Critical Incident Review Team
Final Report

A Critical Incident Review Team is convened by the Department Director when the Department becomes aware of a critical incident resulting in a child fatality that was reasonably believed to be the result of abuse and the child, child's sibling or another child living in the household with the child has had contact with the Department (DHS). The reviews are called by the Department Director to quickly analyze DHS actions in relation to the critical incident and to ensure the safety and well-being of all children within the custody of DHS or during a child protective services assessment. The CIRT must complete a final report which serves to provide an overview of the critical incident, relevant Department history, and may include recommendations regarding actions that should be implemented to increase child safety. Reports must not contain any confidential information or records that may not be disclosed to members of the public. Versions of all final reports are posted on DHS' website.

CIRT ID: C4YU8WZABJ		
Date of critical incident: March 18, 2018	**Date Department became aware of the fatality:** March 28, 2018	
Date Department caused and investigation to be made: April 16, 2019	**Date of child protective services (CPS) assessment disposition:** June 14, 2019	
Date CIRT assigned: January 10, 2020	**Date Final Report submitted:** April 17, 2020	
Date of CIRT meetings: January 23, 2020 March 6, 2020	**Number of participants:** 14 15	**Members of the public?** No No

Description of the critical incident and Department contacts regarding the critical incident:

Date of report:	Allegation(s):	Disposition:
04/16/2019 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 10-day response	Neglect by Father	Founded

On 03/28/2018, the Department received a report about a car accident which resulted in the death of the child, age two, the child's father, and the child's stepmother. The father was driving on a rural highway and lost control of the vehicle as he rounded a turn. The vehicle slid sideways into the path of a double trailer semi-truck. The semi-truck was traveling at around 60 mph and was unable to stop to avoid the collision. The family's vehicle was struck toward the front of the driver side door, pushed under the truck tractor and dragged for 180 feet before the semi-truck was able to stop. The child was properly restrained in a car seat but succumbed to trauma from the impact. No indications of child abuse were noted, and the report was closed at screening.

On 04/16/2019, the local child welfare office participated in the local Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting and received additional information that the father had methamphetamine and amphetamine in his system at the time of the accident. This information was reported to the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline and resulted in the assignment of a CPS assessment. The CPS caseworker reviewed a toxicology report which confirmed the presence of amphetamine, methamphetamine, and cannabis in the father's system. The law enforcement investigation concluded he was likely under the influence at the time of the accident. On June 14th, 2019, the allegation of neglect was founded, and the child's death was determined to be the result of abuse.

Central Office did not receive the required notification through a Sensitive Issue Report, which would have alerted the CIRT of this significant change in circumstances surrounding the fatality. This resulted in an extensive delay in assignment of this CIRT. The new CPS assessment was discovered during the annual comprehensive review of all child abuse fatalities and was determined to meet the CIRT criteria at that time. The information was immediately forwarded to the Department's Director and the CIRT was officially assigned on January 10th, 2020.

Description of relevant prior Department reports:

The case history includes Department records contained in three files: the father of the deceased child; the deceased child's stepmother because she provided care for the deceased child; and the deceased child's biological mother.

Father ***The history related to the father as the primary caregiver to the child is listed below.***		
Date of report: 12/19/2017 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	**Allegation(s):** Threat of Harm by Stepmother Neglect by Father	**Disposition:** Founded Founded

On 12/19/2017, the Department received a report regarding an incident of domestic violence that occurred on 12/16/2017. The father reported to law enforcement his wife (herein referred to as the "stepmother" to the child) assaulted him and then cut herself with a knife in front of the child. The stepmother was arrested for Assault IV (felony) and Harassment.

A CPS caseworker met with the father at his home and father explained the altercation began because the stepmother was angry that he went to a mutual friend's house the previous evening without her. The father reported the stepmother repeatedly hit him before taking a knife, cutting her arms and stabbing the kitchen cabinet. The father was holding the child at the time, and the child witnessed the event. The father recorded the altercation with a cell phone and the stepmother could be heard threatening the father.

The CPS caseworker interviewed the stepmother who disclosed a long history of alcohol abuse and mental health concerns. The stepmother was not engaged in any services at the time of the domestic violence incident. The Department offered a referral for mental health services and established a safety plan with the father which included not allowing the stepmother back into the home.

