



Jackson County Department of Public Health

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Shelley Carraway

DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jackson County Board of Commissioners and Board of Health

FROM: Jackson County CFPT Chairperson (Shelley Carraway)

Jackson County Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)

SUBJECT: Local CFPT Annual Report

DATE: March 13, 2023

The North Carolina Statute, Article 14, 7B-1406 and the CFPT Agreement Addenda with local health departments requires Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams to advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist and submit a report annually to their local county commissioners and boards of health.

The purpose of the local CFPTs are to:

- identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies;
- make and carry out recommendations for changes that will prevent future child deaths; and
- promote understanding of the causes of child deaths.

Attached is the Jackson County CFPT annual report for your review for calendar year 2022.

Please feel free to contact me at 828-587-8254 if you have any questions.

Attachment

2022 Annual Report

Jackson County Child Fatality Prevention Team

I. Introduction

In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPT's) across the state to confidentially review medical examiner reports, death certificates and other records of deceased residents under age 18. Each local team consists of representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community such as law enforcement, DSS, District Attorney's Office, Community Action Agency (AWAKE), Mental Health, Guardian Ad Litem, health departments, among others, that provide services to children and their families.

The purpose of this report is to give a summary of the causes of death, the number of cases reviewed, recommendations for prevention, if any, that have been made and to share local team activities and accomplishments.

II. Role of the Jackson County Commissioners and Board of Health

- Receive annual reports which contain recommendations and advocate for system improvements and needed resources, if requested.
- Appoint members of the local team as identified by the membership.

III. Child Deaths by Cause, System Problems Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2022, the Jackson County CFPT reviewed two child deaths and identified two system problems and recommendations for future prevention efforts. Below are highlights:

Child deaths reviewed in 2022:

AGE IN YEARS	CAUSE OF DEATH
Neonate (less than 30 days old)	Birth defects; congenital malformation syndrome predominantly associated with short stature
Infant (less than 1 year)	Other; other ill-defined and unspecified causes of mortality. Unknown cause of mortality.

Cause of Death	System Problem Identified	Recommendation	Proposed Action
Birth defects	Lack of resources available for genetic testing prior to pregnancy (preconception) or early gestation (during pregnancy)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have genetic testing more readily available to all women desiring pregnancy or already pregnant in order to detect genetic anomalies to help make the best health care decisions for their current or future pregnancies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JCDPH staff to promote education to help empower patients and their families to make informed decisions. 2. Explore non-invasive pregnancy testing (NIPT) options for our current clinic to offer. 3. Quad screens currently offered on every patient and refer for further testing if desired or indicated.
Other ill-defined and unspecified causes of mortality. Unknown cause of mortality.	Safe Sleep Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More education about safe sleep and the possible consequences needed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AWAKE Children's Advocacy Center would like to donate funds to the pack and play program that was previously offered by the JCDPH. 2. Continue to promote safe sleep education at community events, the most recent being the Community Baby Shower Jackson County organizations collaborated on and held. 3. Advertise safe sleep on social media platforms where able. Run safe sleep articles in the local newspapers. We also plan to have articles translated to Spanish for our Spanish-speaking comm.

IV. Jackson County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments

- In 2022, the Jackson County Department of Public Health Maternal Health Clinic explored the option to add non-invasive pregnancy testing (NIPT) to the current offerings through our clinic for low and high risk mothers. We have not yet started but are close in being able to offer to all Maternal Health clients. Quad screens are still currently being offered and referrals for all positives are sent to MAHEC OB/GYN in

Asheville. An article was published in the Sylva Herald for Birth Defect Awareness month in January 2022.

- Safe Kids Jackson County had a big year and began holding more events throughout the year.
 - Safe Kids Jackson County currently has 5 Child Passenger Safety Technicians that offer car seat education and car seat checks either through classes held at the JCDPH or in the community. Two car seat education classes are held each month and car seat checks are available on an as needed basis.
 - Two bike events were held -- one at the greenway and one at the Jackson County Recreation Center - and served the community by offering bike safety education, helmet and bike fittings, learning to ride a bike. There were giveaways which included new bicycles and helmets.
 - Two medication take back events were held - one in the Spring and one in the Fall - where a total of 50.6 pounds of medications were safely disposed of.
 - Safe Kids Jackson County in partnership with WIC, Region A Partnership for Children, the Family Support Network, EBCI Nurse Family Partnership, Care Management for at Risk Children (CMARC), Harris Regional Hospital's New Generations Family Birthing Center, and AmeriHealth Caritas NC held a Community Baby Shower. There were giveaways, education, car seat checks all for expectant moms in the community.
 - Safe Kids Day was celebrated in Glenville at the Glenville-Cashiers Fire Department that promoted fire safety, car seat safety, and held the hot car display.
 - The life jacket loaner stations throughout the county were stocked with more life jackets available for public use.
 - Jackson County Fire & Safety and Jackson County Little League held a Family Swim & Water Safety Night at the Sylva Pool. Two events were planned but electrical problems caused the second event at the end of summer to be cancelled.
 - Five Safe Summer events were held at various parks throughout the county and offered car seat checks, hot car display, bike safety, life jacket and swim safety, as well as gun safety. Various fire departments and law enforcement agencies were also in attendance.
 - A back to school bash at the Jackson County Recreation Center was hosted by JCPS, JCRC, and JCDPH and were able to offer physicals, school supplies, free meals, immunizations, haircuts to Jackson County Kids.
 - The first two weeks in October, Safe Kids Jackson County went into all Jackson County schools for fire safety week and provided fire safety education.
- In 2022, JCDPH began partnering with Vecinos to offer health screenings, immunizations, WIC and food giveaways to various communities in the county. A total of 8 events were held on Tuesday evenings from about 4pm-9pm. Through this partnership many people were provided resources they might not have been able to seek out. We were even able to recruit a patient that was having trouble finding prenatal care and enrolled her into our Maternal Health clinic.

- Social media outreach, press releases, and advertising of services remain a large part in educating and promoting services at the Jackson County Department of Public Health.

V. Conclusion

Thank you to the members of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners/Board of Health for the opportunity to share with you the successes and dedicated work of the local team as we continue to review child fatalities, make recommendations, and take actions to prevent future child deaths. Please feel free to contact the Health Director at 828-587-8254, respectively, should you have any questions about this report.

Health Director

Date