



**Child Fatality Prevention Team  
County Commissioners/Board of Health Annual Reports**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Rutherford County Commissioners/Board of Health

**FROM:** Crystal Margolin, CFPT Chairperson  
Rutherford County Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)

**SUBJECT:** Local CFPT Annual Report

**DATE:** June 15, 2023

The North Carolina Statute, Article 14, 7B-1406, and the CFPT Agreement Addenda with local health departments require Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams to advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist and submit a report annually to their local county commissioners and boards of health.

The purpose of the local CFPTs is to:

- Identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies.
- Make and carry out recommendations for changes that will prevent future child deaths; and
- Promote understanding of the causes of child deaths.

Attached is the Rutherford County CFPT annual report for your review for the calendar year 2022. Please feel free to contact me at (828) 287-6100 if you have any questions.

Attachment

Rutherford County Health Department  
221 Callahan Koon Road  
Spindale, NC 28160 USA  
Phone (828) 287-6100  
Fax (828) 288-4047

McDowell County Health Department  
408 Spaulding Road  
Marion, NC 28752 USA  
Phone (828) 652-6811  
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**I. Introduction**

In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPT) across the state to confidentially review medical examiner reports, death certificates, and other records of deceased residents under age 18. Each local team consists of representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community such as law enforcement, Guardian Ad Litem, and health departments, among others, that provide services to children and their families.

The purpose of this report is to give a summary of the causes of death, the number of cases reviewed, recommendations for prevention, if any, that have been made and to share local team activities and accomplishments.

**II. Role of the Rutherford County Commissioners and Board of Health**

- Receive annual reports which contain recommendations and advocate for system improvements and needed resources, if requested.
- Appoint members of the local team as identified by the membership.

**III. Child Deaths by Cause, System Problems Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action**

In 2022, the Rutherford County CFPT reviewed 6 child deaths and identified 2 system problems and recommendations for future prevention efforts.

Below are highlights:

Cause of Death	System Problem Identified	Recommendation	Proposed Action
Hydrops fetalis not due to hemolytic disease	Lack of prenatal care	Provide educational information to the community about the importance of prenatal care	The Health Department will feature information on social media about the importance of prenatal care as well as continue to provide information through prenatal clinics.
Undetermined	Safe Sleep education	Provide educational information to the community about the importance of following Safe Sleep guidelines	The Health Department will continue providing Safe Sleep education in prenatal clinics and will begin featuring educational information and Safe Sleep guidelines on social media.

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#### IV. Rutherford County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments

- The annual CFPT Activity Summary was completed and sent by the date requested.
- Individual reports were completed on child deaths reviewed by the team and were forwarded to the State Coordinator.

#### V. Conclusion

Thank you to the members of the Rutherford County Commissioners/Board of Health for the opportunity to share with you the successes and dedicated work of the local team as we continue to review child fatalities, make recommendations, and take action to prevent future child deaths. Please contact the Health Director or Chairperson at Foothills Health District, respectively, if you have any questions about this report.

Health Director

Chairperson

6/15/23

Date