

## Fatalities

### Beaver County

1. A 2-year-old female child died on July 4, 2014, as a result of injuries sustained due to a lack of supervision. Beaver County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) substantiated the case in July 2014 naming the father as the perpetrator. The child was dead when she was brought to the medical center on July 4, 2014. The cause of death was determined to be asphyxiation due to a crushed chest. The father reported the injuries were sustained when the child and her sibling were climbing on a dresser and it fell on top of both the children. During the investigation, it was confirmed that the father was the caretaker of the child at the time of the incident and he was aware that the child was playing in a dresser drawer with her sibling. The father stated he left the children and went into the bathroom. The father reported that shortly after he went into the bathroom he heard a “thump” but waited up to 30 minutes before checking on the children. When the father checked on the children he reportedly found the dresser tipped against another dresser with a drawer pinning the child down and preventing her from escaping. The child was residing with her mother, father and four other siblings at the time of the incident. A court order was obtained to place the oldest child with her maternal grandmother and the other two children with the paternal grandfather and paternal aunt. The other sibling was injured during the incident and died on July 6, 2014. The family was known to BCCYS prior to this incident due to a referral that was received in May 2012 related to the mother testing positive for illegal substances at the time of the birth of the child. On July 24, 2014, the father and mother were arrested. The father was initially charged with two counts of involuntary manslaughter in the death of the child and her sibling; however the charges were later dropped. Both parents were charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child but the mother’s charges were dropped on Aug. 13, 2014. The father’s charges are still pending.

2. A 3-year-old female child died on July 6, 2014, as a result of injuries sustained due to a lack of supervision. Beaver County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) substantiated the case in July 2014 naming the father as the perpetrator. On July 4, 2014, the child was brought to the medical center in critical condition. The child was noted to have blood coming from her vagina and a distended stomach and was flown to the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. The child was intubated and listed in critical care. The child passed away as a result of her injuries on July 6, 2014. The father reported the injuries were sustained when the child and her sibling were climbing on a dresser and it fell on top of both the children. During the investigation, it was confirmed that the father was the caretaker of the child at the time of the incident and was aware that the child was playing in a dresser drawer with her sibling. The father stated he left the children and went into the bathroom. The father reported that shortly after he went into the bathroom he heard a “thump” but waited up to 30 minutes before checking on the children. The child was residing with her mother, father and four other siblings at the time of the incident. A court order was obtained to place the oldest child with her grandmother and the other two children with the maternal aunt. The other sibling was injured during the incident and died from her injuries on July 4, 2014. The family was known to BCCYS prior to this incident due to a referral that was received in May 2012 related to the mother testing positive for illegal substances at the time of the birth of the child’s sibling. On July 24, 2014, the father and

mother were arrested. The father was initially charged with two counts of involuntary manslaughter in the death of the child and her sibling, however the charges were later dropped. Both parents were charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child but the mother's charges were dropped on Aug. 13, 2014. The father's charges are still pending.

#### Cambria County

3. A 10-month-old male child died on Sept. 3, 2014, as a result of physical abuse. Cambria County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) substantiated the case in Sept. 2014 naming the father's paramour as the perpetrator. The child was unconscious when brought to the hospital by ambulance on Aug. 15, 2014. At the hospital, it was noted that there were no outward signs of trauma except for small bruising around the child's eyes and a split lip. The attending physician noted that the child was severely dehydrated and that the child was malnourished. The child was in a coma and the decision was made to life flight him to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. An initial examination revealed multiple injuries. The preliminary report from the physician stated the child's injuries consisted of acute subdural hemorrhage, cerebral edema, acute lateral rib fractures, bruising to both eyelids, bruising on the forehead, and abrasions around the eyes. A subsequent skeletal survey showed additional injuries including healing fractures of the upper left arm, left lower leg, and several ribs. The father's paramour was the sole caregiver for the child at the time of the incident. The paramour originally stated that the victim child was standing on a chair downstairs as part of a leg strengthening exercise the paramour was doing with the child. The paramour reported she went upstairs to use the bathroom. She stated she heard a thud and when she came downstairs the child was on the floor unconscious. She reportedly picked the child up, put the child on the dining room table and began CPR. She then yelled for a neighbor to call 911. The paramour later stated to the hospital that the child was standing in a Pack-N-Play upstairs when she went to the bathroom. She stated she heard a thud and when she came out of the bathroom she found the child lying unconscious in the Pack-N-Play. The physician stated the paramour's story was not consistent with the child's injuries. The child's biological mother was granted full legal child of the custody through Westmoreland County Children and Youth (WCCY) while the child was in the hospital. On Sept. 1, 2014, the mother consented to the child being taken off life support. He died on Sept. 3, 2014. At the time of his death he resided with his father, his father's paramour and the paramour's two children. Those children were examined by a physician and found to have no injuries. The agency placed the paramour's children in the care of the paramour's mother. The family is currently receiving ongoing case management services. The victim child and his biological mother had previously been known to WCCY regarding the termination of parental rights on three of her other children, substance abuse issues and determining custody for the victim child when the mother was incarcerated on Feb. 11, 2014. The paramour had also been known to WCCY due to a General Protective Services referral received in Jan. 2011 which resulted in services to the family. The paramour contacted WCCY in June 2012 to find housing assistance but was able to move into a family member's vacant mobile home. The agency closed the case in July 2012. Subsequent reports were received in Aug. 2012 alleging her home had mice, that the father was in jail and the home was filled with dog feces and in Oct. 2012 claiming her child was bruised and dirty. Unannounced home visits did not find evidence to support the allegations so those reports were closed at intake. The father's paramour was arrested on Sept. 5, 2014, and charged with

general criminal homicide, aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a child, and she remains incarcerated pending trial.

