

Child Fatality Task Force



*Our Children, Our Future,
Our RESPONSIBILITY*

NORTH CAROLINA CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE

Kella Hatcher

Executive Director

NC Child Fatality Task Force

CFTF BACKGROUND

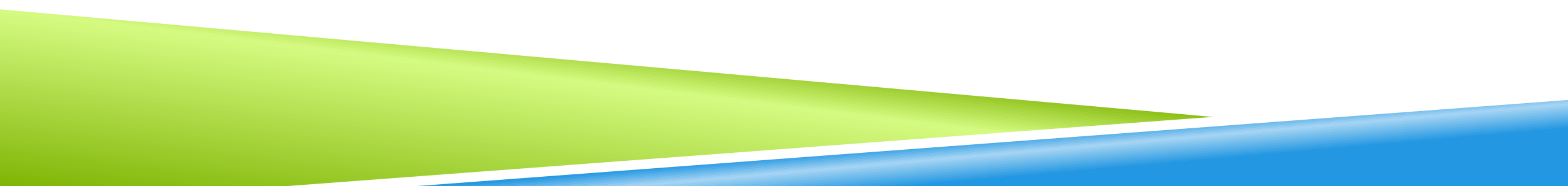
Study commission
created in 1991 by
state statute

The “policy arm” of the
State’s Child Fatality
Prevention System

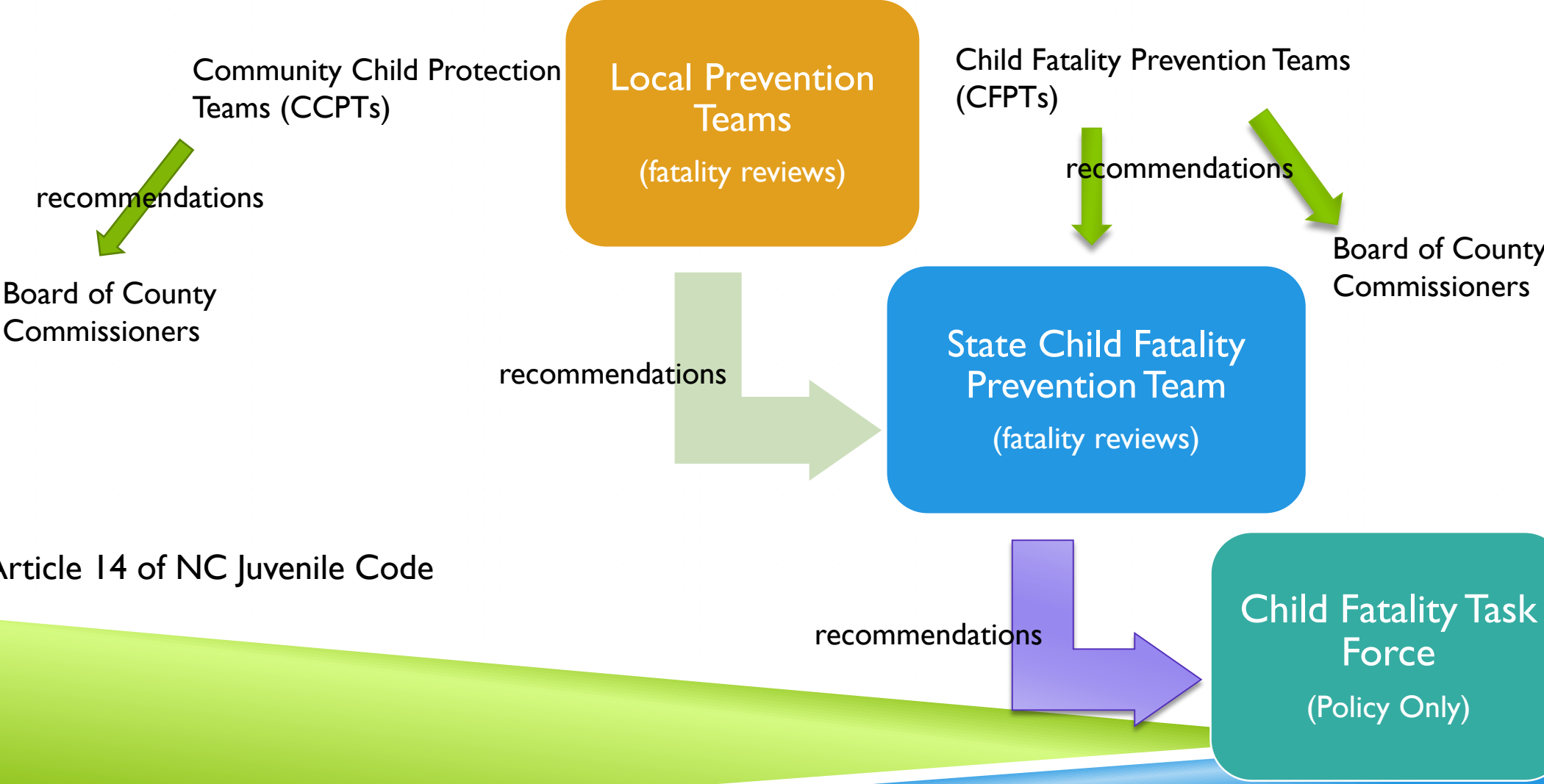
35 Total Members: experts,
state & local government
representatives & legislators

