CRITICAL INCIDENT RAPID RESPONSE TEAM
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROCESS

Background

• In 2014, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 1666 establishing requirements for creating a Critical Incident Rapid Response Team (CIRRT) which became effective January 1, 2015.

Florida Statute 39-2015
Critical Incident Rapid Response Team

• This team will provide an immediate multiagency investigation of certain child deaths or other serious incidents.

• The purpose is to identify root causes and rapidly determine the need to change policies and practices related to child protection and child welfare.
Florida Statute 39-2015
Team Membership

- Each investigation shall be conducted by a multiagency team of at least five professionals with expertise in child protection, child welfare, and organizational management.
- The majority of the team must reside in judicial circuits outside the location of the incident. The Secretary shall appoint a team leader for each group assigned to an investigation.

Team members may include:
- Employees of the department
- Community-based care lead agencies
- Children’s Medical Services
- Community-based care provider organizations
- Faculty from the Institute consisting of public and private universities offering degrees in social work
- Any other person with the required expertise

Effective 07/01/15, Team members must include:
- The Medical Director of a Child Protection Team
Florida Statute 39-2015
On-Site Investigations

• An immediate onsite investigation is required for all child deaths reported to the department if the child or another child in his or her family was the subject of a verified report of suspected abuse or neglect during the previous 12 months.
• The Secretary may direct an immediate investigation for other cases involving serious injury to a child and those involving a child death fatality that occurred during an active investigation.
• The investigation shall be initiated as soon as possible, but no later than 2 business days after the case is reported to the department.

Florida Statute 39-2015
Reporting

• A preliminary report on each case shall be provided to the Secretary no later than 30 days after the investigation begins.
• Upon completion of the investigation, the department shall make the team’s final report, excluding any confidential information, available on its website: 
  www.myfloridafamilies.com/childfatality

Participant Identification and Selection

• Should be recommended/approved to participate by their direct supervisor;
• Should be familiar with the new Safety Practice Framework;
• Should have previous experience with Quality Assurance and/or should demonstrate analytical and critical thinking skills;
• Should have experience in reviewing work conducted by other individuals and be able to provide a written summary of findings;
• Must have the ability to travel on short notice (usually within 24 to 48 hours of notification) and be at the review site for a period of 2 to 3 days; and
• Must not have any previous disciplinary actions.
Initial notification

- Immediate notification will be made to potential team participants through the Department’s emergency management notification system in order to establish a core team and the Team Lead and Team Coordinator will be immediately assigned.
- Once all of the team members have been identified, a conference call will be conducted and will normally convene within 24 hours. During the conference call, an overview of the case will be provided, preparation activities outlined and response time will be established.

On-site Activities

- Team Lead Responsibilities
- Team Coordinator Responsibilities
- Orientation (Initial meeting with regional staff and the team)
- Record Review
- Interviews
- Daily Debriefings
- Daily Re-caps
- Final Debriefing (Planning Meeting)

Prior to the law taking effect, there were three cases in which a CIRRT team was deployed in 2014.

As of 08/13/15, there have been a total of 29 CIRRT deployments since the law went into effect on 01/01/15.

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The CIRRT Process:
What it IS and what it is NOT

Panel Discussion

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