



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Public Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**For Agenda Of:** January 11, 2022  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD  
Director(s) Public Health Department  
Contact Info: Kelley Barragan 805-681-5476  
**SUBJECT: Child Death Review Team Report 2019-2020**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

- a) Receive and file a report from the Child Death Review Team on deaths of children in Santa Barbara County for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020; and
- b) Determine that the above action is not a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, since the action consists of organizational or administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to provide the Board with a report on Child Death Reviews in Santa Barbara County (Attachment A). The Child Death Review Team (CDRT) was created pursuant to Penal Code section 11174.32 to review child deaths and their causes, explore means to avert similar deaths and, where available, compile statistical data to identify trends. The current report includes data from calendar years 2019 and 2020.

**Background:**

CDRT is a county-wide interagency task force with the purpose of preventing childhood fatalities through comprehensive and multidisciplinary assessment of child deaths. Members include law

enforcement, social services, and key community service providers. The team has produced a report summarizing child deaths in our county.

The accompanying CDRT report for Santa Barbara County includes the deaths of children through the age of 17 and covers the time period of January 2019 through December 2020. The report reflects causes of child deaths and recommendations to prevent future deaths. During this two year period of time, there were 81 total childhood deaths in Santa Barbara County, with the majority due to medical conditions.

CDRT is made possible by the members themselves and the agencies that commit their time to this endeavor. The dedicated efforts of all team members are sincerely appreciated. Activities will continue to strengthen this review process and recommend action to prevent future child deaths.

A press release will be sent to the media, copies of the report will be made available upon request and is posted on the Board of Supervisors Agenda website and on the Public Health Department's website.

**Key points of the 2019-2020 CDRT Report:**

- Between 2019 and 2020, the number of children who died ranged from 49-32 decedents per year (January - December).
- Since 2012, the percentage of all pediatric deaths in Santa Barbara County has hovered just over 1% of all deaths of residents.
- Over the years, the majority of child deaths were due to medical conditions or unpreventable disease. In 2019, 72% (35/49) of all deaths were due to medical conditions; 2020, 69% (22/32) of all deaths were due to medical conditions.
- Over the past 2 years, 24 (50%) of the 48 deaths of children under the age of 1, were due in some part, to prematurity.
- The cases reviewed by the CDRT are a small subset of all pediatric deaths. Accidents encompassed a variety of incident types such as drug overdoses and asphyxiation.
- Unsafe sleeping conditions, such as bed sharing, were factors in several of the accidental deaths of young children.

**Performance Measure:**

N/A

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts to accepting this report and reviewing the recommendations.

**Key Contract Risks:**

N/A

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

0

**FTEs:**

0

**Special Instructions:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

- A. Child Death Review Team Report 2019-2020

**Authored by:**

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