46% decrease in child
death rate since CFTF &
CFP system creation

CHARGE OF STATE CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION SYSTEM [VIA ARTICLE 14 OF NC JUVENILE CODE]

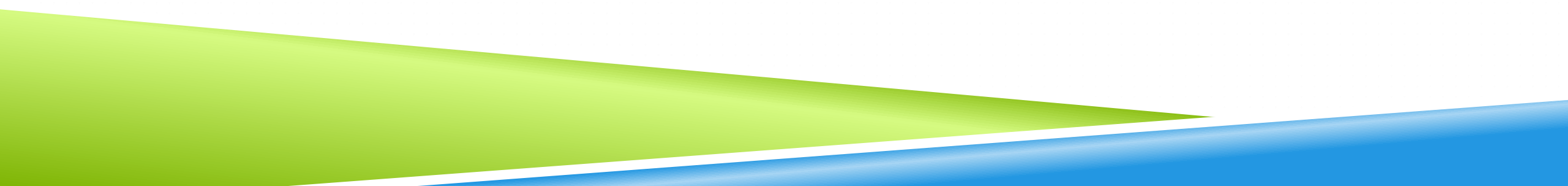
- ▶ **Develop a communitywide approach** to child abuse and neglect;
 - ▶ **Study and understand causes** of childhood death;
 - ▶ **Identify gaps in service delivery** in systems designed to prevent abuse, neglect, and death; and
 - ▶ **Make and implement recommendations for laws, rules, and policies that will support the safe and healthy development of our children and prevent future child abuse, neglect, and death.**
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THREE COMPONENTS TO NC CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION SYSTEM