The child's biological mother was contacted during this assessment. The mother explained the father was the primary legal custodian and she visited her child when able.

On 01/09/2018 the Department received an additional report which indicated the father was having contact with his wife, the stepmother of his child. The Safety Service Provider (SSP) conducted an unannounced home visit and observed the stepmother in the home. The SSP subsequently took the child out of the home and called law enforcement. Later, the father went to the SSP's home and retrieved the child. A short while later, the SSP saw the child walking alone and without an adult. The SSP took the child back to the father's home and became concerned when the father was overheard telling another person to be quiet. Later that evening, the father went to the SSP's home again and asked the SSP to watch the child for the night. The SSP agreed but the father returned a short while later and retrieved the child.

The CPS caseworker responded to the home with law enforcement that evening. The father admitted the stepmother had been in the home earlier that evening and reported neither adult was under the influence. He was unable to provide information on how the child was able to wander to the SSP's home on the evening of 01/09/2018. Another protective action plan was implemented which placed the child in the care of the SSP.

The Department determined the child could return to the father's home with the implementation of an initial safety plan put in place with additional safety service providers to ensure the stepmother was not in the home. The father's case remained open for several weeks to monitor his ability to set boundaries with the stepmother. The case concluded with the CPS caseworker explaining to the father if the stepmother returned to the home, the child would likely be taken into protective custody. The allegation of neglect was founded as to the father and the allegation of threat of harm was also founded as to the stepmother.

Date of report:	**Allegation(s):**	**Disposition:**
01/09/2018	Neglect by Father	Opened in Error
Assignment decision: Assign: 24-hour response	Threat of Harm by Stepmother	Opened in Error

On 01/09/2018, the Department received a report alleging the father had not followed the safety plan and allowed the stepmother back into the home. Further, the father had not provided adequate supervision of his child as the child was found walking alone without adult supervision. The report was assigned for a CPS assessment; however, it was later closed as opened in error and the new allegations were added to the ongoing assessment. Please see above for details related to these allegations.

Stepmother ***The stepmother's Department history is detailed below. Because this history is related to her children, she will be referred to as "mother."***		
Date of report: 03/16/2007 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	**Allegation(s):** Neglect by mother	**Disposition:** Unable to Determine

On 03/16/2007, the Department received a call requesting immediate assistance from law enforcement after learning the mother reportedly left her children, ages four years and four months, with a friend while she went to a bar. She arrived intoxicated several hours later to retrieve her children, but the friend was unwilling to let the mother take the children.

A CPS caseworker responded to the home and determined neither the mother nor the friend were able to care for the children. Both parties appeared to the CPS caseworker to be under the influence. A safety plan was created to have a relative care for the children over the weekend. A Child Safety Meeting was held the following week and the mother agreed to work with the Department on a voluntary basis and to participate in services.

Several weeks into the voluntary case, the CPS caseworker learned the mother had left for California because she was suspected of stealing a car and prescription medications. The children subsequently went to live with their father.

Toward the end of April 2007, the mother returned from California and requested to move her children with her to California. She disclosed she had taken prescription medication for her wrist pain and was not engaged in any services. The children remained with their father despite the mother's attempts to remove the children.

At the end of the assessment, collateral sources continued to report that the mother appeared to be misusing prescription medication. The children's father took legal steps to ensure the safety of his children and the case was closed.

Biological Mother ***The deceased child's biological mother had one older child. Below is a summary of the reports regarding the older child as well as the deceased child. The mother's older child had a different father than the deceased child.***		
Date of report: 07/15/2011 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	**Allegation(s):** Neglect by Mother	**Disposition:** Unfounded

On 07/15/2011, the Department received a report stating the mother was addicted to prescription pain killers and was failing to provide adequate supervision for her six-month-old infant because she was sleeping throughout the day.

The CPS caseworker met with the mother who admitted she was struggling with dependency to prescribed medication. The CPS caseworker offered a referral for a substance abuse evaluation which the mother completed. She was referred for further services and reported to be highly motivated to stay clean and sober.

The Department observed the infant and had no concerns about the mother's ability to provide for the infant's needs. The infant appeared healthy and had a strong bond with the mother. The case was closed as unfounded without further intervention.

