

State Mortality Review Committee

Meeting Minutes
April 13th 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Other Attendees		
Rachel Zimmerman, Chair, present	Vera Wallican	Analisa Pearson	
Dr. Alison Lynch, Co-Chair, present	Matthew Burns	Monica Godeken	
Casey Manser, absent	Dennis Kleen	Sonya Streit	
Captain Sadie Weekley, present	Jancy Nielson	Anna Moats-Gibson	
Abby Schueller, present	Melissa Walker	Kaitlin Smith	
Dr. Stephanie Radke, present	Matthew Burns	Brynne Howard	
Dr. Dennis Klein, present	Nafla Poff-Dainty	Ryan Kedley	
Stacey Oleson, present	Sylvia Navin	Kaitlin Smith	
Daniel Vakulskas, present	Jennifer Pham	Bridget Konz	

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Rachel Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve January 12th minutes was made by Rachel Zimmerman Smith and seconded by Dr. Lynch. All members present voted in favor; motion approved.

4. Public Agenda Topics

Committee reviewed the draft 2025 Annual Report and identified the following corrections: Dr. Lynch's organization needs to be corrected to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics; correct spelling of "Mitchell" county, and correct Rachel's last name to "Zimmermann Smith". Motion to approve report was made by Dr. Lynch and seconded by Abby Schueller. All members present voted in favor; motion approved.

HHS staff will make the required edits and will proceed with moving the report through the approvals process and to the legislature. The report is due June 30th.

Subcommittee team leads provided an informational update on their reviews since the last SMRC meeting. Full recommendations for consideration and vote will be provided to the SMRC at a future meeting.

The draft Child Abuse Assessment Protocol was presented. The protocol will establish a 4th subcommittee – Child Abuse Assessment Review (CAAR) Subcommittee. Members will be external to HHS.

Committee had some concerns about the protocol.

(1) A 4th subcommittee may be adding unnecessary bureaucracy; historically, there are 30-40 cases per year and HHS did not expect the SMRC to have the capacity to take on this task. The subcommittee lead will also notify the SMRC

(2) Previous drafts had mentions of a “check list”; HHS staff will help develop a check list of information to be gathered and reviewed.

(3) Protocol is missing some of the process information such as clearly defining “periodic intervals” for check in, how often the subcommittee will be meeting and reviewing cases, and information being reviewed. HHS will incorporate additional process information into the protocol. When cases are identified, SMRC will need to be notified at the same time as CAAR.

Committee will table approval of the protocol pending edits. Committee voted to establish the Child Abuse Assessment Review (CAAR) Subcommittee. Motion was made by Dr. Klein, seconded by Dr. Lynch; all members present voted in favor of establishment. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be moved to July or August to align with the release of the 2025 Annual Report. Meeting will be in person.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 am.