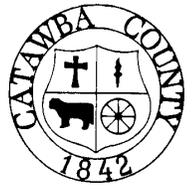




**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015, 7 P.M.
ROBERT E. HIBBITTS MEETING ROOM
1924 COURTHOUSE, NEWTON, N.C.**



The Board received, and approved, the annual report of the work of the Community Child Protection & Fatality Prevention Team. This annual report is to update and keep the Board informed on activities to date. Upon the Board's approval, the Annual Plan will be submitted to the State.

The Catawba County Child Protection Team was established in 1992 as the result of an executive order by Governor James Martin. North Carolina later mandated a Child Fatality Review Team and Catawba County elected to combine the two into a single team as allowed under State guidelines. That combined team first met in 1995 and has met quarterly since inception, except for specially called meetings.

This report addresses the work of the Community Child Protection and Fatality Prevention Team. The Child Protection Team has the legal responsibilities for reviewing cases of child fatalities when the family is known to Social Services, and identification of areas in Protective Services needing improvement in order to maximize the safety of the community's children. The Child Fatality Team's purpose is to provide a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach to study cases of childhood death in Catawba County in order to attempt to reduce child fatalities. The local directors of Social Services and Public Health have specific responsibilities for each team. Efforts continue to be made for the group to review additional individual Child Protective Services issues and satisfy the State's agreement with the Federal government to use Child Protection Teams as a review mechanism in the Child Protective Services arena.

The Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Team has worked diligently in 2014 on supporting the Project Lazarus initiative to curb drug overdose with prescribed drugs; assessing fatalities with serious injury perpetrator data; focusing on human trafficking, which is a growing concern on the I-40 corridor; focusing on laws/penalties for those who fail to report child abuse and neglect; promoting awareness regarding the dangers of distracted driving among teens; promoting safe sleeping practices among caregivers with small infants, and supporting mental health first aid which helps communities address de-escalating someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis, and the ability of caregivers to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

CONTACT: DAVE HARDIN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER 465-8464