Date of report: 08/19/2011 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	**Allegation(s):** Neglect by Mother	**Disposition:** Founded

On 08/19/2011, the Department received a report the mother had overdosed on prescription pain medication. A relative was caring for mother's six-month-old infant (older sibling to the deceased child) at the time of the mother's overdose. The report noted the mother had a history of substance use since she was a teenager and had previously overdosed.

Upon initial contact, the CPS caseworker implemented a protective action plan which required the infant to remain with a relative during the mother's hospitalization. The mother admitted to not following through with treatment recommendations and

acknowledged she had been administering her own medication a week prior to the overdose. The mother reported wanting to engage in services.

This assessment was coded as founded and case notes indicated ongoing case management over the next two years while additional reports of abuse were received.

Date of report: 09/05/2012 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	**Allegation(s):** Neglect by Mother	**Disposition:** Unfounded

On 09/05/2012, the Department received a report that the mother was taken to the hospital after she ingested 30 more pills than prescribed over a period of 2-3 days. Her family was caring for her one-year old child (older sibling to the deceased child) at the time.

The CPS caseworker met with the mother, her new husband, and her grandparents with whom the couple were living. The family explained they were unable to manage the mother's substance use problem

The case was reassigned to a new CPS caseworker and the mother and her husband moved in with the husband's family who took over management of the mother's medications. Shortly after the home visit, the mother was hospitalized. She reported going into kidney failure and had an adverse reaction to antibiotics.

At the conclusion of the assessment, the worker determined the overdose was accidental and the mother had not been caring for her one-year old child at the time of the incident resulting in the assessment being coded as unfounded for neglect

Date of report: 04/03/2013 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	**Allegation(s):** Neglect by Mother Threat of Harm by Mother	**Disposition:** Unfounded Unfounded

On 04/03/2013, the Department received a new report which indicated the mother had overdosed the weekend prior and was admitted to the hospital. The mother's

medications had not been safely stored. The mother was interviewed and denied overdosing. Medical records corroborated this information. Mother and her husband were counseled and agreed to a plan for her medications to be locked up and kept out of the reach of the two-year old child. There was also a plan in place where mother's husband counted her pills several times a day. The CPS caseworker observed the mother's two-year-old child (the older sibling to the deceased child), and noted the child appeared healthy and well cared for.

A couple of weeks after this incident, the mother's sister informed the CPS caseworker the mother had been hospitalized over the previous weekend due to having a high amount of methadone in her system. The mother's husband informed the CPS caseworker that he had been caring for the two-year old child when the mother was taken to the hospital. The mother began a new prescription and had taken an appropriate dosage in addition to another medication which caused the overdose.

The Department determined the assessment was unfounded due to the two-year old child being with a safe caregiver during each medical incident/overdose. There was also a safe and appropriate medication management process in place.

Date of report:	**Allegation(s):**	**Disposition:**
05/09/2013	Neglect by Aunt	No Allegation of Abuse/Neglect
Assignment decision: Assign: 24-hour response	Neglect by Mother	Unable to Determine
	Neglect by Stepfather	Unfounded
	Threat of Harm by Aunt	Unfounded

On 05/09/2013, the Department received a report that the mother had overdosed, and a family member's ten-year-old child had found the mother foaming at the mouth and unresponsive.

An afterhours caseworker responded with law enforcement to the residence and met with the family. The mother, her two-year old child (older sibling to the deceased child) and her husband were living with a family member. The mother explained the overdose occurred the weekend prior to this initial contact. She reported she was given a methadone pill by a friend and took it in addition to her other pain medication. The husband stated he was unaware she had been given methadone and reported he counted the mother's pills multiple times a day.

The family reported they were leaving the home to stay with other friends. The mother's two-year old child was observed by the afterhours caseworker and there were no safety

concerns observed. The afterhours caseworker also interviewed the ten-year old relative child who had found the mother unresponsive. The ten-year old relative child described finding the mother unresponsive on the floor and stated the mother's two-year old child had been playing next to her as she overdosed.

The CPS caseworker had additional contact with the mother who initially refused to participate in any services. After being encouraged by her husband, the mother requested a referral for mental health services and a substance abuse evaluation. She also participated in a urinalysis which was negative for any substance beyond her prescriptions.

