

# CORONER

# CASE

# CONFERRNCING



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# LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **DEFINE** THE OVERARCHING PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE CHILD FATALITY REVIEW (CFR) PROCESS.
- **IDENTIFY** NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES THAT MAXIMIZE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CFR.
- **DISTINGUISH** BETWEEN DIFFERENT TYPES OF CFR MODELS (CASE-BASED, PROGRAMMATIC, AGGREGATED DATA).
- **DISCUSS** THE IMPORTANCE OF A SYSTEMS-LEVEL FOCUS IN CFR.
- **EXPLORE** STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE INFORMATION SHARING AND CONFIDENTIALITY WITHIN CFR.
- **RECOGNIZE** COMMON CHALLENGES IN CFR AND PROPOSE MITIGATION STRATEGIES.
- **UNDERSTAND** HOW CFR FINDINGS DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO PREVENTION EFFORTS AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE.

# OVERARCHING PURPOSE OF THE CFR



## PREVENTION

- **PRIMARY GOAL:** TO PREVENT FUTURE CHILD DEATHS.
- **HOW:** BY LEARNING FROM THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING EACH FATALITY.
- BEYOND CAUSATION
- FOCUS ON SYSTEMS
- NOT FOR PROSECUTION
- SEVERAL KEY COMPONENTS



# NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES FOR CFR



- Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Confidentiality & Trust
- Systems-Level Focus
- Data-Driven Approach
- Action-Oriented Recommendations (SMART)
- Independent Leadership

# TYPES OF CFR MODELS

## OVERVIEW

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

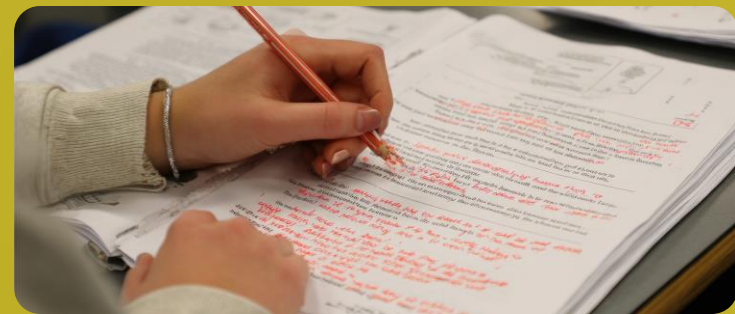
- No Single Universal Model
- Integrated Model Type
- **Goal:** To maximize learning and prevention opportunities through different lenses.



### COMMON CATEGORIES

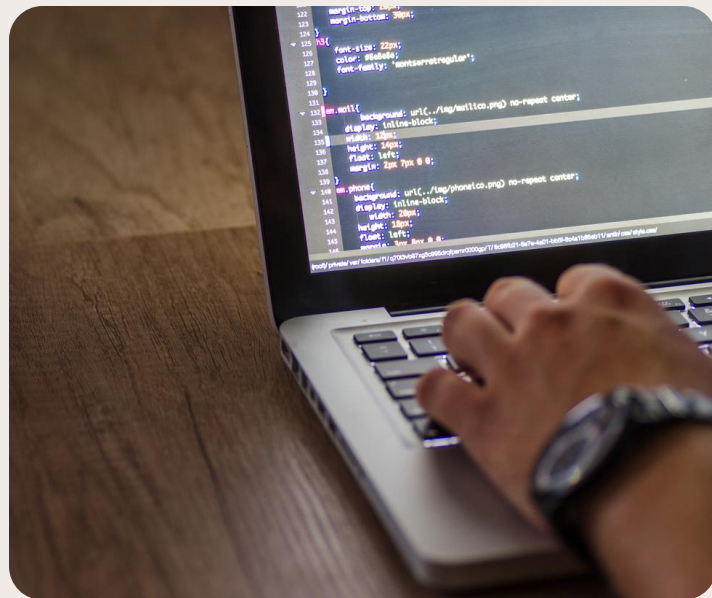
- Case-Based Reviews
- Programmatic Reviews
- Aggregated Data Reviews
- Thematic Reviews

# CASE REVIEW



- **Description:** Common model; In-depth, detailed review of a single, specific child fatality.
- **Participants:** Core interdisciplinary team
- **Process:**
  - Comprehensive data collection/sharing from all involved agencies.
  - Recommendations.
- **Strengths:**
  - Multidisciplinary review.
  - Quickly ID specific systemic breakdowns.
  - Builds interagency rapport.
- **Limitations:**
  - Resource-intensive.
  - Case-by-case findings.