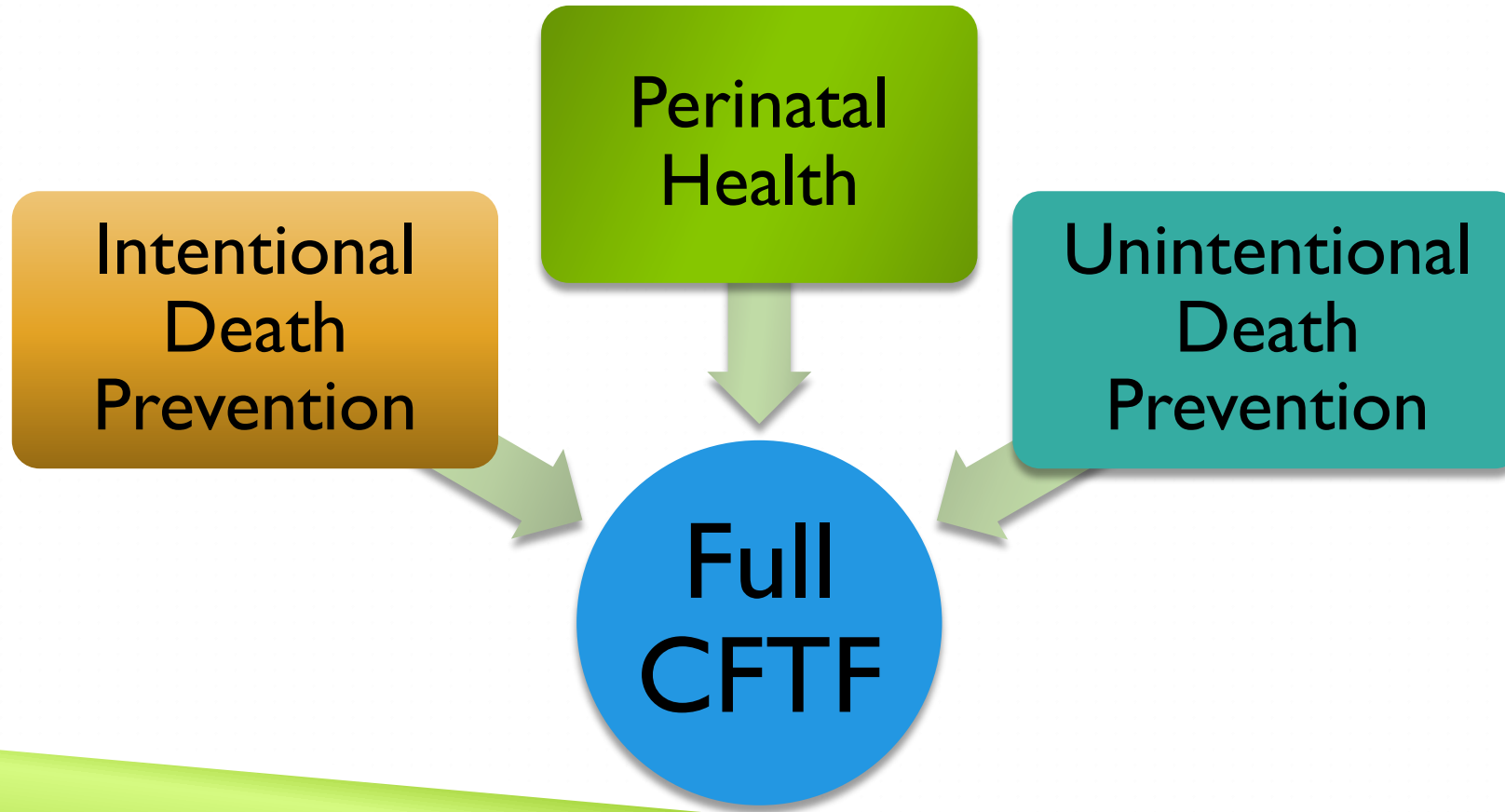


See Article 14 of NC Juvenile Code

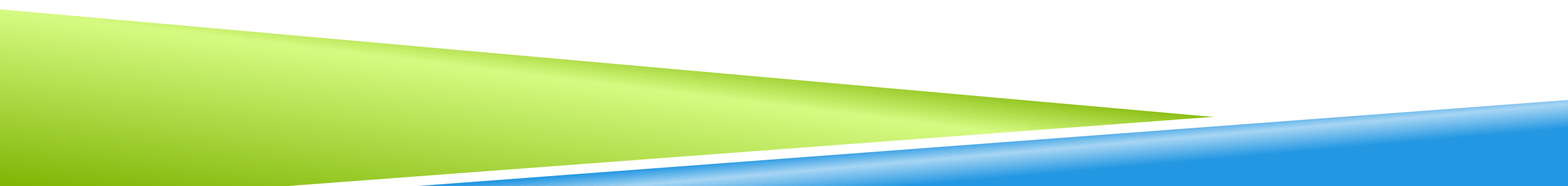
TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ Studies, analyzes, and reports on causes and data related to child deaths
 - ▶ Receives and considers reports from State Child Fatality Prevention Team
 - ▶ Performs studies and evaluations as needed in order to carry out its mandate
 - ▶ Annually reports to the Governor and General Assembly with recommendations for changes to any law, rule, or policy to prevent child death and maltreatment and promote the safety and well-being of children
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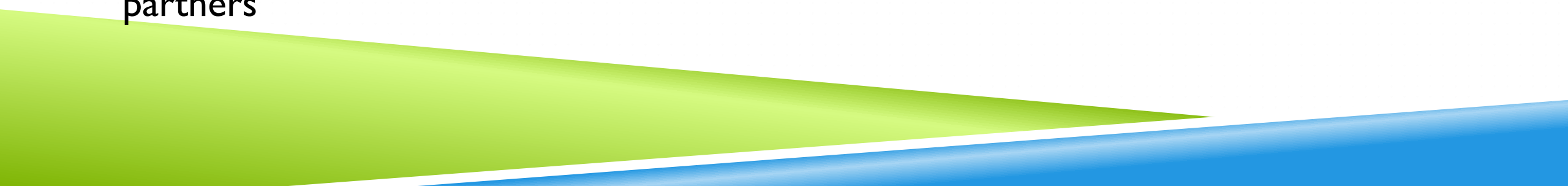
THREE TASK FORCE COMMITTEES WORK TO CREATE A YEARLY
“ACTION AGENDA” THAT IS PART OF ANNUAL REPORT



