

Lincoln County Death Review Team
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N. Sales St., Merrill
Rooms 247/248

Members Present: Valerie Caylor, Jessi Rumsey, Mary Klade

Partners Present: Brian Burkhardt, Nicole Cimino, Jennifer Clark, Dr. Michael Clark, Trina Knospe, Jessi Rumsey, Tyler Tesch, Erin Wells, Kim West, Holly Westberg

Guests: Lexi Buntrock, Kristin Bath

Agenda Item	
1. Call Meeting to Order	Caylor called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)	Motion by Caylor to approve 7/8/2024 meeting minutes, 2 nd by Burkhardt. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Any changes in practice since last review	ADRC Falls Prevention - Clark provided information on Stepping On for Falls Preventions, which is a 7 week program. The program looks at multifactorial reasons for falls. Guest speakers include Physical Therapists, Fire, and Police. Areas that are addressed include how to get up from a fall, medication review, use of Vitamin D and calcium supplements, home environment, and proper footwear. There is a resource specialist to assist people in coordinating cleaning, shoveling, Meals on Wheels, etc. Volunteers are always needed to facilitate this program. LCHD Safe Sleep and Postpartum Resources – Buntrock provided information on Crib for Kids, distribution of book for safe sleep, safe sleep plans, birth mailings, and parenting information. Community Baby Showers are offered annually in Tomahawk and Merrill and are an excellent source of information for families. LCHD 988 and Grief Resources – Bath provided information on various initiatives, including billboards and paid ads, being done for the 988 program to create more awareness. Middle aged men are the target population, as they are at highest risk. Updated Grief Recovery Guides and pamphlets were distributed.
4. Death Review Guiding Principles	Document reviewed. No changes noted. Motion by Rumsey to approve, 2 nd by Burkhardt. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. Death Review Team Cooperative Annual Agreement	Klade provided the annual agreement to those partners who have not yet reviewed and signed one. Signed agreements placed on file.
6. Convene into Closed Session	Motion by Clark to go into closed session allowing partner participation, 2 nd by Rumsey. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Closed Session	Convened to 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). Reviewed 4 cases.
8. Reconvene into Open Session	Motion by Klade to resume open meeting session, 2 nd by Rumsey. All ayes, motion carried.
9. Any action taken from closed session - discussion on prevention initiatives	Potential prevention initiatives may include: Responsibilities and understanding of being a POA for Healthcare for a person declared incompetent. Appears to be a gap in understanding in the responsibility of healthcare personnel to report incidents of neglect to the proper authorities. Klade will reach out to Aspirus and Marshfield Clinic to obtain information on training regarding responsibilities once a POA for Healthcare is activated.
10. Review of Lincoln County Death Trends	Caylor reported that Lincoln County had multiple influenza deaths and one Covid death. She continues to see deaths related to falls. There were 38 deaths in March 2025.
11. Add Public comment	None.
12. Next meeting date and agenda items	July 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.; Agenda items: POA responsibilities/training
13. Adjourn	Motion by West to adjourn at 12:12 p.m., 2 nd by Westberg. All ayes, motion carried.

Recorder: Mary Klade, 5/1/2025