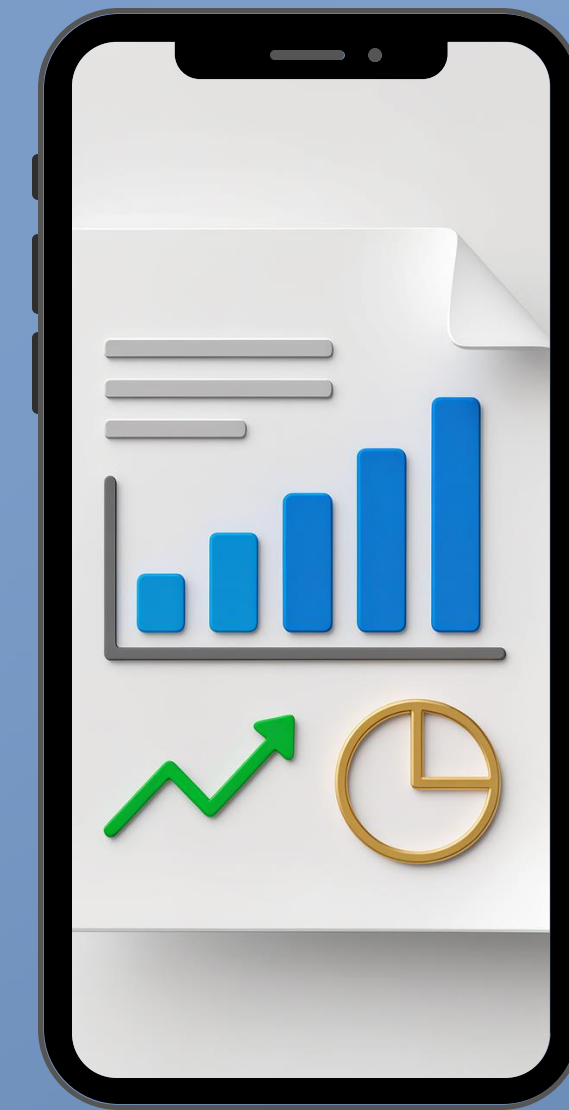
# PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW



- **Description:** Focuses on the effectiveness and impact of a specific program, intervention, or policy in relation to child fatalities.
- **Example:** Review of deaths with families involved in a specific intervention program.
- **Participants:** Policy, public health, research, program leadership.
- **Process:**
  - Evaluation.
  - Analysis.
- **Strengths:** Direct assessment, data.
- **Limitations:** Narrow scope, well-defined program.

# AGGREGATED DATA REVIEW

- **Description:** Trend & pattern analysis.
- **Focus:** Population-level insights, common circumstances, demographics, and systemic vulnerabilities.
- **Participants:** Statisticians, researchers, epidemiologists, policy analysts.
- **Process:**
  - Compilation and analysis of data points.
  - Statistical analysis: correlations & trends.
- **Strengths:** Population-level prevention opportunities; policy shifts; health campaigns.
- **Limitations:** Lacks the nuanced, individual case detail; 'ecological fallacy' risk if conclusions applied directly to individuals.



# THEMATIC REVIEW

- **Description:** In-depth examination of a specific cause of death, risk factor, or population.
- **Example:** Review of all sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs) in a region.
- **Participants:** Subject matter experts, relevant agency representatives, researchers.
- **Process:**
  - Combination of case detail + aggregated data.
- Focuses on theme-related mechanisms, systems responses.
- **Strengths:** Deep insight into a specific problem; reveal unique prevention strategies for specific groups, risks.
- **Limitations:** Theme selection + specialization.





# HYPOTHETICAL: BLENDING REVIEW MODELS FOR A CASE

## A DROWNING EPIDEMIC?

**Scenario:** Your jurisdiction has seen a sudden increase in child drownings in home swimming pools over the last 18 months.

### REFLECT:

- WHICH TYPE(S) OF CFR REVIEW MODEL WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS ISSUE? WHY?
- WHAT KIND OF DATA WOULD EACH MODEL SEEK?
- HOW WOULD COMBINING INSIGHTS FROM DIFFERENT MODELS LEAD TO MORE COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTION STRATEGIES THAN USING JUST ONE?