SOME PARTNERS & SOURCES OF EXPERTISE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

- ▶ UNC Highway Safety Research Center
 - ▶ Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, NC Division of Public Health
 - ▶ Governor's Highway Safety Program
 - ▶ NCSU Institute for Transportation Research & Education
 - ▶ NC DPI Transportation Services
 - ▶ NC DPI Driver Education
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TASK FORCE PROCESS COMPONENTS

- ▶ **Public meetings between legislative sessions**
 - ▶ Full Task Force meetings (3 – 4)
 - ▶ Committee meetings (2 - 4)
 - ▶ **Proposed issues for review** may come from Local and State Teams, issue application process, trends identified by data
 - ▶ **Stakeholder or study groups** may be convened to address or examine in-depth a particular issue
 - ▶ **Ongoing information sharing and collaboration** among experts and community partners
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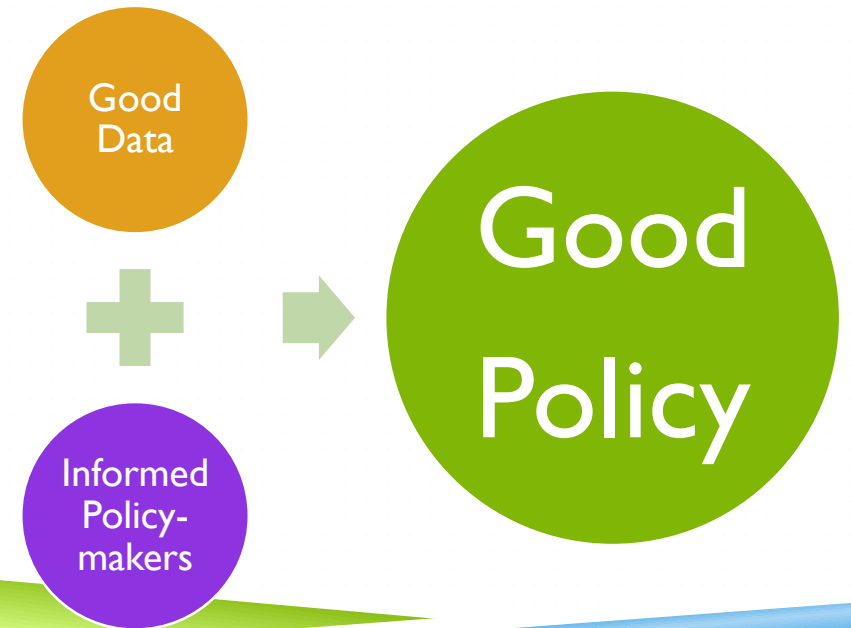
CFTF ACCOMPLISHMENTS: A FEW HIGHLIGHTS AMONG MANY ...

- ▶ Graduated Driver License Program & various teen driver safety measures
- ▶ Child passenger safety laws, school bus safety laws
- ▶ Measures to combat opioid epidemic (improved CSRS, access to overdose reversal drug, safe disposal)
- ▶ Infant Safe Surrender Law
- ▶ Pulse Oximetry Newborn Screening (for certain congenital heart conditions)
- ▶ Strengthened Sex Offender Registry
- ▶ Laws addressing smoke alarms & CO detectors
- ▶ Law requiring child-proofing and labeling for E-cig nicotine liquid containers
- ▶ Safe Sleep awareness
- ▶ Support for programs providing child maltreatment prevention, diagnosis, and treatment

A longer list of accomplishments is posted on the CFTF website:
<http://www.ncleg.net/DocumentSites/Committees/NCCFTF/in%20the%20spotlight/CFTF%20Accomplishments.pdf>

CHILD DEATH DATA

- ▶ Released by the Task Force
- ▶ Examined by the Task Force
- ▶ Used to inform Task Force recommendations

