



October 2, 2020

A STATEMENT FROM THE PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

PIRE Louisville Sentinel Event Review.

Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) founded in 1974, is an independent, nonprofit organization. The mission of PIRE is to promote, undertake, and evaluate activities, studies, and programs that improve individual and public health, welfare, and safety. Included in our portfolio is work with agencies and organizations in doing Sentinel Event Reviews (SER.) Working in multi-stakeholder environments, the SER is a useful tool to identify and understand root causes that can be mitigated to reduce or eliminate critical events in complex settings. The result should be a locally owned and locally driven SER model that can be replicated as a quality improvement process that builds trust and legitimacy both internally and externally in a law enforcement agency. Different industries, such as medicine and airline safety, have employed this multi-sector and multi-systems learning approach of reviewing and analyzing events that did not turn out as expected to improve policies and procedures. The PIRE SER project is supported by a federal grant with a research and evaluation component designed to provide results to guide future utilization of this problem-solving technique.

PIRE has been contacted by Louisville to potentially implement a Sentinel Event Review on the procedures used in the Breonna Taylor case. PIRE has not yet made a decision whether to proceed with the SER. Our decision will be based on whether pending investigations, including the FBI, and possible other civil cases may inhibit our ability to have access to the necessary documentation. It is worth noting that a SER is not an expedited process but is one that requires adequate time to identify participants, request materials, and to analyze all relevant factors. The intent of all SERs is to focus on identifying the elements of critical incidents in order to problem solve the underlying factors in complex multi-jurisdictional systems in ways that result in improvements in the criminal justice system and in police community trust and legitimacy. A decision to conduct this SER will not be made until it becomes clear whether all of the information and participants necessary to the process will be available, as continuing local, state, and federal cases may preclude access to both participants and information at this time.

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