Child Death Review Committee

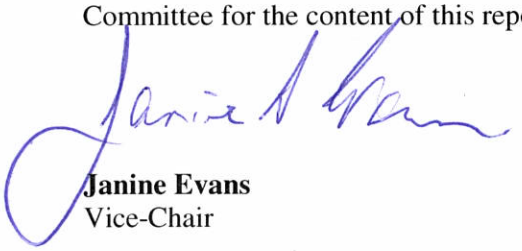
Annual Report 2016-17

Message from the Chairperson

I am pleased to submit the 2016-17 annual report for the Child Death Review Committee. This Committee is a category 3 entity and this report was prepared under my direction and in accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act.*

This past year the Committee focused primarily on case reviews and trend reports on specific causes of death and associated risk factors. Consultation with officials and staff of the Department of Justice and Public Safety and other government departments occurred as necessary in relation to cases and procedures.

As vice-chair of the Child Death Review Committee, I accept accountability on behalf of the entire Committee for the content of this report and actual results reported.



Janine Evans
Vice-Chair

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Overview

The Child Death Review Committee is a multi-disciplinary committee established pursuant to the *Fatalities Investigations Act.* This Committee was first appointed in March 2014 for a term of three years and has eight members. During fiscal year 2016-17, the Committee members were:

Ms. Ellen Oliver (Chairperson)
Ms. Janine Evans (Vice Chairperson)
Dr. Simon Avis (Ex-Officio)
Ms. Lorraine Burrage
Ms. Noreen Careen
Insp. Barry Constantine
Dr. Victoria Crosbie
Dr. Robert Morris

The Committee:

- reviews the facts and circumstances of child deaths, including stillbirths and neonatal deaths where maternal injury has occurred or is suspected;
- is required to review maternal deaths during or following pregnancy in circumstances that might reasonably be related to pregnancy;
- monitors trends in these deaths and determines whether further evaluation is necessary or desirable in the public interest; and,
- reports to the Minister on its findings and submits to the Chief Medical Examiner all records relevant to the review.

The Committee meets monthly if there are child deaths to review. All child deaths investigated by the Chief Medical Examiner are reviewed by the Committee. The reviews involve consideration of facts and information outlined in written reports.

Report on Performance

Issue: Compliance with the *Fatalities Investigations Act*

The Committee met eight times during the fiscal year and reviewed a total of 12 child deaths. Reports on each of these deaths was submitted to the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

Objective: By March 31, each year, the Child Death Review Committee will have reviewed child deaths in accordance with the *Fatalities Investigations Act*.

Measure: Child deaths reviewed in accordance with the *Fatalities Investigations Act*.

Indicators	Results
Meetings held as required to review child deaths referred from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.	Meetings were held as required to review deaths referred from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. There were eight meetings held during the fiscal year.
A report on each child death review is submitted to the Minister.	There were 12 child deaths reviewed and a report on each was submitted to the Minister.

Child death review records are submitted to the Chief Medical Examiner.	All 12 child death review records were submitted to the Chief Medical Examiner.
Child deaths reviewed collectively to identify trends, risk factors and recommendations for the prevention of child deaths.	Used the trend tracking system to generate reports identifying groups at risk and recommendations.
Recommendations from collective reviews are submitted to the Minister.	Recommendations from collective reviews were analyzed and drafted at the end of the fiscal year. These draft reports will be finalized submitted to the Minister in fiscal year 2017-18.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

The Committee has now been operational for three years. The Committee worked through operational issues, and established new procedures, and it will continue to review child deaths and to identify emerging trends. This is an opportunity for the Committee to make concrete recommendations to government departments that will guide them on how to address preventable child deaths.

The Committee will continue to work with various stakeholders to achieve continuous improvement in its operations and to obtain all the information it requires in fulfilling its mandate.

Financial Statements

The Child Death Review Committee does not have a separate budget. Expenses are captured under Administrative Support within the Department of Justice and Public Safety Budget.