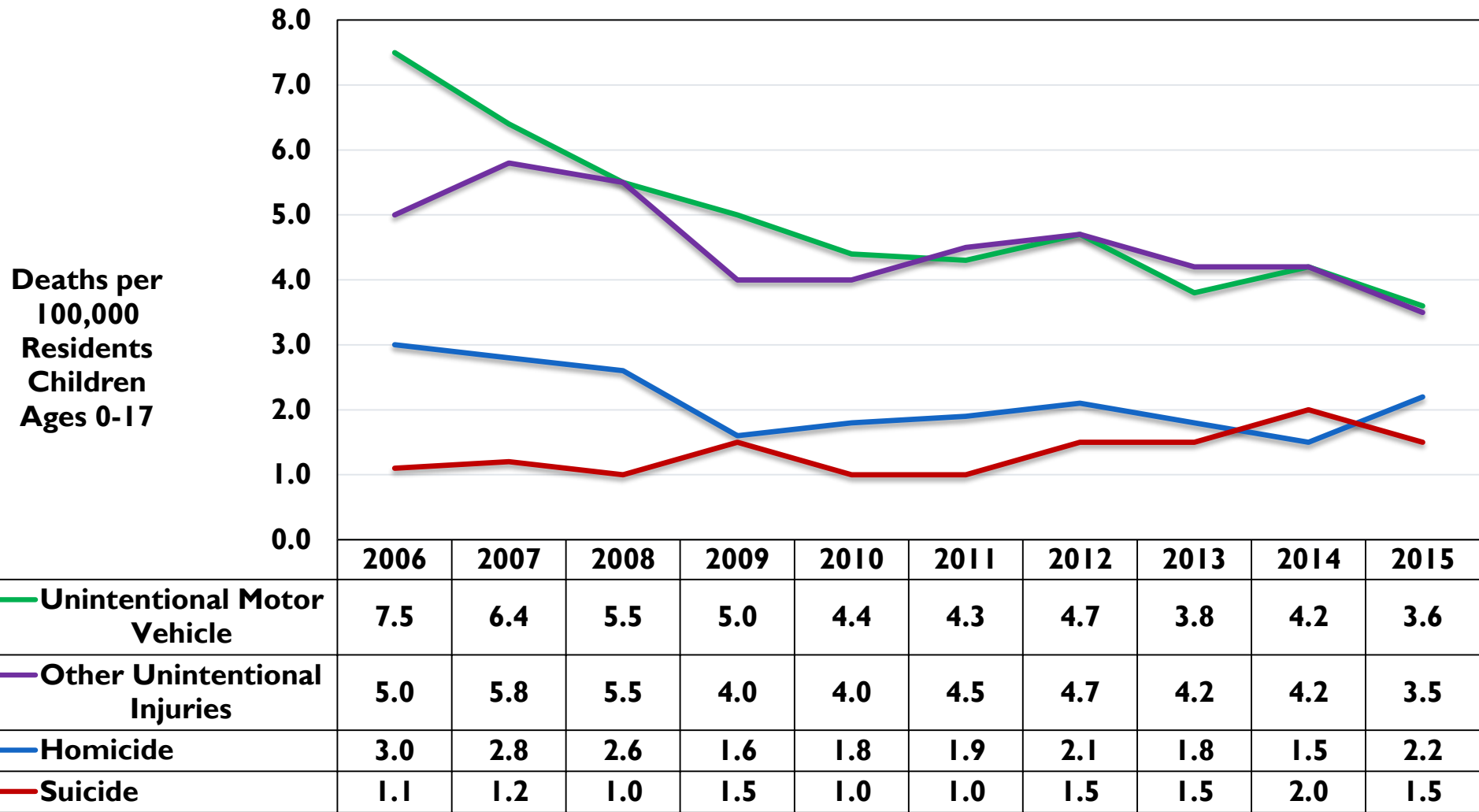


LEADING CAUSES OF CHILD DEATH (AGES 0-17), NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS 2015

Cause of Death	Total Deaths
TOTAL DEATHS	1,335
Perinatal Conditions	481
Illnesses	272
Birth Defects	185
Unintentional Injuries (83 of which were motor vehicle)	163
Homicide	51
Suicide	35
All Other	148

Data Source: State Center for Health Statistics

2006-2015 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates for Selected Causes of Injury Death, Ages Birth Through 17 Years



