

LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER
LC 25-01

OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW PANEL

WHEREAS, substance use disorder and drug overdose are major health problems that affect the lives of many people, multiple services systems, and lead to profound consequences, including permanent injury and death; and

WHEREAS, overdoses caused by heroin, fentanyl, other opioids, stimulants, controlled substance analogs, novel psychoactive substances, and other legal and illegal drugs are a public health crisis that stress and strain the financial, public health, healthcare, and public safety resources in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, overdose fatality reviews, which are designed to uncover the who, what, when, where, why, and how a fatal overdose occurs, allow jurisdictions to examine and understand the circumstances leading to a fatal drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review, overdose fatality review panels can better understand the individual and population factors and characteristics of potential overdose victims; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 40:2025.1 et seq. vests each parish throughout the state with the ability to establish a local overdose fatality review panel, and the City of New Orleans desires to establish such a panel.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LATOYA CANTRELL, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of New Orleans, by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, and the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans, **HEREBY ORDER AS FOLLOWS**:

I. Effective Date

This Executive Order is effective upon the date of its issuance.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this Executive Order is the creation of the New Orleans Overdose Fatality Review Panel in accordance with R.S. 40:2025.1 et seq.

III. Membership

- A. The New Orleans Overdose Fatality Review Panel members shall include:
1. The coroner or their designee
 2. The director of the Metropolitan Human Services District or their designee
 3. The regional director of the Department of Children and Family Services, child welfare division for the region in which the parish is located, or their designee
 4. The regional medical director for the Office of Public Health, Louisiana Department of Health for Region 1 or their designee
 5. The Orleans Parish District Attorney or their designee
 6. The Orleans Parish Sheriff or their designee
 7. The Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department or their designee
 8. A representative of a local jail or detention center
 9. A healthcare provider who specializes in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of substance use disorders
 10. A mental health provider who specializes in substance use disorders
 11. A representative of an emergency medical services provider in New Orleans
 12. A representative from parole, probation, and community corrections
 13. A representative of the judicial district court or drug court in New Orleans
 14. The director of the New Orleans Health Department or their designee
- B. Any of the above persons who declines, in writing, to participate shall not be counted toward the total membership of the panel nor toward calculating a quorum.
- C. The members of the review panel shall elect a chairman. The chairman may appoint additional persons to the review panel who are determined to have relevant knowledge regarding overdose fatalities and would aid the panel in fulfilling its duties.

IV. Review Panel Authority

- A. The New Orleans Fatality Review Panel shall have all authorities provided by Act No. 498 of the Louisiana Legislature's 2024 Regular Session, which are necessary to fulfill the following duties:
1. Promote cooperation and coordination among agencies involved in the investigation of drug overdose fatalities
 2. Develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of drug overdose fatalities in New Orleans
 3. Plan for and recommending changes within the agencies represented on the panel to prevent drug overdose fatalities
 4. Advise local, regional, and state policymakers about potential changes to law, policy, funding, or practice to prevent drug overdoses
 5. Establish and implementing protocols and procedures
 6. Conduct a multidisciplinary review of information received pursuant to this Part regarding a decedent, which shall include but not be limited to:

- a. Consideration of the decedent's points of contact with healthcare systems, social services, educational institutions, child and family services, the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, and any other systems with which the decedent had contact prior to their death
 - b. Identification of the specific factors and social determinants of health that put the decedent at risk for an overdose
7. Recommend prevention and intervention strategies to improve coordination of services and investigations among member agencies to reduce overdose deaths
 8. Collect, analyze, interpret, and maintain local data on overdose deaths

B. In addition to the duties specified in this Section, a review panel may investigate nonfatal overdose cases that occur within New Orleans

V. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until amended or suspended by a subsequent order approved in accordance with Section 4-206 (3)(c) of the Charter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 7th DAY OF January, 2025 AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.



LaToya Cantrell, Mayor
City of New Orleans