



10 Steps To An **Effective Review**

Learning Together, Protecting Tomorrows

Housekeeping

Before We Get Started



Recorded Webinar

This webinar is being recorded and will be made available on the National Center's website.



Questions and Answers

Participants are muted. Use the question-and-answer box to ask questions.



Technology Problems

Email the National Center at info@ncfrp.org if you experience tech problems.



Evaluation

Complete a brief evaluation at the conclusion of the session. Scan the QR code to access.

Speakers

The speakers have no financial relationships or interests to disclose.



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About the National Center

Center for Fatality Review and Prevention



Communicate with fatality review teams.



Provide technical assistance, training, and connection.



Develop actionable resources.



Support the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting Systems.

Step 1: Be Prepared

People Crave Consistency

- Set consistent meetings.
 - Set quarterly meetings for the entire year. It is better to cancel a meeting than scramble to schedule one. Develop an agenda that is always used.
- Develop team agreements.
 - Implement and follow team agreements that outline expectations about participating in meetings, information sharing, data collection, and prevention.





Step 2: Train And Orient Members

Start From The Same Place



Team Retainment

Teams should be retrained every three years.



Onboarding Efforts

Create a new team member orientation packet that includes an overview of the team, expectations of members, specific data collection needs, and prevention goals.



Developing Processes

Develop a process for team members to notify team leadership about potential guests so they can be prepared.

Step 2 Example

Ohio Suicide Mortality Review (SMR)

- Decentralized system of fatality reviews.
- To support county teams, the state-level SMR team created a standardized manual and training video, which is available online.
- They also hosted a conference for county-based SMR teams.





Step 3: Prevention

Eyes On The Prize



Catalyze Prevention

Fatality review teams are encouraged to catalyze prevention.



Focus on Prevention

Teams who focus on prevention are most successful and reduce risk of getting “stuck.”



When the Team is Stuck

Ask “How does this contribute to prevention?” when the team is stuck.



The Mission/Vision of the Team

Keep the team's mission/vision visible during meetings and revisit it every few years.

Step 3 Example

Guam Suicide Mortality Review (SMR)

- Developed a mission and vision statement as part of their SMR implementation process.
- Throughout their work to establish an SMR, they have kept this mission statement in focus to inform the planning, implementation, and training of their SMRC.



Step 4: Share, Question And Clarify

Curiosity Leads To Greater Understanding

Discuss Case Information

Have each team member share information about the death, including the decedent's history, how the agency responded, and any services delivered to the family or community.

Clarify Conflicting Information

Team members may have conflicting information. Discuss conflicts with open-ended questions. Use the Adult NFR-CRS data dictionary to identify primary sources of data.



Prevention Activities

Create findings for each death that will ultimately drive prevention recommendations.

Develop Standard Questions

Create a standard list of questions that can be discussed during each review meeting. This will ensure all reviewed deaths are discussed the same way.

Step 4 Example

Georgia Suicide Mortality Review (SMR)

- Their process includes reviewing death data and documenting contextual risk and protective factors using a standardized template prior to the SMR meeting.
- During the meeting, each death is discussed in a standardized approach of time-limited conversations, including building on recommendations.





Step 5: Stay Focused On Findings

Findings Support Prevention

- Focus on findings.
 - Findings allow the team to target very specific systems gaps and highlight successes. This is the power in a multidisciplinary review.
- Recommendations provide solutions.
 - Once every 12-24 months, gather a group of professionals to review the findings and generate formal prevention recommendations.

The Shift To Findings

Moving From Recommendations To Findings

Create Findings

Findings are objective facts about the death that identify key risk and protective factors.

Review Findings

Assemble a broad group of partners to review findings to identify opportunities for prevention.



Prevention Activities

Hand-off prevention recommendations to partners and evaluate implementation.

Write Recommendations

Use that same group of partners to write prevention recommendations ensuring unintended consequences are considered.

Step 5 Example

Arizona Suicide Mortality Review (SMR)

- Each meeting ends with a recommendation for each review. These are recorded and reviewed in aggregate to find themes.
- Using the themes, the team tailors interventions towards identified community gaps.



