

Child Abuse Assessment Review Subcommittee Meeting Agenda

Date: August 13, 2026

Time: 12:00-1:00

Location Virtual (Zoom)

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1651594956>

Meeting ID: 165 159 4956

Meeting Objectives

Review and analyze completed child protective services assessments associated with child fatality cases to identify opportunities for system improvement, strengthen assessment practices, enhance cross-agency collaboration, and ensure consistent, effective responses aimed at improving child safety and preventing future harm.

Meeting Participants

Members: Brian Flikeid, Jana Rhoads, Melissa Blessing, Katherine Strub, Rachel Zimmerman Smith, Andrea Vitzthum, Connie Cohen, Amy Kutchen

Staff: Kaitlin Smith, Janelle Larson, Sylvia Navin, Clarice

Pre-Meeting Tasks

- Log in to SMRC-Child Abuse Assessment Review Subcommittee Teams Folder
- Review case to be familiar with all cases
- Complete CAAR Review Tool form for cases assigned
- Upload completed CAAR Review Tool to Teams Folder or email to kaitlin.smith@hhs.iowa.gov
- Formulate questions, best practices, and recommendations for discussion of fatalities.

Agenda Topic and Items

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- I. Call meeting to order
 - II. Introductions
 - III. Closed session
 - a. Roll call vote to move into closed session to review and analyze child death data, including death certificates, patient records and other pertinent information appropriate for use in assisting the State Mortality Review Committee in preparing an annual report to the governor and general assembly concerning the causes and manner of child deaths as outlined in IC §135.43.2.a. and provided for by IC §21.5.1.a
 - i. Aggregate data
 - ii. Case discussion
 - iii. Prevention recommendations discussion
 - IV. Next meeting – September 10, 2026 12pm-1pm virtual