# MAXIMIZING THE CFR:

## INFORMATION SHARING & CONFIDENTIALITY

- **A Balancing Act:** Access vs privacy.
- **Foundational Agreements:**
  - Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) / Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs)
  - Statutory Authority
- **Confidentiality Protocols:**
  - Strict 'Need-to-Know'
  - Secure Data Storage
  - De-identification
- Building **trust** is critical
- **Consequences of Breaches:** Several ramifications.



# MAXIMIZING THE CFR: MAINTAINING A SYSTEMS- LEVEL FOCUS

- **Beyond Blame**
- **"Root Cause" Analysis**
- **Identifying Gaps:**
  - Agency policies or procedures.
  - Interagency communication breakdowns.
  - Resource allocation deficiencies.
  - Training gaps.
  - Legislative shortcomings.
- **Shift in Mindset**
- **Benefits:** Fosters open discussion, encourages self-reflection, leads to sustainable change.



# MAXIMIZING THE CFR:

## DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS



- STANDARDIZED DATA ELEMENTS
- COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION
- QUALITY CONTROL
- ANALYTICAL CAPACITY
- FEEDBACK LOOPS

# MAXIMIZING THE CFR:

## DEVELOPING ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- **SMART Recommendations:**
  - Specific
  - Measurable
  - Achievable
  - Relevant
  - Time-bound
- **Targeted**
- **Evidence-Based or Research-Informed**
- **Prioritized**
- **Follow-up & Monitoring**
- **Public Dissemination**



# CHALLENGES IN MAXIMIZING CFR: INFORMATION BARRIERS

- Confidentiality & Privacy Concerns
- Lack of Formal Agreements
- Siloed Data Systems
- Cultural Barriers to Sharing
- Incomplete or Inaccurate Data
- Mitigation Strategies:
  - Investment
  - Leadership
  - Standardized Training



# CHALLENGES IN MAXIMIZING CFR:

## PROCESS & RESOURCE ISSUES



- RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS
- TEAM TURNOVER
- VARYING LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT
- FOCUS ON BLAME VS. SYSTEMS
- LACK OF FOLLOW-THROUGH
- MITIGATION STRATEGIES:
  - DEDICATED FUNDING + STAFFING.
  - SUCCESSION PLANNING + DOCUMENTATION.
  - CLEAR EXPECTATIONS + ACCOUNTABILITY.
  - ONGOING TRAINING.
  - FORMAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS/PUBLIC REPORTING.

