

The Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel's Response to the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee's Annual Evaluation

The Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel (the Panel) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee's (LOIC) annual evaluation. The LOIC made seven recommendations overall that relate to the Panel's data tool, data dictionary and budgetary procedures. The panel overall generally agrees with Committee's recommendations and have been actively moving towards implementation.

I. Data Tool (Recommendations 3.1 and 3.2)

The Panel is currently reevaluating and changing the platform software for our data tool instrument to REDCap. During this process, we are carefully considering additional fields to capture recommendations and related timelines. The Panel has consistently made ongoing edits and changes to their current data tool. Similarly, various formats for presented Panel findings have been explored. It should be noted, all panel determinations are supported by data that is discussed with consensus determined amongst the panel members. Panel staff has recently began consulting with epidemiologists, provided through the Department for Public Health, to improve the data tool collection methods with the goal of enhancing data driven recommendations. It should be noted, the panel tries to make all recommendations actionable and measurable. However, given our limited authority it has been beyond the scope of the panel to establish timeframes for implementation.

II. Data Dictionary (Recommendations 3.3 and 3.4)

The Panel agrees that a data dictionary would be of great benefit to the newly developed data tool instrument. While there is not currently a data dictionary per se, there is a document that instructs users on each data element, including guidelines for how best to complete the data elements in the current tool. Through the development process within the REDCap instrument, a data dictionary will be available. We will cross reference the newly developed data tool with the referenced National CFRP data tool. At the conclusion of this process, the panel will discuss requesting assistance from the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention capitalizing on their expertise. The panel has engaged with the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention in the past, and the panel was previously aware of their tool. However, due to limitations related to staffing, it was decided that the national tool was beyond Kentucky Panel's abilities at the time. That may continue to be the case, but the Panel is more than willing to revisit the issue.

III. Budget (Recommendations 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7)

The Panel agrees with the above recommendations and will continue to work with the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet on developing a formal process of communication regarding the budgetary needs of the program.