Step 6: Incorporate Community Context

Paint A Complete Picture



Community Context

Understanding the context in which a person lived and how it impacted their health and wellbeing is crucial to making fatality review findings and systems-level prevention strategies.



Gather Information

Gather information about how community factors, such as access to health care services and community resources, may influence individual deaths.



Team Language

Ensure the team has a common language. This ensures clear communication and effective collaboration when incorporating community context.



Use Resources

Use supplemental data resources, if applicable and the Life Stressors section of the Adult National Fatality Review-Case reporting system to help guide the team discussion.

Step 6 Example

Wisconsin Suicide Mortality Review (SMR)

- Focused on reviewing Veteran cases, but hope to expand to other at-risk populations, including urban vs. rural suicides, suicides involving firearms, and suicides among their tribal communities.
- Additionally, their partners at Wisconsin Medical College Division of Suicide Research and Healing have access to research and data with county-based SMR teams.



Action Steps

Combine Multiple Action Steps For A Comprehensive Approach

Consider the representativeness of your fatality review team

Review representative sample of deaths

Consider neighborhood & community context

Engage with families and community

Focus the conversation on systems

Identify strengths, not just deficits

Make findings and recommendations at multiple levels

Analyze and disseminate data



Step 7: Proactive Facilitation

Address Conflict



Create Standard Operating Procedures

Standardize team processes and procedures to ensure team members feel comfortable sharing information.



Guiding Questions

Develop a key question, such as, “How does this contribute to prevention?” to help redirect the team.



Make Space for Everyone

Give team members an opportunity to express their feelings respectfully.

Step 7 Example

Los Angeles County, Veteran Suicide Review Team (SRT)

- Carefully consider who is invited to participate in their death review meetings. They consider it important that members have not only information and knowledge to offer, but can commit to the team agreements regarding participation, confidentiality and appropriate behavior.
- At times, if a member is no longer able to participate as needed, the team has a process for addressing these concerns, supported by shared guidelines.





Step 8: Seek Education

Learn More, Learn Together



Identify Priorities

Use team meetings as a mechanism for training by identifying common training priorities and use team meetings for this work.



Cultivate Engagement

Ask team members to present on topics that are relevant to the team. This is a great strategy for engaging team members.



Use and Share Resources

Use professional organizations, recorded webinars and other resources for training.

Step 8 Example

Maine Suicide Mortality Review (SMR)

- Identified staff member to lead efforts to build interagency partnerships, especially with law enforcement agencies, both on the state and local level.
- This will allow for formalized engagement with their SMR, as well as improve networking and cooperation between the SMR and local communities.





Step 9: Team Health

Build A Culture Of Collective Well-Being



Team-Based Resiliency

Team health is contagious. Focus on how the team relates to each other to reduce friction.



Role of Culture

Culture drives action, beliefs, and norms. Focus on creating a safety of culture.



Team Strategies

Implement strategies that help the team learn together, fail quickly, and collectively problem solve.



Individual Strategies

Support individual needs through self-care strategies. Ensure the physical and emotional needs are met.

Step 9 Example

Los Angeles County, Veteran Suicide Review Team (SRT)

- Builds in trauma-informed well-being practices, including debriefs and post-meeting grounding exercises, as well as stress-relief tools, such as tactile items and breaks spent outdoors.
- Building on these activities into team agendas is key to keeping self-care as a team priority.



Step 10: Data, Entry, and Analysis

Implement Effective Data Management



Adult NFR-CRS

Adult National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System is available to SMRCs for data collection, entry, and analysis.



Data Collection

Information from various sources can be documented in the Adult NFR-CRS.



Reporting

Standardized reports and dashboards are available for data analysis and reporting.

Step 10 Example

Nevada Suicide Mortality Review Committee (SMRC)

- Utilizes administrative support to prepare data for SMRC members to review prior to the committee meeting via a privacy-compliant SharePoint site.
- Additionally, they utilize administrative support to take notes during the meeting and document recommendations for review by the SMRC.





Questions

Q&A For Speakers



Please complete an evaluation using the link in the chat, or by scanning the QR code above.

Thank You for Your Time!

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