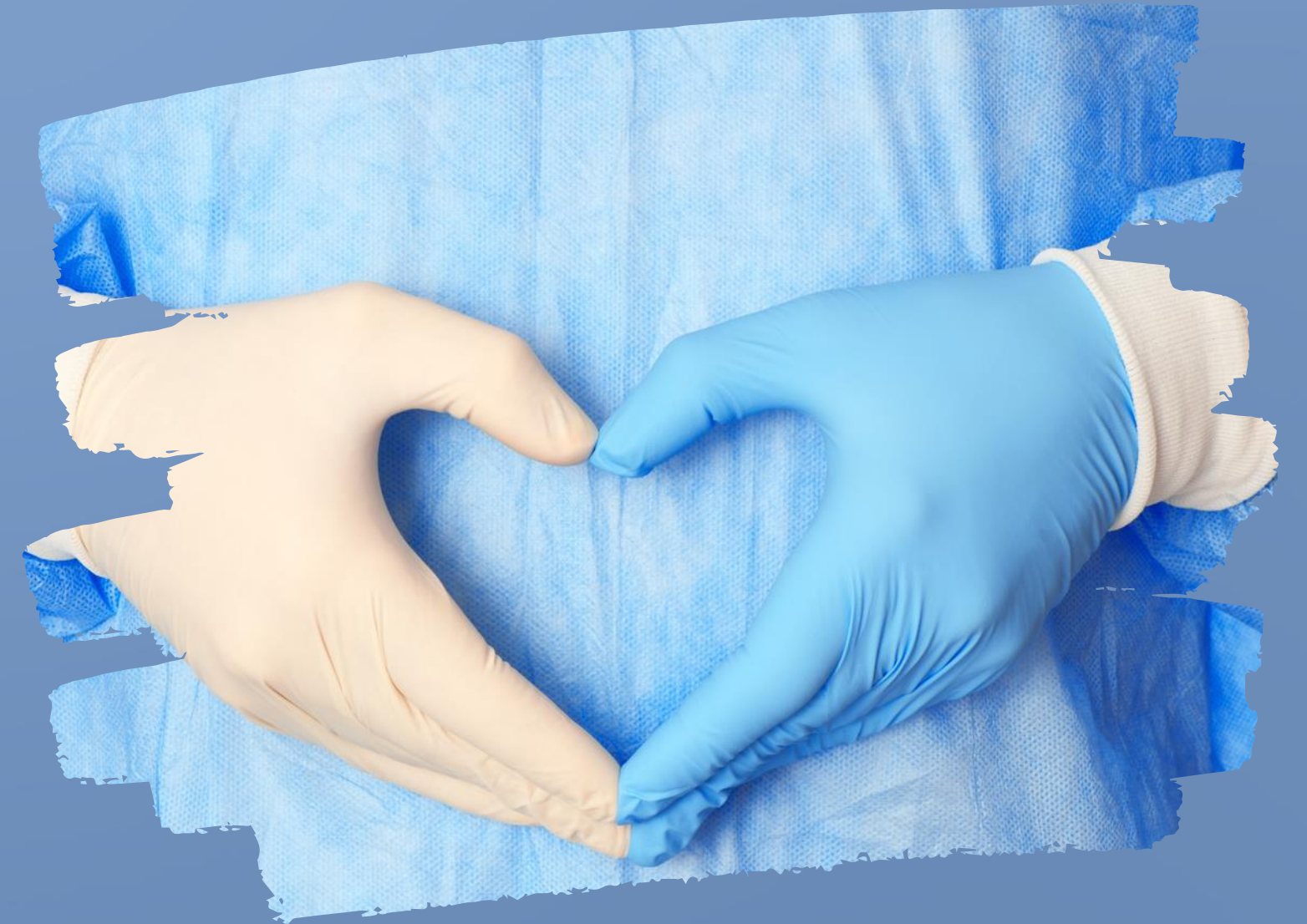
# CORONER ROLE IN CFR

- **Central Authority**
- **Independent & Objective**
- **Access to Information**
- **Medicolegal Investigative Expertise**
- **Catalyst for Change**
- **Fosters Collaboration**



# CFR FINDINGS INFORMING PREVENTION EFFORTS

- Specific Risk Factors
- Systemic Failures
- Targeted Public Health Campaigns
- Policy & Legislative Reform
- Program Development & Improvement
- Professional Training
- Resource Allocation



# SUSTAINING THE PROCESS:

## LONG-TERM COMMITMENT



- ONGOING FUNDING & RESOURCES
- DEDICATED STAFF & LEADERSHIP
- REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULES
- PUBLIC REPORTING & ACCOUNTABILITY
- CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
- INTERAGENCY LIAISON
- ADVOCACY

# REFLECTION ACTIVITY



## **Reflection:** Improving Your CFR Process

- Based on the national best practices and review types discussed, identify one concrete way your current local/jurisdictional CFR process could be maximized.
- Is there a specific type of review (e.g., thematic) that isn't regularly done but would add value?
- What is the biggest barrier to this improvement, and how might it be addressed?

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- CFR's Core Mission
- National Best Practices
- Coroner Role
- Diverse Review Models
- Actionable Recommendations
- Key Challenges
- Mitigation



# RESOURCES FOR FURTHER LEARNING



- NATIONAL CENTER FOR FATALITY REVIEW & PREVENTION (NCFRP) :  
[HTTPS://NCFRP.ORG/WHAT-WE-DO/CDR/](https://ncfrp.org/what-we-do/cdr/)
- MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH BUREAU (MCHB) :  
[HTTPS://MCHB.HRSA.GOV/PROGRAMS-IMPACT/PROGRAMS/KEEP-KIDS-SAFE/DEATH-REVIEWS](https://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs-impact/programs/keep-kids-safe/death-reviews)
- INT'L. SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY & PREVENTION OF PERINATAL AND INFANT DEATH (ISPID) : [HTTPS://WWW.ISPID.ORG/](https://www.ispid.org/)

# THANK YOU



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