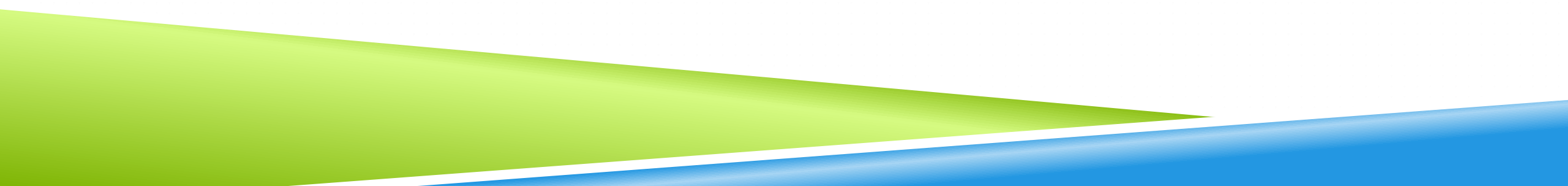
CFTF and Highway Safety

Child Fatality Task Force



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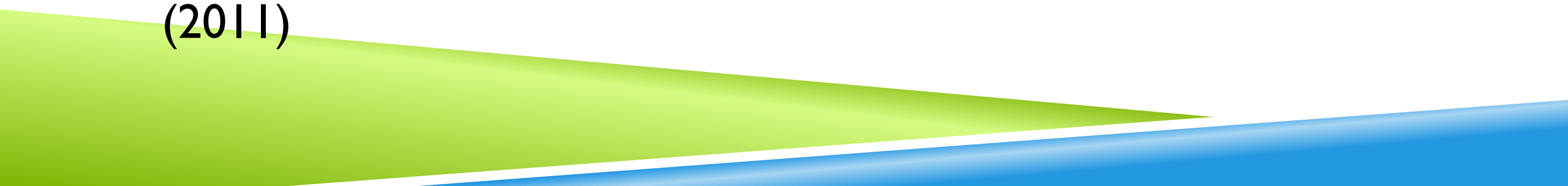
CFTF & TEEN DRIVER SAFETY

- ▶ **Zero tolerance** for underage drinkers who drive (1995)
 - ▶ **Graduated Driver's License**
 - Enacted in 1997; second in nation
 - Strengthened in 2011
 - ▶ **Under 18 prohibited from using mobile phone** while driving (2006)
 - ▶ **Ongoing monitoring** of GDL and Driver Education
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CFTF & CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

- ▶ **Required restraints** for under 12; safety seats for under 4 (1994)
- ▶ **Two-point penalty** for failure to properly restrain child (2000)
- ▶ **Booster seat law** – requiring child under 8 and under 80 pounds to be in a booster seat (2004)
- ▶ **Removal of child safety seat exemption** for attending to child (2007)
- ▶ **Limiting liability** for child passenger safety technicians (2008)

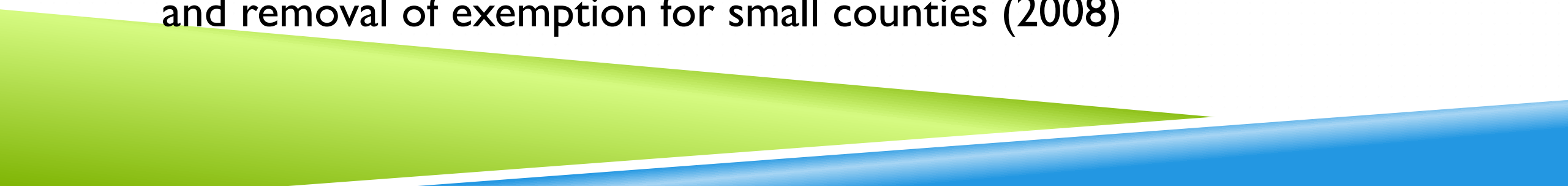
CFTF & IMPAIRED DRIVING LAWS

- ▶ Makes presence of a child in vehicle a **grossly aggravating factor** for purposes of sentencing for DWI (1993)
 - ▶ **Zero tolerance** for underage drinkers (1995; also related to teen drivers)
 - ▶ **Increase driver's license restoration fee** to go to Forensics Test for Alcohol for impaired driving programs (2010)
 - ▶ **Penalty increased** for driving impaired with a child in the car (2011)
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CFTF & SCHOOL BUS AND SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

