



Jackson County Department of Public Health

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Anna Lippard

INTERIM DIRECTOR

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Jackson County Board of Commissioners and Board of Health

**FROM:** Jackson County CFPT Chairperson (Anna Lippard) *AL*

Jackson County Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)

**SUBJECT:** Local CFPT Annual Report

**DATE:** March 11, 2024

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 2023.

Please feel free to contact me at 828-587-8225 if you have any questions.

Attachment

# 2023 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 2023, the Jackson County CFPT reviewed four child deaths and identified no system problems and/or recommendations for future prevention efforts. Below are highlights:

#### Child deaths reviewed in 2023:

AGE IN YEARS	CAUSE OF DEATH
Adolescent (13-17 years of age)	Suicide; Underlying cause of death: Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm discharge
Child (5-12 years of age)	Homicide; Underlying cause of death: Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge
Neonate (less than 30 days old)	Birth defects; Underlying cause of death: Congenital malformation of the heart, unspecified
Neonate (less than 30 days old)	Birth defects; Underlying cause of death: Coarctation of aorta.

Cause of Death	System Problem Identified	Recommendation	Proposed Action
Suicide	Case is still under review	1. Pending	1. Pending
Homicide	Case is still under review	1. Pending	1. Pending
Birth Defects	No system problem identified	1. None	1. None
Birth Defects	No system problem identified	1. None	1. None

**IV. Jackson County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments**

- In 2023, the Jackson County Department of Public Health Maternal Health Clinic were able to add non-invasive pregnancy testing (NIPT) and carrier testing to the current offerings through our clinic for low and high-risk mothers.
- Safe Kids Jackson County had another big year and held 22 total events throughout 2023.
  - A total of 7,189 people were served through Safe Kids.
  - A few examples of the events Safe Kids held or were apart of include:
    - Various Health Fairs throughout the county
    - Visited all Jackson County schools during Fire Prevention week with local fire departments to provide education
    - Two medication take back events that collected a total of 22.6 pounds of medications
- 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 Interim Health Director at 828-587-8225, respectively, should you have any questions about this report.

*Anna Lippard*

3/11/2024

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Interim Health Director

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Date