The family moved into a new apartment and the CPS caseworker observed the home environment which was deemed appropriate with no safety concerns observed. The mother provided updates regarding her mental health and reported early intervention was involved with her two-year old child. She denied being recommended for further substance abuse treatment and stated the hospital took over her medication management.

On 5/13/2013, an additional report was received which alleged the mother and her current husband were hiding at a hotel to avoid contact by the Department. The caller was concerned the mother may overdose while her husband was at work. It was also reported a police report was filed which alleged the mother had stolen 12 methadone pills before leaving the family's home.

The Department determined this additional report did not meet the criteria for a CPS assignment and the information was forwarded to the CPS caseworker who had a plan to meet with the family in the coming days.

The Department closed the assessment with a disposition of unable to determine regarding the mother's neglect of her two-year old child. The child was identified as safe as it was determined there were other adults who were able to safely care for the child.

Date of report: 08/15/2013 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	**Allegation(s):** Neglect by Mother	**Disposition:** Unable to Determine

On 08/15/2013, the Department received a report that a two-year-old child (older sibling to the deceased child) had been found alone and unsupervised with a soiled diaper at the apartment complex playground. A neighbor went to the mother's apartment and found the mother was passed out on the couch.

A CPS caseworker made initial contact with the mother who reported she had been admitted to the hospital a few days earlier for bladder and kidney infections which was why she appeared ill. She reported being sleep deprived due to the pain from the infection and had eventually fallen asleep on the couch which was when her two-year old child left the apartment. The front door had been open because of the heat, but the screen door was closed, and the mother had not realized her child could open the screen door.

The mother was contacted again a few days later and appeared to be in much better physical condition. She signed releases for medical information and her illness was confirmed. The Department conducted several follow-up visits and confirmed child safety. The Department also spoke with the caregiver for the two-year old child and no safety concerns were identified.

The Department closed the assessment with a disposition of unable to determine for neglect by the mother.

Date of report: 05/06/2014 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 5-day response	**Allegation(s):** Neglect by Mother	**Disposition:** Founded

On 05/06/2014, the Department received a report that law enforcement responded to the mother's home because she was assaulted by her husband. Police believed the mother was under the influence at the time based on her physical appearance. The husband reported he was upset after finding pain medication the mother purchased and he flushed the medication down the toilet. This upset the mother who left the house and "passed out." The husband shut the door and stayed inside with the three-year old child (older sibling to the deceased child). When the mother awoke, she began pounding on the door and kicked it opened. The father had been trying to calm her down when he put his arm out and pushed her to the side resulting in the mother's call to the police. It was noted that another officer responded to a retail store earlier in the day due to a report the mother was under the influence while caring for her three-year old child. The officer contacted the husband who had picked up the mother and the child.

The CPS caseworker made initial contact along with law enforcement and documented the mother appeared heavily under the influence. A protective action plan was put in place and the three-year old child was sent to stay with a relative while the mother completed a substance abuse evaluation. At the end of the protective action plan, the relative agreed to manage the mother's medications and to ensure the safety of the

child. The Department closed the case noting the three-year old child was safe and the allegation was founded against the mother for neglect.

Date of report: 10/30/2014 **Assignment decision:** Closed at Screening	**Allegation(s):** Neglect by Mother	**Disposition:** Not Applicable

On 10/30/2014, the Department received a report stating the mother had stolen oxycodone pills from a family member. Law enforcement had met with the mother who admitted to struggling with substance use and also reported she was pregnant. Police noted the mother was not taken into custody but appeared under the influence.

The Department closed the report at screening as there was no indication the mother was caring for her three-year old child at the time, she appeared under the influence therefore the report did not meet the criteria of a CPS assessment.

Date of report: 11/06/2014 **Assignment decision:** Closed at Screening	**Allegation(s):** Threat of Harm by Mother's Ex-Boyfriend Neglect by Mother	**Disposition:** Not Applicable

On 11/06/2014, the Department received a report that law enforcement had recent contact with the mother who had appeared under the influence and was four months pregnant. The mother also reported that two weeks prior her ex-boyfriend had threatened to kill her.

The Department determined this report did not meet the criteria of a CPS assessment due to no mention of her three-year old child being present during this incident.

