



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCATE

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OCA CHILD FATALITY REVIEW

The Office of the Child Advocate released its report, "Child Fatalities: Children Birth to Three 2013" on July 31, 2014 to the media [Media Advisory: Office of the Child Advocate Releases Report: Child Fatalities Children Birth to Three 2013]. Full report: [Report: Child Fatalities Children Birth to Three 2013](#)

Key recommendations include 1) that DCF develop a heightened "birth to three" practice model, 2) that the state increase access to trauma-informed, parent-child support services, and 3) that the state increase transparency and improve accountability for child death investigation and fatality reviews.

OCA RESPONDS TO CALLS FOR HELP

In July 2014, OCA received over 3 dozen intakes and opened 18 cases for further investigation. Children's issues included:

- 1. Need for mental health care in the juvenile justice system;*
- 2. Access to mental health care in the least restrictive environment;*
- 3. Identification of appropriate services and education for children with autism and other developmental challenges.*

OCA EDUCATES

Child Advocate Sarah Eagan, in collaboration with the Center for Children's Advocacy, trained new juvenile court contract attorneys on how to meet the needs of children in the child welfare system.

OCA participated in a summer safety press conference at Connecticut Children's Medical Center highlighting water safety, window safety, bike safety and parental supervision.

OCA PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

OCA continues to partner with the Department of Correction and UConn-CMHC to improve conditions and outcomes for the youthful offender population at Manson Youth and York Correctional Institutions. Focus of this work is improving the conditions of confinement for youth while in DOC custody to produce an effective and successful transition to the community.

OCA ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Child Advocate met with parents in the community about unmet children's mental health needs.

The Child Advocate testified at the legislature about ways to improve service delivery for children with mental health challenges, especially for children with autism.

OCA is actively reviewing restraint and seclusion practices in CT's schools, with a report expected later this year.

OCA opened cases to advocate for several young children with complex health and developmental challenges to ensure their needs can be met in the least restrictive environment.