

Bureau of Family Health Public Health Nurse Consultant Appointed to State Child Death Review Board

By Brenda Nickel, Child and School Nurse Consultant



Brenda Nickel has been appointed to serve on the State Child Death Review Board (SCDRB) representing KDHE. The SCDRB was created by the Kansas Legislature in 1992 and is administered by the Kansas Attorney General's Office.

The SCDRB is a 10 member multi-disciplinary board comprised of medical, law and social service professionals, whose appointments are defined by statute. The purpose of the SCDRB is to “determine the number of Kansas children who die annually, describe trends and patterns of child deaths, identify risk factors . . . [and] develop prevention strategies in order to lower the number of child deaths” (SCDRB, 2008, no page number).

The work of the SCDRB focuses on three specific goals:

- To describe trends and patterns of child deaths and identifying risk factors in the population.
- To improve interagency communication so recommendations can be made regarding recording of actual cause of death, investigation of suspicious deaths, and system responses to child deaths.
- To develop prevention strategies including community education and mobilization, professional training, and changes in legislation, public policy and/or agency practices.

An important strategy is efforts to increase awareness of potential threats to the lives of children by releasing

child protection tips for parents and others who work to protect Kansas children.

Nickel is a public health nurse consultant with the Bureau of Family Health, Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program. In this position she works with public and private healthcare providers, stakeholders with an interest in family health, policy makers, local health department and school nurses and assists in workforce development. She is a fellow of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute and holds memberships with the Kansas Public Health Association, the Kansas State Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, the National Association of School Nurse Consultants, the American School Health Association and Phi Kappa Phi.



To learn more about the State Child Death Review Board and to access resources and the annual report, go to www.ksag.org/page/child-safety and www.ksag.org/page/learn-about-child-death-in-kansas

References

State Child Death Review Board (SCDRB). (2008 February). State Spotlight – Kansas. National MCH Center for Child Death Review. Retrieved January 14, 2010, from www.childdeathreview.org/spotlightKS.htm.

Image Source: www.immunizekansaskids.org/graphics/BoySunflowers.jpg.