

Child Death Review Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
x	Andrew Allen	x	Dennis Klein
	Ryan Baldrige-excused		Tammie Krausman-excused
	Emily Blomme-excused		Robert Kruse-excused
x	John Dagle		Casey Manser -excused
x	Lisa DuFour	x	Amy McCormick
x	Melissa Ellis	x	Matthew Burns
x	Jerry Fiala	x	Vera Wallican
x	Lori Frick		Dawn Schissel- excused
x	Kim Gonzales	x	Abby Schueller
	Amy Groen -excused	x	Jonathan Thompson
	Chad Jensen -excused		Marvin Vanderwiel-excused
x	Peter Johnson	x	Melissa Walker
x	Dennis Kleen	x	Kelly Wandishion
Staff and Guests			
x	Analisa Pearson, CDR Coordinator		
x	Kaitie Smith, CDR Abstractor		
x	Jennifer Pham, State Mortality Review Committee Coordinator		

1. Call to Order

Dr. Klein called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Klein conducted a roll call as indicated above; a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Klein moved to approve the June 2024, minutes, seconded by Andrew Allen.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Dr. Klein moved to approve the July 2025, minutes, seconded by Andrew Allen.
Motion carried by voice vote.

4. Public Comment

No members of the public were present, and therefore no public comments were made.

5. Closed Session

The committee voted to enter closed session to review and analyze confidential death data, including death certificates, patient records, and other confidential records and information deemed appropriate for use in preparing an annual report to the governor and general assembly concerning the causes and manner of deaths as outlined in Iowa Code §§ 135.43 and 135.111, and protected by Iowa Code § 21.5.

Dr. Klein moved to enter closed session under the legal authorities outlined above, seconded by Andrew Allen.

Roll Call Vote

Allen, Dagle, Dufour, Ellis, Fiala, Frick, Gonzales, Johnson, Kleen, Klein, McCormick, Burns, Wallican, Schueller, Thompson, Walker, Wandishion

Members logged into closed session at 10:14 a.m. and discussed aggregate data and cases.

Members re-entered open session at 02:11 p.m.

6. Recommendation Discussion

Members discussed and refined possible recommendations to move forward to the State Mortality Review Committee.

10.07.2025 Motor Vehicle Crash Recommendations

1. Incentivize implementation of features in vehicles requiring the driver's seatbelt be buckled prior to car being able to shift into gear.
2. Public health departments with Amish communities to educate families and those providing ride services to these communities to ensure that they are using car seats/complying with Iowa child restraint laws.
3. Bring Iowa Code 321.446 on child restraint devices into alignment with national recommendations by requiring a combination of age, height and weight for car seats and boosters.
4. HHS Public Health Division develop a sample curriculum that includes physics of a crash, realistic risk of motor vehicle crashes including real crashed vehicle and survivor stories (Forever 17 model), VR options and crash simulator.
5. Encourage parents to take children out to drive in different circumstances such as gravel, and different weather circumstances.
6. Insurance companies, state agencies and communities positively encourage safe driving behaviors through incentives, gamification apps, etc.
7. Any child that has a drug or alcohol offense in school or community shall be referred for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).

8. Iowa Primary Care Association/Mental Health Regions ensure that services are available to family members and survivors of fatal motor vehicle crashes involving children through proactive outreach and referrals.

07.29.2025 Motor Vehicle Recommendations (Off Highway Vehicle, Farm and Pedestrian)

1. Insurance companies, state agencies and communities utilize incentives and penalties to ensure safe Off Highway Vehicle use. Example: No children allowed on them, helmet use, etc.
2. Education during well child visits on child development and active versus passive supervision (similar to water safety – touch supervision, active transfer of supervision responsibility, limiting tasks being done while supervising), especially for young children living on farms.
3. Municipalities should enact local ordinances that law enforcement or emergency vehicles may not exceed a certain speed (10 mph) over posted speed limits within city limits.

7. Adjournment

Dr. Klein moved to adjourn, seconded by McCormick. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m..

July and October CDR Subcommittee All Recommendations

Driver Education

1. More education about models of vehicle that are particularly prone to hazards such as roll overs, some of the vehicles in cases were known hazards.
2. Education on the fact newer cars are safer due to increased safety technology, standards and structure
3. More education on safe winter driving for kids and parents in regards to preparing cars for winter driving, importance of safety features in cars-newer cars are safer-, and safe driving practices during severe weather conditions.
4. Require additional driving hours for children that are focused on situational awareness.
5. Require gravel driving education in driver's ed curriculum.
6. Continue with the "Forever 17" and similar programs to additional high school students in Iowa to help teens understand real risk.
7. "Plug and Play" template for community organizations and community members to help allow people who have been impacted to share in a healthy way, lived experience to educate.
8. Realistic risk of motor vehicles and shown what will happen, "Forever 17", reenactment, possibly require inclement weather driving (winter conditions) another step prior to getting their license.
9. Educate individuals regarding the impacts of medications on driving, including prescription, over the counter and illicit drugs.