Date of report:	Allegation(s):	Disposition:
12/18/2014 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	Neglect by Mother	Founded

***"Father" referenced from here forward is the father of the deceased child.**

On 12/18/2014, the Department was notified the mother's three-year old child (older sibling to the deceased child) had been seen at the ER excessively. During the most recent visit to the ER, the mother had reportedly been slurring her words and couldn't keep her eyes open. When leaving the clinic, she was observed to be unsteady and had walked down the middle of the road while her three-year old child walked away from her. Medical staff called law enforcement, but it was unknown if they had contacted the mother. The mother was also six months pregnant and she and the unborn child's father were residing together.

A CPS caseworker spoke with medical personnel who corroborated the screening report. The Department and law enforcement made initial contact with the family. The mother denied the allegations in the report and signed releases for various providers. No additional action was taken after initial contact.

During this assessment, on 12/29/2014, another report was received regarding domestic violence between the mother and the father. This report resulted in a protective action plan being placed into effect due to the identification of present danger. A relative was brought in to supervise contact between the parents so the three-year old child could remain in the home. Collateral contacts expressed concern over the mother's abuse of prescription drugs and the father's use of alcohol.

The CPS caseworker met with the father the next day. He denied assaulting the mother but admitted they had an argument. There was a legal no contact order put into place between the father and the mother. The father expressed concern over the mother's substance use because she was pregnant. He claimed the mother had frequented the emergency room seeking pain medication.

The caseworker determined the mother's three-year old child was unsafe. An in-home safety plan was put in place with the relative supervising contact between the mother and the three-year old child. The father was arrested after a court hearing for to failing to appear for an unrelated criminal hearing.

In mid-January 2015, while this assessment was still open, the Department received another police report which noted the father had violated the no-contact order and was charged with tampering with a witness (the mother). Follow-up court hearings resulted in the no-contact order remaining intact despite the mother requesting it be dismissed. The father was granted permission to be at the birth of his child.

During this time, the mother began participating in services. The in-home safety plan could not be sustained, and the three-year old child began to be cared for by relatives. The mother was still pregnant, but she and the father of the unborn child were no longer in a relationship and the mother was seeing someone new. The case remained open for ongoing services.

Date of report: 12/29/2014 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	**Allegation(s):** Threat of Harm by Father	**Disposition:** Unfounded

On 12/29/2014, the Department received a report regarding a domestic dispute between the mother and the father. The father was angry and ripped the video console out of the wall. The mother's three-year old child was playing with the game at the time and began screaming. The mother attempted to grab the game from the father who grabbed the mother's wrist and pushed her back against the dresser. The father was subsequently arrested.

This referral was linked to the previous assessment. Please see above for specific details.

Date of report: 03/26/2015 **Assignment decision:** Closed at Screening	**Allegation(s):** Neglect by Mother	**Disposition:** Not Applicable

On 03/26/2015, the Department received a report that the mother may be induced into early labor because of fetal distress likely due to prescription drug use. Additionally, the mother and father had continued to have contact despite a no-contact order. The mother was not parenting any children at this time.

The Department determined this report did not meet the criteria of a CPS assessment.

Date of report:	Allegation(s):	Disposition:
04/02/2015 **Assignment decision:** Assign: 24-hour response	Threat of Harm by Mother	Founded

On 04/02/2015, the Department received a report that the mother had given birth to the child the previous day. Both the mother and the child tested negative for substances; however, the hospital was concerned about the benzodiazepines and pain pills the mother had taken during the pregnancy.

The father was present at the hospital for the birth. The screener contacted the father's probation officer who stated the no-contact order was still in place but informed the Department that neither parent was complying with the order. The father had not started his batterer's intervention program and the father had tested positive for methamphetamine.

A CPS caseworker made initial contact at the hospital with the mother, the father and the child. The father stated he was living with a relative but planned on being involved with the child. The worker made several collateral contacts to assess the father's ability to care for his newborn. The father's relative reported the father was homeless and they did not feel comfortable having him in the home. The relative also felt the father could not safely parent a newborn child and expressed concerns over the tumultuous relationship between the parents.

An adequate safety plan could not be created, and the child was determined to be unsafe. Relatives began caring for the child and the assessment was closed with a founded allegation for threat of harm by the mother to the child.

