



# INVOLVING FAMILY AND THOSE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE **IN FATALITY** **REVIEW**

Telling Stories to Save Lives



# Key Funding Partner

## Federal Acknowledgement

---

The National Center is funded in part by Cooperative Agreement Number UG7MC28482 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) as part of an award totaling \$5,149,996 annually with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. These contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



# Prioritizing Personal Wellbeing

The content of today's meeting may include information about individual or aggregate fetal, infant, or child deaths. This may evoke strong feelings or other distress. Please prioritize your own wellbeing during this meeting, even if you need to step away from the meeting. Contact the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 via phone or text for additional support.



## Family-Centered Engagement

Hear from Jose Ortiz, University of Chicago Medicine FIMR team, about the importance of a family-centered approach to engaging with families and the qualities, training, and preparation for the interviewer.



## Strategic Storytelling

Hear from Marissa Brown and members of the Michigan Storytelling Collaborative about the power of storytelling in fatality review and Michigan resources.



## The Power of a Story and a Parent's Perspective

Ashlee Bruggenschmidt's daughter, Kate, died while riding an ATV at a friend's house in 2015, but Kate's story did not end there. Hear how Kate's story led to a successful legislation change in Indiana and to Ashlee's participation in fatality review.



## Open Discussion

What else can we help you with today?



**WHAT TO EXPECT  
TODAY**



# FAMILY-CENTERED ENGAGEMENT

Successful Strategies for Contacting Families Who Have Suffered a Loss

# Michigan FIMR Storytelling Toolkit

---

Marissa Brown,  
Kent County, MI  
FIMR Coordinator

[marissa.brown@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:marissa.brown@kentcountymi.gov)

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/childrenfamilies/familyhealth/fimr/fimr-strategic-storytelling-toolkit>



---

# What Is Storytelling?

Stories help us connect, evoke emotion, inspire, and motivate us. They honor lived experiences by elevating the voices of families and their experiences. They help address health equity by illustrating how racism manifests as discrimination, implicit bias, and unequal treatment can lead to poor birth outcomes.

Understand Cause-and-Effect Relationships

Seeing Patterns in Important Information

Empathizing with People

Paying Attention

---

# Examples of Storytelling

[CDC Hear Her Campaign](#)

[I Vaccinate](#)

[The Illinois Maternal Health Digital Storytelling Project](#)

[Kent County FIMR Report](#)

[Family Stories of Sleep-Related Loss - A Facilitation Guide for Using their Digital Stories](#)

[MIBFN 2021 Annual Report](#)

[2022 Michigan WIC Breastfeeding Report](#)

---

# Storytelling Considerations

---

## The Individuals/Storytellers

- Weigh the risks vs benefits
- Ensure mental health supports are in place
- Allow the storytellers to determine how their stories are shared

## The Organizations/Agencies Sharing Stories

- Determine the readiness for storytelling
- Consents and releases
- citing stories
- Stories are first person experiences
- Preparing the viewer

## Sources of Stories

- Publicly available
  - Data Requests
  - FIMR Interviews
  - Contracting with an agency that does storytelling
-

---

# Resources

[Storytelling-Toolkit-Final\\_.pdf \(phrases.org\)](#)

[Introduction to Public Health Digital Storytelling Webinars — STORYCENTER](#)

[Tools for FIMR Teams – The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention \(ncfrp.org\)](#)

[Storytelling \(ca.gov\)](#)

[Storytelling and Public Health: The Power of Emotion in Science < Yale School of Public Health](#)

[Storytelling for Public Health - Maternal Health Learning and Innovation Center](#)

[Storytelling for Health Communication - Let's Talk Public Health - A Public Health Communication & Marketing Resource](#)

[\(letstalkpublichealth.com\)](#)

[Learning Brief | MCH Navigator](#)

[Raising Community Voices: The Power of Storytelling in Public Health Webinar on Vimeo](#)

---



“With one phone call, on one ordinary day, life as we knew it changed forever.”

