

Muskingum County Child Fatality Review Board
 Review of 2003 Child Deaths
 Submit Date, April 2005

The Child Fatality Review Board of Muskingum County met on December 16, 2003 and again on February 15, 2005 at the Zanesville Muskingum County Health Department to review child deaths occurring in 2003. The Child Fatality Review Board reviewed a total of 12 child deaths and 3 fetal deaths. Attendee's were as follows:

BOARD MEMBER

Barry Donley
 Eric Lambes
 Judy King
 Vicki Whitacre MD
 Gloria Kieffer MSN RN
 Eric Martin
 Wes Elson
 Rod Hollingsworth
 Howard Marsh MD
 Corrie Marple

AGENCY

Ohio State Highway Patrol
 Zanesville Police Department
 Zanesville Muskingum Co. Health Dept.
 Zanesville Muskingum Co. Health Dept.
 Zanesville Muskingum Co. Health Dept.
 Muskingum Co. Prosecuting Attorney
 Muskingum Co. Sheriff
 Six County Mental Health
 Muskingum County Coroner
 Zanesville Muskingum Co. Health Dept.

Judy King, Board Chair, began the meeting with the announcement of her retirement and introduction of Corrie Marple, who will assume the Child Fatality Review Board Chair position for Muskingum County. The review began with discussion of the three fetal deaths of 2003. One fetus expired at 23 weeks gestation; the mother had received no standard prenatal care. One fetus expired at 35 weeks gestation due to a cord accident, the mother had received no standard prenatal care. The third fetus expired at 35 weeks gestation due to a cord accident, the mother had received six prenatal visits.

The child deaths reviewed by the team ranged in age from 2 hours to 17 years. Of the twelve child deaths ten were males two were females.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Congenital/Genetic	2	1	3
Premature	2	1	3
Suicide	2	0	2
Malignancies	2	0	2
Vehicular	1	0	1
Cardiac Arrest	1	0	1
Total	10	2	12

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After reviewing the causes of child death, the team concluded suicide seemed to be a growing problem in Muskingum County. Two 17 year old males committed suicide in 2003. There were thirteen suicides in the general population. The review team recommended the community be made aware of the warning signs of a suicide attempt.

As a result of the community's awareness of teen suicide, care teams have been established in area schools. West Muskingum School was the first to form a suicide awareness/prevention team. The schools' efforts are in conjunction with the Suicide Coalition of which Dr. Whitacre is a member. The school based care teams provide information about suicide as well as a place for teens to get help.

In addition to the care teams, the local newspaper ran several articles about suicide and depression. The articles listed suicide warning signs and community resources to prevent suicide. Articles were also published regarding the common causes and symptoms of depression. The articles informed the public that depression, left untreated, may lead to suicide. Several meetings and community events have taken place to better understand the causes of teenage suicide and suicide attempts.

Overall, the review team was able to access the majority of records needed to complete the review of child deaths. However, it is difficult and time consuming to obtain such records and the team is not always successful. Cases that cause considerable difficulty include: children that reside in Muskingum County but die outside the county, children that were born outside Muskingum County, children whose autopsies are not handled by the Muskingum County coroner. Obtaining the complete birth and death records of these cases is difficult. A network should be in place in every county to get these records to the appropriate review team. The process of child fatality review is important to the community but without complete records the reviews are inadequate.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrie Marple