Date of report:	Allegation(s):	Disposition:
05/24/2016 **Assignment decision:** Closed at Screening	Physical Abuse by Father	Not Applicable

On 05/24/2016, the Department received a report the one-year old child had hit his father and the father had hit the child back resulting in a mark below the child's right eye the size of a quarter with red coloration. Additionally, the father may have been

driving under the influence of alcohol with the child in the car. About two weeks prior, the father was drinking with the reporting party and then proceeded to get in the car and drive home with the child. Law enforcement was contacted, but the outcome of the report was unknown.

The assigned caseworker for the family had recent contact with the child shortly after the alleged incident and did not observe any marks or injuries on the child or the child's face. The Department determined this report did not rise to the level of assignment for a CPS assessment.

Date of report:	**Allegation(s):**	**Disposition:**
06/13/2016	Neglect by Mother	Founded
Assignment decision: Assign: 5-day response	Threat of Harm by Mother	Founded

On 06/13/2016, the Department was informed emergency services had been called to mother's residence because of a possible overdose. The child, age sixteen-months, and the child's five-year old sibling were home when the mother's sister found the mother unresponsive. The mother was transported to the hospital and the father arrived at the home. Law enforcement contacted the Department to obtain approval to release the child to the father. The Department agreed to this plan.

A CPS caseworker made initial contact with the mother at the hospital. The mother had no recollection of the overdose. A protective action plan was created and the sixteen-month old remained with the father and the older half sibling stayed with a relative who had cared for the child previously.

Medical providers determined the mother suffered from a polydrug accidental overdose. Due to the mother's continued substance misuse the Department determined the child should remain with the father. The father was no longer on probation and had successfully completed his probationary requirements, including a batterer's intervention program. He was residing in his own apartment and had not been in a relationship with the mother since the last domestic violence incident. The father reported he had quit drinking and denied any other substance use.

The Department closed the assessment with a founded allegation of neglect by the mother and a founded allegation of threat of harm by the mother.

Description of concerns regarding actions taken or not taken by the Department or law enforcement agencies in response to the critical incident or events that led to the critical incident:

The CIRT discussed two key observations requiring additional action:

1. For many years, the Department has utilized the expertise of the Addiction Recovery Team (ART) to provide assistance in cases where substance misuse was an identified concern. ART workers accompanied field staff during face to face contacts, offered access to drug and alcohol treatment services, and provided expert knowledge to aid in case planning. Due to state and county budget reductions, the ART staff have been reduced resulting in some Child Welfare offices having limited access to this resource. The CIRT identified this as a resource demand issue which influenced the Department's understanding of parental substance abuse in this case. Despite interventions, the parents continued to expose the children to repeated incidences of endangerment and neglect.

2. The file review indicates the father had significant involvement with Parole and Probation though it is unclear what level of communication the Department had with the father's probation officer. The father's criminal activity and subsequent probation requirements overlapped with the reason for the Department's involvement, however, collaboration between the two agencies was not documented.

Recommendations for improvement in the administration and oversight of the child welfare system that are specific to the critical incident and any historical information reviewed by the team:

The CIRT offered the following recommendations to address the key observations:

1. To address the lack of resources available for cases involving parental substance use, the newly developed Child Fatality Prevention and Review program is partnering with the Child Safety Program to develop a Policy Option Package which, if approved, would increase the contract budget for additional drug and alcohol experts around the state. The need for this is evidenced by CIRT fatality data from 2019 to March 2020 which indicates approximately 70% of reviewed cases included parental history of substance use while nearly 50% identified substance use as a factor in the child's death. Simultaneously, CIRT reviews have also noted a need for additional training on the complexities of substance use and subsequent impacts to child safety. The Policy Option Package includes recommendations for improved support to caseworkers

through an increase in the utilization of ART staff. Through their knowledge of substance use disorders and recovery strategies, ART staff help caseworkers understand the behaviors, patterns and indicators of substance use, and aid in assessing child safety.

2. In addition to this, the CIRT recommends reviewing current CPS assessments in the local area where this case originated to determine if additional training or resources are currently needed to assess parental substance abuse. An action plan will be developed in partnership with the Child Safety Program and local leadership to address findings from the CPS assessment reviews.

3. Previous CIRTs have discussed the pivotal role parole and probation can play in collaborating and planning for child safety. The CIRT recommends additional further exploration to encourage more collaborative communication between the agencies.