- ▶ CFTF charged by legislature to study issues relating to requiring restraints in school buses (2007)
- ▶ Nicholas Adkins School Bus Safety Act (2009)
 - ▶ Allows pictures of stop arm violation as acceptable evidence for conviction
 - ▶ Makes it a felony if a student is killed due to illegal pass of stopped school bus
- ▶ Increased fine for speeding in a school zone (2011)
- ▶ A law authorizing civil penalties for passing a stopped school bus and the utilization of school bus cameras to facilitate automatic enforcement (2017, [S.L. 2017-188](#); bill summary available at: [http://www.ncleg.net/Applications/Dashboard/Chamber/Services/BillSummary.aspx?sSessionCode=2017&sBarcode=S55-SMTG-95\(sl\)-v-6](http://www.ncleg.net/Applications/Dashboard/Chamber/Services/BillSummary.aspx?sSessionCode=2017&sBarcode=S55-SMTG-95(sl)-v-6))

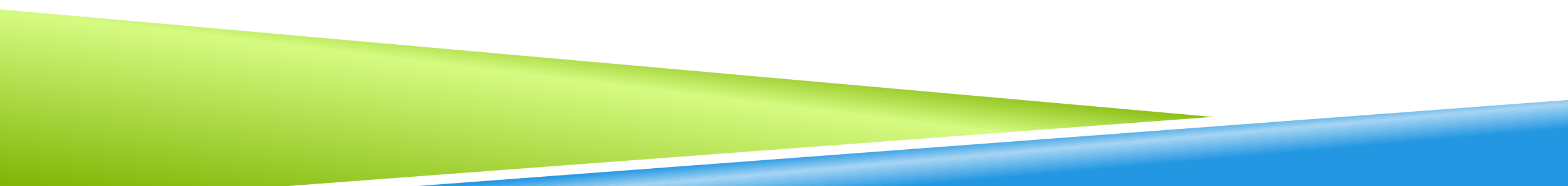
CFTF & VARIOUS OTHER HIGHWAY SAFETY LAWS

- ▶ **Child Bicycle Safety Act** required bicycle riders age 15 and younger to wear an approved helmet when riding on public roads and rights-of-way. (2001)
 - ▶ **All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Law** set a minimum age of 8 for operating an ATV and put various other requirements in place to increase ATV safety, including adult supervision. (2005)
 - ▶ **Law requiring the use of rear seat safety belts** for all passengers. (2006)
 - ▶ **Raising the age for those permitted to ride in open truck beds** to 16, and removal of exemption for small counties (2008)
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ON THE HORIZON FOR 2017-18

All CFTF recommendations for the 2018 Action Agenda must be approved by the full CFTF, finalized by March, 2018.

Related to highway safety, 2017-18 CFTF meetings will address:

- ▶ **Primary enforcement of rear seat restraints:** HB 672 introduced in 2017, still eligible in short session
 - ▶ **Impaired driving prevention** related to ignition interlocks for all DWI offenders (endorsed on CFTF 2017 agenda; no legislation introduced)
 - ▶ **Updates on highway safety issues** or legislation as needed
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PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT OF REAR SEAT RESTRAINTS

Currently, failure to wear a seat belt in the back seat by those 16 and up is not justification for a traffic stop. MV crashes are leading cause of death for NC teens age 15 to 17

- ▶ Primary enforcement leads to higher usage rates, and seat belt use is the most effective way to prevent fatalities and injuries in the event of a crash
- ▶ From 2009 to 2013, an average of 52% of teen motor vehicle fatalities in the U.S. were to kids not buckled up
- ▶ Odds of driver death in the presence of unrestrained rear seat occupants are more than double than when rear seat occupants are restrained
- ▶ Estimates are that this change in law would result in reduced MV fatalities in NC that could yield an economic savings of \$100 million annually

IGNITION INTERLOCKS FOR ALL DWI OFFENDERS

Current NC law makes ignition interlocks mandatory only with a BAC greater than .15 or for subsequent offenders

- ▶ Estimates are that the average drunk driver has driven drunk over 80 times prior to first DWI arrest
- ▶ Of traffic deaths in the U.S. to children age 0 to 14 in 2014, 19% involved an alcohol-impaired driver; alcohol is involved in one-third of all fatal crashes in NC
- ▶ CDC recommends ignition interlocks to prevent repeat DWI offenses, and mandated use of interlocks for all DWI offenders, including first offenders
- ▶ Half of all states require ignition interlocks for all offenders, but not NC

DATA, EXPERTISE & COLLECTIVE WISDOM IS KEY ...

CFTF taps a broad range of data and expertise to make informed recommendations



CFTF provides a forum for experts, agency leaders, community leaders, and legislators to share wisdom



CFTF educates about causes of child death and strategies to prevent child death and maltreatment



QUESTIONS?

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