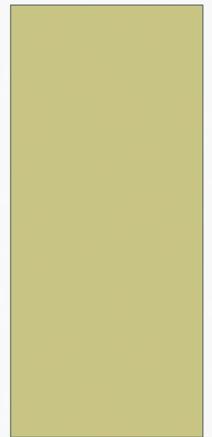


CHILD AND ELDER DEATH REVIEW TEAM MEETINGS:

THEIR PURPOSE FACILITATION AND OUTCOMES



PRESENTERS/PANEL

- **Laurie Fineman**
 - Regional Manager, Children's Services Division
- **Bobbie Garza**
 - Senior Investigator, District Attorney's Office
- **Jerry Fineman**
 - Supervising Deputy District Attorney
- **Ryan Uhlenkott**
 - Deputy Director, Children's Services Division &
 - Regional Manager, Adult Services Division

PURPOSE OF DEATH REVIEWS

- To review the child and elder deaths that occur;
- To better assess the types and causes of deaths;
- To develop education, prevention, and prosecution strategies;
- To improve the coordination of services for families;
- To work toward improved response and prosecution of child and elder death cases.

GOALS OF DEATH REVIEWS I

- Provide a confidential forum to examine deaths;
- Prevent future fatalities;
- Identify patterns that lead to outcomes;
- Determine if deaths are preventable;
- Improve communication and collaboration;
- Identify system gaps and develop improvement solutions;
- Create and maintain a standardized database;

GOALS OF DEATH REVIEWS II

- Use the database to track patterns, trends, monitor programs and recommend long-term interventions;
- Increase physician and coroner awareness and responsibility in reporting suspicious deaths;
- Increase public awareness;
- Prosecute and improve prosecution;
- Positively impact the safety and health of Riverside County residents.

GOVERNING PENAL CODE SECTIONS

- Elder abuse (Penal Code Sections 11174.5-11174.9)
- Child abuse (Penal Code Sections 11174.32-11174.35)



GENERAL USEFULNESS

- Their focus on the causes of elder/child fatalities;
- The opportunity to collaborate with other professionals;
- As a way to spot trends and start thinking about intervention strategies;
- To follow-up on a particular case and to hear about its resolution either with the family or prosecutorially;
- As a tool to help social workers and law enforcement officers improve their documentation and presentation abilities.

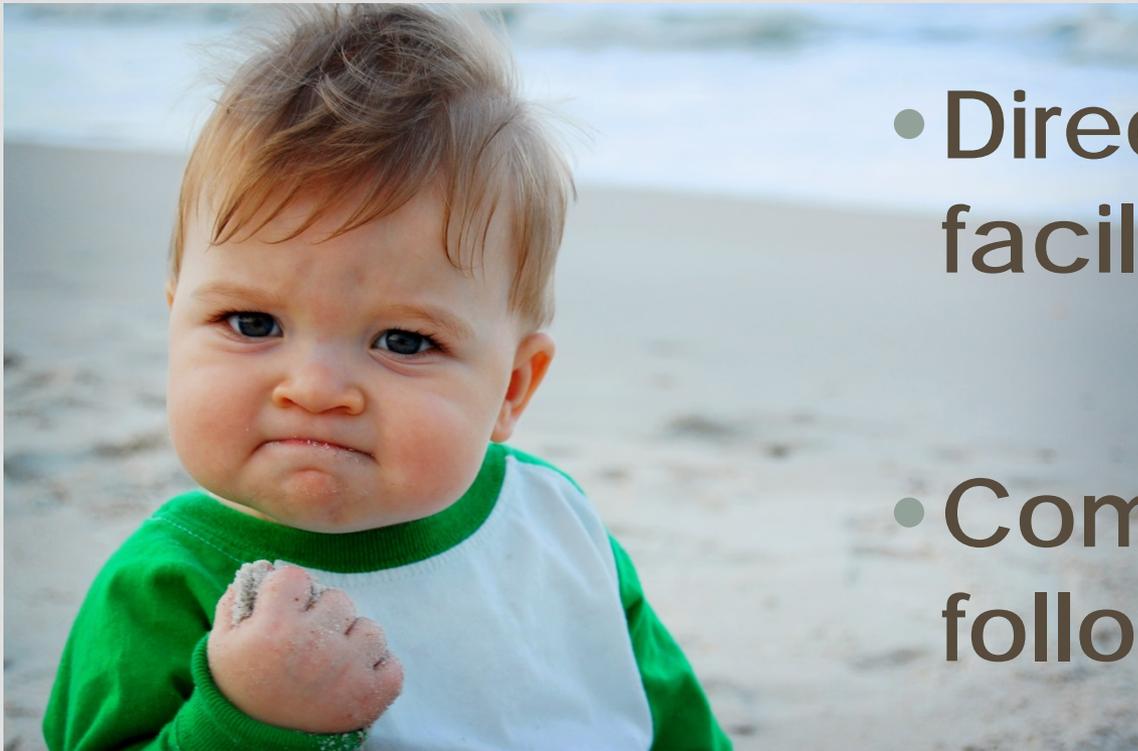
RIVERSIDE TRENDS

GENERAL DETRACTORS

- Unprepared presenters or unfocused presentations can be difficult to others to follow/contribute;
- A focus on any errors made in previous intervention or investigation puts presenters on the spot, and can turn accusatory;
- Presentations can focus too greatly on one discipline: medical, law enforcement, social work or the district attorney, leaving others out;
- A focus just on the new cases coming in leaves little room for systemic improvement.

RIVERSIDE CHALLENGES

A SUCCESSFUL DEATH REVIEW STRATEGY



- **Clear purpose;**
- **Directed facilitation;**
- **Comprehensive follow-up.**

CLEAR PURPOSE

- **Which cases the group will consider and how these cases will come to the group's attention?**
 - For example, all child drownings? All elder deaths with Adult Protective Services history?
- **Which meeting format best suits your audience?**
 - Case/community presentation,
 - Question and Answer,
 - Administrative Hearing,
 - A combination.
- **Which cases will your group consider?**
 - New? New and recurring? Both with a policy/administrative section?

DIRECTED FACILITATION

- **Organized, prepared and engaged.**
 - Capable of having the right conversations.
- **Who knows the right people to have at the table, and can get them there.**
 - Public Social Services, Law Enforcement, the Coroner, the District Attorney, Physicians involved, Public Health, Policy makers, etc.
- **Who can ensure that the presentations are well done and useful.**
 - Background, intervention, result, presenting problem
- **Who can ensure that feedback is well given and well received.**

COMPREHENSIVE FOLLOW-UP

- Old cases are visited again and re-visited until the group is satisfied with the outcome and direction.
- Not just that cases are re-presented, but that there is a critical eye towards:
 - Was the death preventable?
 - If so, what could have been done to prevent it?
 - If identified, what can prevent similar deaths or injuries from occurring in the future?
 - If identified, how can this information be shared with policy makers and others who can make the changes needed?
- **Some kind of database or collection system is used to memorialize the decisions and track the outcomes.**

THE NET NET

A successful death review meeting is not merely an analysis of the life lost, but a concentrated focus on the cause of death and the prevention of future loss.

Q & A