

North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force

2009 Action Agenda

Perinatal Death Reduction

- Seek a recurring appropriation of \$250,000 per year to continue the support of the Safe Sleep Campaign aimed at reducing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome as well as infant deaths due to suffocation/strangulation.
- Seek a recurring appropriation of \$97,000 per year to continue the provision of 17P progesterone to low-income pregnant women at risk for preterm birth.
- Request that the Division of Medical Assistance, either by federal waiver or through currently available mechanisms, offer coverage for a basic package of interconceptional care services to low-income women at high risk for delivering prematurely. (Due to savings in infant intensive care, this proposal is cost-neutral.)
- Continue on-going Task Force efforts to enhance the initiation and duration of breastfeeding to reduce infant mortality and childhood morbidities, including obesity.

Intentional Death Reduction

- Seek a recurring expansion appropriation of \$1.4 million per year for the Child Medical Evaluation System to provide diagnostic services to children suspected of being victims of child maltreatment.
- Seek a recurring new appropriation of \$1.2 million per year for statewide implementation of the NC Child Treatment Program, an evidence-based set of services that successfully ameliorate residual trauma from child maltreatment.
- Recommend that North Carolina meet the requirements of the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act by requesting that interagency agreements be established in each county that would allow local Departments of Social Services to access criminal records databases through the Sheriffs' Offices.
- Seek a non-recurring appropriation of \$400,000 (to be spent over two years) for the State Agency for Public Telecommunications to provide matching funds in the development and implementation of a public awareness campaign in support of the PURPLE Crying Program to reduce the occurrence of Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- Endorse efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services to implement a child maltreatment surveillance system to provide more accurate data to both direct and evaluate child maltreatment prevention initiatives.

Unintentional Death Reduction

- Endorse efforts of the Department of Insurance to protect children by banning the sale of novelty lighters in North Carolina.
- Endorse efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services to enhance the forensic testing system for alcohol by increasing the driver's license restoration fee in DWI cases by \$25.
- Seek legislation and/or administrative strategies to enhance student safety around school buses by reducing the illegal passing of stopped school buses.
- Request that the Division of Motor Vehicles include the "school bus stop arm" icon on all DMV vision tests.
- Seek legislation or an administrative response from the State Board of Education to strengthen drivers education by establishing at least one full-time position in the Department of Public Instruction to oversee the Drivers Education Program. (This would come from funds already available to the agency.)
- Endorse efforts to protect children by increasing the fines for employing underage children.
- Endorse efforts to enhance off-highway vehicle safety by expanding the availability of safety training for children and by establishing an extensive trails program for safe OHV recreation. These efforts would be supported by a registration fee for all-terrain vehicles and off-road motorcycles.
- Work with the Environmental Review Commission regarding the efficacy of banning the manufacture and sale in North Carolina of products containing certain toxic polybromides.
- Endorse efforts to expand the availability and accessibility of defibrillators in schools and in communities.