

Buncombe County Community Child Protection Team & Child Fatality Prevention Team



Protecting our Children

January 3, 2020

Dear Law Enforcement Chiefs and Managers of municipalities in Buncombe County:

In 1993, North Carolina established Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPTs) as part of a statewide multidisciplinary, multiagency child fatality prevention system. Local CFPTs review the records for deceased county residents under age 18 whose fatalities were not due to abuse or neglect. The purpose of these reviews is to understand the causes of childhood deaths; identify any gaps or deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and their families by public agencies; and make and implement recommendations for changes that will prevent future child deaths. Team recommendations are reported annually to the local boards of health and county commissioners, as well as the NC Child Fatality Prevention Team.

In 2019, the Buncombe County Child Fatality Prevention Team reviewed the 2018 homicide deaths of three children due to gun violence, an increase over prior years. The team identified that gun violence is a growing threat to the health and safety of youth and adults in our community. The team's recommendation on what to do about this problem is a call to action to law enforcement agencies and municipality leadership in Buncombe County.

Law enforcement agencies and municipalities in Buncombe County should lead or promote community work relating to gun violence, pulling together representatives from all sectors, including affected communities, to work on understanding & addressing the causes of gun violence in our community.

Our team appreciates the efforts of your agencies and municipalities to protect and promote the health and safety of children in Buncombe County. We hope that you take our recommendation into consideration as you continue your work in 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jmullendore".

Jennifer Mullendore, MD, MSPH
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