



Unexpected Fatality Review DOC Corrective Action Plan

Unexpected Fatality UFR-23-024 Report to the Legislature

As required by RCW 72.09.770

May 3, 2024

DOC Corrective Action, Publication Number 600-PL001

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Legislative Directive

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill [5119](#) (2021)

Unexpected Fatality Review Governance

[RCW 72.09.770](#) requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to convene an Unexpected Fatality Review (UFR) committee and meeting in any case “in which the death of an incarcerated individual is unexpected, or any case identified by the Office of the Corrections Ombuds.” The department is also required to issue a report on the results of the review within 120 days of the fatality and, within 10 days of completion of the review, develop an associated corrective action plan to implement any recommendations made by the review team. The statute took effect July 25, 2021.

The “primary purpose of the unexpected fatality review shall be the development of recommendations to the department and legislature regarding changes in practices or policies to prevent fatalities and strengthen safety and health protections for prisoners in the custody of the department.”

“Unexpected fatality review” means a review of any death that was not the result of a diagnosed or documented terminal illness or other debilitating or deteriorating illness or condition where the death was anticipated and includes the death of any person under the jurisdiction of the department, regardless of where the death actually occurred. A review must include an analysis of the root cause or causes of the unexpected fatality, and an associated corrective action plan for the department to address identified root causes and recommendations made by the unexpected fatality review team under this section.”

Unexpected Fatality Review Committee Report

The department issued the UFR committee report 23-024 on April 25, 2024 (DOC publication 600-SR001). This document includes the required corrective action plan. The department is required to implement the corrective actions within 120 days from the corrective action plan publication.

Corrective Action Plan

CAP ID Number:	UFR-23-024-1
Finding:	DOC lacks resources to provide medications for treatment of opioid use disorder (MOUD) to all incarcerated individuals who need treatment continually during their incarceration.
Root Cause:	Current DOC funding supports provision of MOUD for three months at the beginning and end of incarceration for individuals whose sentence exceeds 6 months. Incarcerated individuals with a six month or shorter sentence are maintained on their existing MOUD.
Recommendations:	DOC should request funding for substance use disorder treatment services to allow provision of MOUD continually to all incarcerated individuals who need treatment.
Corrective Action:	DOC will submit a funding request for legislative consideration in the 2024-2025 biennium to support expansion of medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder.
Expected Outcome:	Improved treatment and support for incarcerated individuals diagnosed with opioid use disorder.