Vehicle Improvements

10. Change in policy to use car insurance or other benefits to promote safer cars for adolescents. Fatal crashes average age of vehicle was 15 years old, newer cars have more safety features
11. Incentivize implementation of features in vehicles mandating the driver's seatbelt be buckled prior to car being able to shift into gear.
12. Fund safety testing and injury prevention for underride crashes. Trailer construction changes to reduce side underride fatalities.

Roadway Improvements

13. Implementing all-way stop signs for problematic intersections.
14. Improving or implementing lighting on gravel roads to increase the visibility for drivers.
15. DOT include complaints and law enforcement stops, in addition to fatalities in determinations for intersection interventions.
16. Safety features to add to the roads, roundabouts, speed bumps, lights to alert moving traffic of traffic at a stop sign. Specifically on 2 way stops so that they know traffic will not stop.
17. On gravel, less traveled roads, having a sign to inform of a busier road to alert to increased likelihood of cross traffic

Legislation

18. Look into legislative changes regarding OWIs and consider changing the law in restrictions when having more than one OWI.
 - a. Child protection strategy, increasing citations (traffic, low level crime, violence, etc.) increase child risk of fatality, investigate other options.
 - b. Compare data with other states on laws to decrease issues, what are other states doing when they see a decrease.
19. Higher charges for the person driving (child endangerment versus seat belt violation) for those who do not restrain children New legislation regarding unrestrained children. Current fine \$210.25, regular ticket \$135. 321.446, 445.
 - c. Option for agreement between person that got a ticket for unrestrained child, show proof of getting a car seat and drop the ticket.
20. Local ordinance that law enforcement and emergency vehicles cannot go more than a certain amount (10 mph) over posted speed limits in city limits.
- 21. Bring Iowa Code 321.446 on child restraint devices into alignment with national recommendations by requiring a combination of age, height and weight for car seats and boosters.**

Policy

22. Continue education on importance of ordering autopsies in child deaths, including MVCs for County Medical Examiners and Medical Examiner Investigators.
23. More active cancellation policy when it comes to school activities and inclement weather Referrals to health care and social services for root causes on the front end to help decrease OWIs, driving while barred, etc.
- 24. Any child that has a drug or alcohol offense in school or community should be referred for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).**
25. Juvenile Justice Diversion policy changes to ensure substance abuse assessments as part of process. Currently just a letter to the family.

Resources

26. Proactive outreach, referrals/educate on available resources for family members and people involved in a fatal crash involving a child. Law enforcement identifies, then refer them to the outreach, co responders/mobile crisis can be called in to help with the mental health aspect and giving resources after. Iowa Primary Care Association – mental health regions. Model after crime victim advocates. As a
 - a. Have more tier 2 and 3 resources for immediate help regarding families
27. Driving apps to positively incentivize safe driving behaviors through gamification
 - b. Teens not wanting to break their safety streak
 - c. Prizes, lower insurance, grow your Pokémon through safe driving
28. Ensure health care access and screening for possible ADHD to help with concentration while driving.

07.29.25 Recommendations

ATV/UTV Recommendations:

1. Seatbelts be used on the UTVs
2. Public outreach on ATV/UTV safety: rural communities, schools, speed and helmet to be included in outreach. Continuing to work with educational partnerships with DNR, DOT, HHS, and nontraditional partners
 - a. Partner with Farm Bureau regarding safety for ATV/UTV
 - b. Champion with a wreck victim to get a wrecked vehicle and tell story
3. **Insurance incentives/penalties for UTV/ATV safety, ex: no children on them**
4. Make recommendations around someone who has to have their extremities outside the vehicle for work purposes? (Schueler)
5. Should we make a recommendation around biometrics height/weight to operate OHV/UTV/ATV.
6. Legislative policy requiring seatbelts for UTVs with rollbars, or for all?
7. Manufacturers keeping device from moving if the child is too small.
8. Holding parents accountable for lack of supervision, or lack of using safety mechanisms

Pedestrian:

9. Look for support of funding for installation of retrofit cameras for farm and rural vehicles.
10. Helping families and children to sustain wearing helmets after getting them.
 - a. Promote helmet give aways in communities
11. **Municipalities enact a law that EMS may not exceed 10 mph over the speed limit within city limits**
12. Law regarding electric assist/personal convenience vehicles
 - b. If you go over a certain speed, need to wear a helmet
 - c. If you go over a certain speed, need to be 16
13. Governors available to owners to regulate speed
14. Public education at Agriculturally centered meetings (FFA, Post secondary continuing ed.)

- d. also for “stop the bleed” education)
- 15. Education to caregivers regarding having plan to verify where the child is when leaving
- 16. Back over/ front over education regarding line of sight

Farm Pedestrian Recommendations:

- 17. Entities visiting farms to provide education for safety (banks, veterinarians, insurance companies)
- 18. Education on young child development at well child visits, especially for children living on farms.**
- 19. Healthcare providers talk about active vs passive supervision at well child visits.**
- 20. Additional support for childcare in rural areas. With a stipend for farm families.

Other Recommendations:

- 21. More thorough inspection for annual amusement ride inspections.
- 22. Topical data and recommendations interested groups: ongoing outreach to partner groups or interested groups doing similar work.
 - a. Use behavioral health system navigators