voted for Ms. Lindsey Anzaldua. Ms. Letty Martinez was recorded as absent. Ms. Kathryn Sibley voted for Ms. Lindsey Anzaldua. The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu voted for Ms. Robyn Muennink.

Ms. Kupper noted three votes approving the selection of Ms. Lindsey Anzaldua to the open CPS specialist member position (T. Das, L. Gabbert Charney, K. Sibley), one vote for the selection of Ms. Robyn Muennink (G. Wu), one abstention (M. Fletcher), and one absence (L. Martinez), and announced Ms. Lindsey Anzaldua was selected to fill the open CPS specialist member position.

Ms. Kupper called on each of the six permanent members to record their individual vote for the DPS representative member position:

Dr. Tara Das voted for Sergeant Ryan Howard. Ms. Madelyn Fletcher abstained. Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney voted for Sergeant Ryan Howard. Ms. Letty Martinez was recorded as absent. Ms. Kathryn Sibley voted for Sergeant Ryan Howard. The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu abstained.

Ms. Kupper noted three votes approving the selection of Sergeant Ryan Howard to the open DPS representative member position (T. Das, L. Gabbert Charney, K. Sibley), two abstentions (M. Fletcher and G. Wu), and one absence (L. Martinez), and announced Sergeant Ryan Howard was selected to fill the open DPS representative member position.

Ms. Kupper called on each of the six permanent members to record their individual vote for the EMS provider member position:

Dr. Tara Das voted for Chief Rachel Parker. Ms. Madelyn Fletcher abstained. Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney voted for Chief Michael Hayes. Ms. Letty Martinez was recorded as absent. Ms. Kathryn Sibley voted for Chief Michael Hayes. The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu abstained.

Ms. Kupper stated that there was not a quorum on this vote and consulted with ACCO Director Ms. Cassandra Marx as to next steps. Ms. Marx advised to conduct a revote.

Ms. Kupper called on each of the six permanent members to record their individual vote for the EMS provider member position:

Dr. Tara Das voted for Chief Rachel Parker. Ms. Madelyn Fletcher abstained. Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney voted for Chief Michael Hayes. Ms. Letty Martinez was recorded as absent. Ms. Kathryn Sibley voted for Chief Michael Hayes. The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu abstained.

Ms. Kupper announced again that there was not a voting quorum. Dr. Murthy asked permanent members whether they needed time to review the applicant materials and no permanent members responded. Dr. Murthy and Ms. Kupper agreed to move on to the next vote at this time.

Note: Later in the meeting, Ms. Marx announced, after committee rules review with Ms. Morgan Constantino, Attorney, Legal Services Division, HHSC, Chief Michael Hayes would be selected as the EMS provider position. Ms. Kupper noted two votes approving the selection of Chief Michael Hayes to the open EMS provider member position (L. Gabbert Charney, K. Sibley), one vote for the selection of Chief Rachel Parker (T. Das), two abstentions (M. Fletcher and G. Wu), and one absence (L. Martinez), and announced Chief Michael Hayes was selected to fill the open EMS provider member position.

Ms. Kupper called on each of the six permanent members to record their individual vote for the neonatologist member position:

Dr. Tara Das voted for Dr. Davlyn Tillman. Ms. Madelyn Fletcher abstained. Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney voted for Dr. Davlyn Tillman. Ms. Letty Martinez was recorded as absent. Ms. Kathryn Sibley voted for Dr. Davlyn Tillman. The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu voted for Dr. Davlyn Tillman.

Ms. Kupper noted four votes approving the selection of Dr. Davlyn Tillman to the open neonatologist member position (T. Das, L. Gabbert Charney, K. Sibley, G. Wu), one abstention (M. Fletcher), and one absence (L. Martinez), and announced Dr. Davlyn Tillman was selected to fill the open neonatologist member position.

Ms. Kupper called on each of the six permanent members to record their individual vote for the pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect member position:

Dr. Tara Das voted for Dr. Natalie Kissoon. Ms. Madelyn Fletcher abstained. Ms. Lori Gabbert Charney voted for Dr. Natalie Kissoon. Ms. Letty Martinez was recorded as absent. Ms. Kathryn Sibley voted for Dr. Natalie Kissoon. The Honorable State Representative Gene Wu voted for Dr. Melissa Kwan.

Ms. Kupper noted three votes approving the selection of Dr. Natalie Kissoon to the open pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect member position (T. Das, L. Gabbert Charney, K. Sibley), one vote for the selection of Dr. Melissa Kwan (G. Wu), one abstention (M. Fletcher), and one absence (L. Martinez), and announced Dr. Natalie Kissoon was selected to fill the open pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect member position.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation: National Fatality Review – Case Reporting System Focus on Data Quality

Dr. Murthy introduced Ms. Sasha Mintz, Senior Epidemiologist, National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention, who provided a PowerPoint presentation, "National Fatality Review – Case Reporting System Focus on Data Quality". Key points included:

- Overview of the National Fatality Review – Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS).
- Explanation of how data are used in research, policy, and prevention.
- Overview of challenges and persistent problem areas in data.
- Discussion of NFR-CRS Data Quality Initiative and Data Quality Summary Reports.
- Introduction of NFR-CRS version 6.1 and data quality features coming soon.

Ms. Mintz answered SCFRT Committee member questions. Dr. Murthy thanked Ms. Mintz for her presentation.

Agenda Item 5: Presentation: Joint Response to Child Abuse and Child Fatality Review Teams

Dr. Murthy introduced Ms. Meredith Boren, Director of Partner Relations, and Ms. Nicole Rosenbaum, Assistant Director of Partner Relations, Children’s Advocacy Center for North Texas (CACNT), who provided a PowerPoint presentation, “Joint Response to Child Abuse and Child Fatality Review Teams”. Key points included:

- Overview of Children’s Advocacy Centers (CAC), including history, network, and mandate.
- Introduction of CAC multidisciplinary teams.
- Explanation of CAC case criteria, CAC core services, and case review process.
- Overview of CACNT mental health services.
- Overview of CAC community education and outreach.
- Overview of CAC for Denton County.
- Overview of Denton, Jack, and Wise Child Fatality Review Teams (CFRTs).
- Explanation of collaboration between CAC and CFRTs related to response and prevention efforts.

Ms. Boren and Ms. Rosenbaum answered SCFRT Committee member questions. Dr. Murthy thanked Ms. Boren and Ms. Rosenbaum for their presentation.

Agenda Item 6: Member appreciation and certificates

Dr. Murthy provided certificates of appreciation for the following SCFRT Committee members: Ms. Kristi Elliott (Child Educator), Chief Michael Baldwin (Police Chief), Captain Steven Tellez (DPS Representative), Dr. Kim Cheung (Pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse), and Dr. Jeannine Von Stultz (Chief Juvenile Probation Officer) and thanked members for their service.

Agenda Item 7: Public comment

No public comment was received.

Agenda Item 8: Adjournment and Thank You

Dr. Murthy asked members to help identify possible resources for the remaining open SCFRT positions. Dr. Cheung asked about annual training conferences and Sarah Blezinger provided an announcement about an upcoming Injury Prevention Conference. Dr. Murthy noted the next SCFRT meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. August 9, 2024. Dr. Murthy adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Below is the link to the archived video recording of the May 10, 2024, SCFRT Committee meeting to view and listen for approximately, two years from date meeting is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule.

[State Child Fatality Review Team Committee Meeting](#)