--Ashlee Bruggenschmidt



# Play For Kate



Ashlee Bruggenschmidt  
President of Play For Kate

# ~Kate's Story~

## The Day The World Went Wrong

- July 26, 2015-ATV Crash
  - 1 phone call, 1 second, life as we knew it changed forever
  - Not a “horrible accident” but 100% preventable
  - Sent her to a friend's house and she never returned



# How Does Something Like This Happen?

- Lack of education
- Lack of awareness
  - Lack of Accountability
  - Lack of Resources
  - Culture



# Protecting Our Most Valuable Resources....Our Kids!

- Play For Kate Foundation Formed
  - Child and Safety Advocacy
  - HEA 1200/Kate's Law/Policy Change
    - Education~Safety Sam
    - ATV Trailers
    - ATV Safety App



# ATV Safety App

- Color the picture (for additional pictures go to [www.playforkate.com](http://www.playforkate.com), under ATV safety tab).
- Download the “Spectacular” App by Quiver Vision. This is a FREE App.
- Use Spectacular to scan the QR code or scan your picture.
- Scan page to play.





# Teamwork



# How Can We Do Better?

## Turn Up The Volume On Child Safety

- Let's be proactive/not reactive
- Ultimate goal of no more victims
- Use our pain and suffering as a place where people see hope
  - Elevate stories
  - Give better recommendations
  - Save more kids
- Working **WITH** Trauma Teams, Injury Prevention, CFR Teams, Law enforcement
- Review cases, investigate deaths....then what?
- How do we prevent these deaths?
- How do we change the outcomes?
- How do we improve the outcomes for kids?



# What Can We Do To Help?

- Education
- Prevention
- Collaboration
- Data Collection
  - Data brings people together (No Silos)/Collaboration
  - Data informs prevention efforts and catalyzes the community into action
  - Data drives our efforts, our education, prevention, and safety recommendations
    - Are we focusing our efforts in the right place/area?
    - How significant is the problem (ER data, DNR data, Police Reports, DCS)
    - Helps to find solutions and avoid the excuses
    - Helps to make informed decisions



# Parent Voice~Real Life Events

## Stories Change Behaviors Not Statistics

- Stories are data with a soul
  - Increases Engagement
    - Emotional
    - Relatable
- Don't be afraid to reach out~We don't forget that our child died. We want to hear their name and talk about them. Help them find their purpose...it helps them and you!



# Prevention From Tragedy?

- Experience Serving on CFR Team
  - Dual Role-Parent whose child died and as an educator



# Helping Others Helps You Heal

- Child Fatality Team
- How it helped me
- How it helped the team (CFR, Trauma, DNR)
- Facilitate change
- Prevention





# Barriers



- Fear of reaching out to parents/victims family
  - Confidentiality Concerns
    - Consent forms
    - How to approach the family
    - How to connect with families
    - How to Give them a voice
    - Following privacy laws and rules
- Fear of judgement
  - Who was at fault
  - Neglect vs Accident vs Preventable
- Other barriers?
- Questions?

# Together We CAN Make A Difference!

- Tragically, most, if not all, of child deaths can be prevented
- Together we can find solutions and prevent our kids from dying
- This cause, PFK, it found us...sharing Kate's story brings healing and eliminates its power over us. We speak for her, her story, and other's story and their pain. You all can be their voice too. I challenge you to do something meaningful, impactful, and make a positive difference every day!
- What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”  
-Jane Goodall



Check us out at  
[www.playforkate.com](http://www.playforkate.com)

Check us out on  
Facebook at Play For Kate



Contact us at:  
[playforkate@gmail.com](mailto:playforkate@gmail.com)  
812-202-0154 Ashlee

Play For Kate  
P.O. Box 834  
Boonville, IN 47601



# OPEN DISCUSSION

How Can We Help You Today?



# CONTACT INFORMATION



2395 Jolly Rd., Suite 120  
Okemos, MI 48864



Phone: 800-656-2434



[info@ncfrp.org](mailto:info@ncfrp.org)



[www.ncfrp.org](http://www.ncfrp.org)