

LINCOLN COUNTY DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE

Monday, October 13, 2025 - 10:00 AM

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

Caylor called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

a. Death Review Meeting Minutes - 7/14/2025

M/S by Rumsey/Knospe to approve the 7/14/25 minutes. Carried on voice vote.

3. Any Changes in Practice Since Last Review

a. POA for Healthcare Activation Resources - ADRC

Zernicke stated that ADRC can educate on how and where to complete Power of Attorney for Health Care (POAHC) and inform current customers on what it means to activate POAHC. Byer stated that only Health Care Providers can activate POAHCs; Law Enforcement can contact APS to inquire if a POAHC has been activated. Cohrs will follow up with Aspirus on education for healthcare workers on POAHC activation.

b. Falls Prevention Education - ADRC

Zernicke stated that ADRC has provided recent community education events for falls prevention. The dementia specialists offer falls education when meeting with clients and upon Medicare enrollment. ADRC will continue offering educational events in the upcoming months.

c. 988 Education - tabled to January 2026

4. Approve Updates to Death Review Guiding Principles - Shelley Cohrs

a. Death Review Guiding Principles - DRAFT

Cohrs delineated what member versus partner status means for this committee, which is important with establishing a quorum if a vote is needed on a topic. If a partner organization consistently attends these meetings and would like to become a member, they should notify Cohrs. Attendees present discussed the importance of having an alternate person from each organization as a back-up to attend these meetings. All committee attendees, whether members or partners, must have an annual confidentiality agreement signed prior to attending meetings.

5. Closed Session

Motion by Rumsey to convene into closed session. Carried on voice vote.

6. *Review 3 Cases

- a. **Consideration of motion to adjourn into closed session for the purpose of discussing confidential information relating to the unexpected deaths of specific children, pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(d) (considering strategy for crime detection or prevention); Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(f) (considering medical, social or personal histories of specific persons or preliminary consideration of the investigation of charges against specific persons which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a**

substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or involved in such investigations); Wis. Stat. 48.981(7) (limiting public disclosure of child-specific information disclosed to child death review team); Wis. Stat. 146.82(2)(b) (restricting re-disclosure of medical information contained in records obtained pursuant to law); Wis. Stat. 48.78(2)(a) (restricting re-disclosure of information in records of child protective agency); and Wis. Stat. 48.396 (limiting disclosure of law enforcement records of children).

7. Reconvene to Open Session

M/S by Rumsey/Westberg to reconvene into open session. Carried on voice vote.

8. Any Action Taken from Closed Session - Discussion on Prevention Initiatives

- 988 Education to be provided at next meeting.
- Cohrs to follow-up with Aspirus on healthcare worker training for POAHC activation and revisiting POAHC's duties once activated.
- Caylor to follow-up with DNR on boating safety and carbon monoxide poisoning education, with possible community presentations.
- Caylor to follow-up with our State legislators on possible legislation relating to boater safety and carbon monoxide poisoning prevention.
- Cohrs stated that the Health Department received a Carbon Monoxide grant and will begin a campaign focusing on boating and carbon monoxide poisoning prevention.
- Caylor to follow-up with Tomahawk School District on teen mental health first aide training or resources being offered and determine if a representative from Tomahawk School District would like to join this Committee.
- Byer to offer training sessions to Law Enforcement in Spring 2026 on POAHC activation and how APS can assist with situations that arise; Caylor to assist with getting this scheduled. Byer encouraged Law Enforcement to call APS with any questions.
- Knospe to follow-up with Merrill High School Social Worker on what is being offered for teen mental health first aide and staff training.

9. Review of Lincoln County Death Trends – Valerie Caylor, Lincoln County Coroner

Caylor stated that there has been an increase in long term care and SNF falls. Byer stated that these can be referred to APS for investigation.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Next Meeting Date(s)

Next meeting is January 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

12. Adjourn

M/S by Rumsey/Westberg to adjourn meeting. Carried on voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.