

# Lincoln County Death Review Team Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N. Sales St., Merrill  
Room 156 – Land Services Conference Room

**Members Present:** Valerie Caylor, Jessi Rumsey, Kristin Bath, Mary Klade, Becky Dallman

**Partners Present:** Dr. Michael Clark, Melissa Nieman, Dale Bacher, Don Seubert, Jane Bentz, Ken Schneider, Brett Susa, Trina Knospe, Laurie Thiel

Agenda Item	
<b>1. Call to Order and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Caylor called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.</li></ul>
<b>2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No prior minutes to approve.</li></ul>
<b>3. Any changes in practice since last review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No update. Meeting not held since 2016.</li></ul>
<b>4. Closed Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Convened to closed session for the purpose of discussing confidential information relating to the unexpected deaths of specific children, pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(d) (considering strategy for crime detection or prevention); Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(f) (considering medical, social or personal histories of specific persons or preliminary consideration of the investigation of charges against specific persons which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or involved in such investigations); Wis. Stat. 48.981(7) (limiting public disclosure of child-specific information disclosed to child death review team); Wis. Stat. 146.82(2)(b) (restricting re-disclosure of medical information contained in records obtained pursuant to law); Wis. Stat. 48.78(2)(a) (restricting re-disclosure of information in records of child protective agency); and Wis. Stat. 48.396 (limiting disclosure of law enforcement records of children).</li><li>• Motion by Caylor to go into closed session allowing partner participation. All ayes, motion carried.</li><li>• Reviewed 6 cases.</li></ul>
<b>5. Open Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Motion by Caylor to resume open meeting session. All ayes, motion carried.</li></ul>

<p><b>6. Any action taken from closed session - discussion on prevention initiatives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential prevention initiatives may include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Providing basic wilderness survival skills as part of the school forest orientation/curriculum.</li> <li>○ Law enforcement to educate school age children on life safety first and the importance of being honest when they are conducting investigations.</li> <li>○ Handle with Care notifications - Coroner to notify schools, with parental permission, of potential needs for school age children after experiencing a loss.</li> <li>○ Incorporating See Something, Say Something into health class curriculum for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades to assist with mental health needs after a crisis or during a crisis investigation (help find that trusted adult to talk to). Get Raise Your Voice club involved with this initiative.</li> <li>○ Sharing a listing of mutual aid that is available across agencies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Review of Lincoln County death trends as noted by Coroner</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caylor provided information on 2023 accidental deaths trends. Falls were the leading cause. Dr. Clark stated that as a State, Wisconsin has a high fall rate and this is a topic of discussion with local and state agencies. Rumsey will follow-up with Erin Wells from ADRC on educational program opportunities, as an awareness campaign may need to be initiated.</li> <li>• Caylor stated that more information is needed from home health agencies on protocol for welfare checks when clients do not answer their phone or door. Bacher and Schneider stated that dispatch can add a contact list to a name or address card to assist with the notification process, as well as conduct welfare checks when requested. Rumsey stated that Social Services will call for a welfare check if a driver does not get an answer when picking up a client.</li> <li>• Klade stated that the State Ombudsman Program should be contacted when there are concerns over neglect as a leading or contributing cause of death/accidental death in long term care facilities. Klade will provide the group with contact information.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Add Public comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Next meeting date</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Adjourn</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion by Caylor to adjourn at 11:52 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.</li> </ul>

Recorder: Becky Dallman, 1/9/2024