



## COMMISSION TO ELIMINATE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FATALITIES

### TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

October 30, 2015, 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST

**Commissioners Attending via Telephone:** Chairman David Sanders, Amy Ayoub, Theresa Covington, the Hon. Bud Cramer, Susan Dreyfus, Dr. Wade Horn, the Hon. Patricia Martin, Michael Petit, Jennifer Rodriquez, and Dr. David Rubin

**Commissioners Absent:** Dr. Cassie Statuto Bevan and Marilyn Bruguier Zimmerman

**Designated Federal Officer:** Amy Templeman, acting executive director, attended the meeting.

**Conduct of the Meeting:** In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities held a teleconference meeting that was open to the public on October 30, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The purposes of the meeting were to discuss the content and structure of the Commission's final report, specifically:

- Discuss the outline for the second half of the report (Chapters 5 and 6) (<https://eliminatechildabusefatalities.sites.usa.gov/files/2015/08/DRAFT-Final-Report-Outline-for-10.30.pdf>)
- Discuss the draft of the Introduction and Chapter 1 (<https://eliminatechildabusefatalities.sites.usa.gov/files/2015/08/Draft-Final-Report-Intro-Chap-1-for-10.30.2015.pdf>)
- Discuss the draft of Chapters 2, 3, and 4, with a focus on recommendations (<https://eliminatechildabusefatalities.sites.usa.gov/files/2015/08/Draft-Final-Report-Chap-2-3-4-for-10.30.20152.pdf>)

#### Opening Remarks

Chairman Sanders introduced the meeting agenda (<https://eliminatechildabusefatalities.sites.usa.gov/files/2015/08/Meeting-Agenda-for-10.30.20151.pdf>). The overall goal of the meeting was to develop a solid sense of the final report from the Introduction through Chapter 4. Looking ahead, the November 12 teleconference should be a discussion of the entire draft report, while the two-day in-person meeting on December 7-8 is scheduled to be a review of the second or third full draft.

At the Chairman's request, the acting executive director described the content and goals of the different parts of the draft final report:

- The first half of the report [through Chapter 4] lays out the three core components essential to preventing child abuse and neglect fatalities, and these components form the national strategy.
- The second half looks at what happens when the three core components come together, and it describes the recommendations that would be needed so that communities could more effectively apply what we know to stabilize:
  - Chapter 5 lays out ways to implement stronger child protection methods based on looking at the whole child protection system, which includes CPS and the web of other stakeholders who work with CPS.
  - Chapter 6 is the other application chapter, focusing on developing new tools and strategies to apply what we know. The recommendations here present opportunities to collect and use data in new ways to improve decision-making and better protect children.
  - Chapters 7, 8, and 9 will address the needs of specific communities.
- The final section of the report will discuss implementation.

Chairman Sanders asked the Commissioners to comment on the content and note any content that is missing.

#### **Discussion of Introduction and Chapter 1**

Much of the discussion that followed centered on striking the appropriate balance between (1) strengthening CPS agencies to intervene and address current needs and (2) using a public health approach over the long term to build a broader child protection system to prevent and address the circumstances that lead to child abuse and neglect fatalities.

In addition to that discussion, one or more Commissioners expressed the following points:

- Section II should not be separated out from the section on core components because it implies that the recommendations in the Section II chapters are less important.
- There should be language about the root causes and the context in which child abuse and neglect occur.
- There is too much focus on title IV-E funding and not enough on Medicaid and the Maternal and Child Health block grant funding.
- A population health model refers to identifying the target population, engaging them, aligning the appropriate resources at the community level, delivering the resources, and measuring the outcomes.
- The report needs to acknowledge that CPS agencies need to draw on the expertise of other organizations and that the other organizations need to share the liability and accountability.
- The report should include some estimate of how much it would cost to respond appropriately to child abuse and neglect fatalities.
- There is not enough of an emphasis on child neglect fatalities; the emphasis on neglect should be increased in the report.

- On the first page of the Introduction, which describes an ideal and safe community, the bullet about children growing up in foster care should be deleted or significantly rewritten.

Chairman Sanders summarized the changes that would be made to the report's Introduction and Chapter 1 in order to respond to the Commissioners' comments:

- The language in the Introduction and Chapter 1 will be strengthened to better frame the entire report.
- The report should have one section that focuses on what a CPS-led child safety approach can do now to prevent child maltreatment fatalities, especially for those children currently known to CPS.
- The report should also include a section on how the population health model can be used for a longer term plan to prevent future child maltreatment fatalities by targeting services for those at highest risk, including infants and families who may not yet be known to CPS.

## Chapter 2

During the ensuing discussion, one or more Commissioners expressed the following points about Chapter 2:

- The report should define all the related groups that have some responsibility for child safety, including domestic violence services, courts, health care, and more. There may be a need to define the different kinds of responsibility, too, including legal, moral, and social responsibility.
- The report should address the responsibility of mandated reporters to report possible abuse or neglect.
- Any campaigns or laws that result in increased reporting of possible abuse or neglect must be accompanied by additional resources for CPS agencies so that they will be able to investigate the increased number of reports.

Chairman Sanders concluded the meeting by noting that the staff would have revised materials to the Commissioners for their review as early as the end of the following week. The next telephone meeting would be held on November 12.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



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David Sanders, Chairman, Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities  
3/14/2016