IOWA | Health and Human Services

State Mortality Review Committee

Meeting Minutes
July 20th 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Other Attendees	
Rachel Zimmerman, Chair, present	Vera Wallican	Nafla Poff-Dainty
Dr. Alison Lynch, Co-Chair, present	Ryan Kedley	Anna Moats-Gibson
Casey Manser, present	Melissa Walker	Bridget Konz
Captain Sadie Weekley, present	Jancy Nielson	Analisa Peason
Abby Schueller, present	Sonya Streit	Derma Rivera
Dr. Stephanie Radke, absent	Jill Lange	Monica Goedken
Dr. Dennis Klein, present	Marcus Johnson-Miller	
Stacey Oleson, absent	Sylvia Navin	
Daniel Vakulskas, absent	Jennifer Pham	

1. **Call to Order**
   Committee Chair Rachel Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. **Roll Call**
   Jennifer Pham conducted a roll call as indicated above; a quorum was present.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
   Motion to approve April 13thth minutes was made by Dr. Lynch and seconded by Abby Schueller. All members present voted in favor; motion approved.

4. **Public Agenda Topics**

   Jancy Nielson provided a brief review of the legal requirements for public meetings.

   Liaisons to the SMRC provided brief introductions of their organizations, the expertise they can provide the SMRC, and how they can assist the SMRC in forming and implementing recommendations.

   An update of the Child Abuse Assessment Review (CAAR) Subcommittee was provided. Members include: Jana Rhoads, Brian Flikeid, Rachel Zimmerman Smith, Katie Strub, and Melissa Blessing. The first meeting will be held in August.

   The Committee provided feedback to HHS staff and leadership team regarding the presentation of recommendations and updates from the Subcommittees. Members would like to have at least one representative from each Subcommittee at meetings

to answer any question that arise from the updates or recommendations presented. Members also suggested the Subcommittees be in charge of prioritizing recommendations as much as possible before presenting them to the SMRC for final inclusion in the annual report.

SMRC members would like additional guidance on how to prioritize recommendations for the 2026 report. All 2025 & 2026 recommendations will be included as an appendix, but high priority recommendations will be presented in the main report. HHS leadership will review and provide additional guidance and instructions on how to prioritize recommendations at the November meeting.

Next meeting will held virtually on November 10th from 9 – 11 am

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.