

NO ROOM FOR CHILD ADVOCATES

Why I was Kicked off of DC's Child Fatality Review Committee

MY CHILD ADVOCACY WORK

- Child Welfare Monitor
- Special projects (AEI child fatality database)
- Monitoring child welfare in DC



**Child Welfare
Monitor**

WHAT IS CHILD DEATH/FATALITY REVIEW?

- Child Death Review (CDR) is a multidisciplinary, prevention-focused process where teams meet to discuss case information to better understand how and why children die. (From National Center for Child Fatality Review, ncfrp.org)
- Started in '70s and '80's to review suspicious child deaths and determine whether they were due to abuse or neglect to improve justice system response
- All 50 states now have CDR programs., varying by core functions, type of deaths reviewed, state or local level of review, agency responsible, funding and more.

WHAT IS CHILD DEATH REVIEW

- Many states and DC have broadened focus from maltreatment deaths only to focus on injuries, suicides, and natural causes: DC reviews all child deaths and certain deaths of young adults aged 18-21.
- Study of cases reviewed in 2014 found that few (0 to a little more than a half) resulted in recommended systems change or prevention activities, and very few of those recommendations resulted in any action.

WHY I JOINED CFRC

- Concerns that kids being left in dangerous homes since drop in child removals starting 2012
- Child fatalities are the tip of the iceberg: the conditions that lead to child deaths also cause harm to many more children who do not die.
- Participation on CFR enabled me to see case details that are kept secret from the public.



WHAT I LEARNED

- Most families had prior child welfare involvement regardless of cause of death: Not just CAN but also unsafe sleep, accidents, gun violence. Jibes with research on CPS reports and all-cause mortality.
- Prevalence of chronic multitype maltreatment: many families had multiple calls on issues including school truancy, lack of supervision, physical abuse, sexual abuse.
- Overrepresentation of large families among families with a child fatality.



HOW I TRANSGRESSED

- “Picking on the Child and Family Services Agency”
- Going against the ideological climate
 - Empowering the “racist family policing system”
 - “Judging” parents
 - Considering parental substance abuse (including marijuana) dangerous to children
 - Mentioning birth control
 - Prioritizing data sharing despite privacy concerns

THE MORAL OF THE STORY

- Beware the influence of ideology on perception of reality – in self and others. Those who are blinded by ideology can hurt those they are trying to help.



Vince Pryor @VincentPryor · Jun 10

There needs to be accountability for this. This paper is violently racist and should not be tolerated in academia. @SageJournals @BrownSchool @mdsocialwork @UNC_SSW @PSUSocCrim







Alan Dettlaff @AlanDettlaff · Jun 10

This is what happens when White Rage & White Fragility take over any sense of reason. This group will not stop until they prove that anti-Black racism does not exist in CPS. And they simply don't care about the harm they cause along the way. @SageJournals is complicit as well.

Research Articles

Poverty or Racism? A Re-Analysis of Briggs et al. 2022

Brett Drake¹ , Dylan Jones¹ , Jun-Hong Chen¹,
Sarah Font² , Emily Putnam-Hornstein³,
Richard P. Barth⁴ , and Melissa Jonson-Reid¹

Research on Social Work Practice
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REFERENCES

- Why I was kicked off CFRC: <http://childwelfaremonitor.org/2023/04/18/no-room-for-child-advocates-why-i-was-kicked-off-dcs-child-fatality-review-committee/>
- CPS reports and all-cause mortality: <http://childwelfaremonitor.org/2021/09/07/report-of-maltreatment-a-major-risk-factor-for-child-mortality/>
- Chronic multitype maltreatment: <http://childwelfaremonitor.org/2023/01/03/chronic-maltreatment-a-blind-spot-for-child-welfare/>
- Attacks on research: <https://www.city-journal.org/article/child-welfares-ideological-enforcer>