



REPORT NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: May 23, 2009
Date of Incident: December 22, 2012
Date of Oral Report: December 23, 2012

NOT KNOWN TO:

Crawford County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
9/19/13

Unredacted reports are confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released to the public.
(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6340)

Unauthorized release is prohibited under penalty of law.
(23 Pa. C.S. 6349 (b))

Reason for Review:

Senate Bill 1147, Printer's Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008. The bill became effective on December 30, 2008 and is known as Act 33 of 2008. As part of Act 33 of 2008, DPW must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a child fatality or near fatality. This written report must be completed as soon as possible but no later than six months after the date the report was registered with ChildLine for investigation.

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine. Crawford County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	May 23, 2009
[REDACTED]	Brother	[REDACTED] 2011
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1988
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1988
[REDACTED]	Paternal Uncle	
[REDACTED]	Paternal Aunt	
[REDACTED]	Paternal Grandfather	
[REDACTED]	Paternal Grandmother	

Notification of Child (Near) Fatality:

On December 23, 2012, Crawford County Children and Youth Services received an oral report [REDACTED] personnel had [REDACTED] to report that [REDACTED] had arrived via ambulance at their hospital [REDACTED] on December 22, 2012. The parents had reported that they had put their son down for a nap and when they returned to check on him approximately three hours later, they found him unresponsive, not breathing, and with a faint pulse. When the paramedics arrive, the child was bagged and became more responsive but lethargic. Paramedics had no explanation for any of these symptoms.

Upon arrival at the [REDACTED] and after blood work was completed, the child had [REDACTED]. Child was placed in the [REDACTED] and stated to be in serious condition. Child was expected to survive. There was a suspicion of a lack of supervision resulting in the child's condition and resulting in the certification of a near fatality.

Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

Upon receipt of the notification of the near fatality, the Western Regional Office of Children, Youth, and Families Program Representative contacted the Crawford County CYS office and spoke with the intake supervisor, who was able to advise the Regional Office Program Representative of the status of the report.

The Regional Staff also received a copy of the County's MDT report, most current Family Services Plan, Family Group Decision Making Conference report, copy of the CY 48 (indicating the child line report), and in addition, the Program Representative maintained contact with the ongoing case worker and supervisor regarding the status of the case.

Summary of Services to Family:

The allegations of lack of supervision resulting in a physical condition against [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were indicated on February 23, 2013. The case was accepted for ongoing case management services on February 21, 2013 and assigned to an ongoing unit.

The family was referred and is actively involved with the Crawford County Family Group Decision Making unit. Immediate family members which includes paternal grandparents and paternal aunt and uncle have agreed to ensure that both children will be supervised at all times to make sure they are not exposed to any substance or safety hazards in and out of the home setting. The parents agreed to remain drug free and to complete random drug screening by Children and Youth Services and Crawford Adult Probation. Charges against the parents have been filed via the Pennsylvania State Police. Mother agreed to continue to attend [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Father agreed to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and follow all recommendations from the [REDACTED]. In addition Crawford County CYS will monitor the safety plan through follow up and collateral contact with all of the safety plan participants.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The Regional Program Representative was also made aware that there had been one prior GPS report regarding this family from 2012. Crawford County CYS accepted the case for an investigation on February 17, 2012 and closed out the investigation on April 9, 2012. The February 17, 2012 report had alleged substance abuse issues with the parents. The case was closed out at the intake level due to the fact that although parental substance abuse was validated, the parents [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The parents and the two children appeared to be well bonded and had all of their basic needs met.

Circumstances of Child (Near) Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On December 22, 2012, [REDACTED] parents had put him down for a nap. Approximately, three hours later the parents went to check on him. They had become concerned due to him napping longer than usual. The mother found [REDACTED] to be unresponsive and not breathing. The parents called 911 and an ambulance arrived a short time later. The paramedics performed CPR and bagged [REDACTED] in an attempt to assist in his breathing until they arrived at the [REDACTED]. The parents had no explanation for his condition.

Upon arrival at the [REDACTED] the child was taken to the [REDACTED] to be observed. Blood was drawn from [REDACTED] to assist in determining the reasoning for his unresponsive state earlier in the day. The blood work indicated that [REDACTED] had [REDACTED]. The father explained that he was [REDACTED].

As the investigation continued, [REDACTED] was interviewed and reported that he had taken his father's medication. He described ingesting his father's [REDACTED]. It was determined that the father did not [REDACTED]. The father admitted [REDACTED].

Based on the information obtained, a safety plan was put into place stating that the paternal grandparents and paternal aunt and uncle would closely monitor the children in the presence of their parents. The parents reside with the paternal grandparent and aunt and uncle. On February 23, 2013, Crawford County CYC completed a CY-48 indicating the father, for the lack of supervision resulting in the near death of [REDACTED].

Current Case Status:

Case has been accepted for ongoing case management services as of February 23, 2013. Both children, [REDACTED] remain in the care of their parents with support from extended family members. Case was indicated against father on February 23, 2013 and charges are pending via the Pennsylvania State Police. Parents are [REDACTED]. Family is actively involved with the County's Family Group Decision Making Unit.

County Strengths and Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child (Near) Fatality Report:

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral

report to ChildLine. Crawford County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. Crawford County Children and Youth Services held an Act 33 meeting on February 1, 2013.

Strengths:

- The intake investigation was initiated immediately upon receipt of the CPS referral. Within several hours of receiving this report, intake staff was present at the hospital checking on the status of the child and the family to assess safety and ongoing risk to the victim child and sibling.
- Family was immediately referred for in-home services to aid in the assessment of the family. A referral was made to [REDACTED] on January 23, 2013. Services were authorized from January 23 to March 23, 2013 for up to 5-7 hours of services per week. This service includes intensive in-home services which include parenting instruction.
- All safety assessments were completed timely and contained necessary information to justify the safety decisions for the victim child and sibling in the family.
- Collateral contacts were made and followed up on in a timely manner to assure family could receive necessary services to maintain the children within the home.
- Crawford County Children and Youth offered the family, who accepted, the opportunity to participate in the Family Group Decision Making Process
- Crawford County Children and Youth continues to collaborate with the Crawford County Probation Office to ensure parental compliance in their following of the requirements of the Adult Probation Office.

Deficiencies:

None noted

Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:

- Crawford County Children and Youth Services should collaborate with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General to provide educational training and resources to local school districts about children's access to prescription medications. Education should be provided to local youth in recognizing the difference between harmful and non-harmful substances.
- Crawford County Children and Youth Services should follow through with random drug testing for all participants in the safety plan. Drug testing should be administered randomly, frequently, and unannounced in order to ensure that a sober and responsible adult is adequately providing supervision to the children.

Recommendations for Change at the State Level:

None noted

Department Review of County Internal Report:

Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Western Region did receive the County's Act 33 report. The agency is in agreement with the assessment and recommendations provided by Crawford County Children and Youth Services.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:**County Strengths:**

- The intake investigation was initiated immediately upon receipt of the CPS referral. Within several hours of receiving this report, intake staff was present at the hospital checking on the status of the child and the family to assess safety and ongoing risk to the victim child and sibling.
- The agency immediately established a safety plan to ensure the safety of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] while in their parents care. The agency identified the paternal grandparents and aunt and uncle as additional supports to assist the family.

County Weaknesses:

None noted

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:

No areas of non-compliance were noted in the review of this case.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

Crawford County Children and Youth Services continue in its efforts to serve families through responding to referrals and investigations in a timely manner. Also by having the agency make referrals for brief services during the intake (investigative) process, and referrals to any necessary service provider for services that may exist to best serve the needs of the children and youth in the system.