#### Dauphin County

4. A 9-year-old male child died on July 29, 2014, due to malnutrition, dehydration, and starvation; all of which were a direct result of neglect. Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth (DCSSCY) indicated the report for physical neglect in Aug. 2014 and named both parents as perpetrators. On Aug. 1, 2014, the child's mother called police to inform them of her child's death. She stated that something began to smell in her home and for a few days she thought it was a dead rodent. She eventually confronted her husband and asked him if their child had died. She was told that the child had been dead for a few days and the reason her husband had not told anyone was because he was afraid of what might happen. At this time the mother had yet to see her dead child. When police responded to her call they searched the house and found the child in a third floor room wrapped in a blanket and laying in feces. Immediately after the discovery police officers contacted both the District Attorney's office and DCSSCY. At this time both parents were taken into police custody to give their statements. The child's mother stated that she had not seen the child since July 26, 2014, when the father brought him downstairs to her. The mother stated she was staying on the second floor to care for another child and had not left that area. Police had noticed there was a lock on the outside of the third floor room and asked the father to explain. He stated the lock was put there so the victim child wouldn't get out of the room and fall down the stairs. He also stated that he would bring the child out of his room but that the child would throw things so he just kept him locked in the room on the third floor. When asked how long he had been locking the child in this room the father told police it had been going on for the past year. The father stated that the child had died on July 29, 2014, but when presented with evidence that it was earlier, the father admitted he found the child dead on July 29, 2014, but had not seen him since July 27, 2014. There were five other children in the household at that time, all of whom were taken to the hospital on Aug. 1, 2014, to be examined. Four of the five children had previously been diagnosed with some type of physical, mental and/or cognitive disability. All of the children were evaluated and on Aug. 2, 2014, one sibling was transferred to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital while the four other siblings were discharged and placed in foster care. The sibling who was admitted to the hospital remains in a vegetative state but has been stabilized and discharged on Aug. 15, 2014, into foster care. Since the incident the children have been able to visit each other on a weekly basis, and often times they visit each other a few days each week. The family has had a history with children and youth services. In Oct. 2013 a General Protective Service (GPS) report was received regarding the family alleging there was domestic violence between the parents as well as possible inappropriate disciplining of one of the children. During this investigation the caseworker learned of the children's disabilities as well as the father's mental health issues, for which he was seeing a counselor. The caseworker informed the parents of other services that may help them, including parenting classes, county case management services and family based services. The family at that time did follow through with the family based services. The county completed the assessment and did not find ongoing services necessary as the children's medical and educational needs were being addressed at that time. In Jan. 2014 another GPS report was received regarding one of the victim child's siblings. The sibling was admitted to the hospital for non-neglect issues but

appeared very unkempt with dirty nails that were untrimmed. It was also reported that the family was not visiting the child while she was in the hospital which concerned staff. The caseworker called the hospital and discussed the child's discharge plans with her physicians and closed the case. Prior to 2013 there were numerous GPS reports all of which alleged that the children had poor hygiene, and were repeatedly wearing the same dirty clothes to school. DCSSCY noted that there were no safety threats or allegations of child abuse or neglect in these GPS concerns. At this time both parents are incarcerated awaiting trial. The father has been charged with criminal homicide, endangering the welfare of children, concealing the death of a child, and abuse of a corpse. The mother has been charged with criminal homicide and endangering the welfare of children.

#### Delaware County

5. A 6-year-old male child died on July 26, 2014, after being shot twice in the head. Delaware County Children and Youth Services indicated the case in Aug. 2014 and named the child's biological father as the perpetrator of physical abuse. The child's parents had recently separated and the day the child died he was visiting with his father. A few minutes after dropping the child off at his mother's home the father pulled out a gun and shot both the child and the child's mother, killing the child instantly. After the shooting, the father led police on a chase and he was eventually cornered on a dead end street where he committed suicide by shooting himself in the head. The child's mother survived the attack and was eventually released from the hospital at which time she disappeared and police have not been able to locate her since that time. The county's efforts to locate her have also been unsuccessful. There is a history of domestic violence incidents with the father making complaints against the mother. On July 23, 2014, the father filed for an emergency Protection From Abuse order against the child's mother. The hearing was to have been held on July 29, 2014. The father did have a permit to carry a concealed weapon. There were no other children in the household. This family was not known to children and youth services prior to this incident.

#### Franklin County

6. A 3-month-old female child died on Aug. 20, 2014, due to physical abuse. Franklin County Children and Youth Services (FCCYS) substantiated the case in Sept. 2014 naming the child's babysitter as the perpetrator. Law enforcement contacted FCCYS on Aug. 20, 2014, to notify the agency of the death of the child. Law enforcement indicated that the death had been ruled a non-accidental homicide. During the law enforcement investigation, it was learned that the child's mother was working at the time of the incident and the child was in the care of the babysitter. Although the babysitter was living in the home at the time of the incident, she was not a relative of any of the other household members. The babysitter admitted during an interview with law enforcement that while caring for the child, she became frustrated and struck the child several times across the face and banged the child's head off a banister. An autopsy conducted on Aug. 20, 2014, found that child's death was the result of blunt force trauma. The child was found to have a skull fracture along with numerous bruises on various parts of her body. At the time of the incident the child resided with her mother, three female adults, five children and the babysitter. After removing the babysitter, law enforcement reported no safety concerns for the other children in the home. FCCYS conducted a home visit on Aug. 21, 2014, completed an in-home safety assessment with the children and all household members and

also confirmed there were no safety threats or concerns. The family was not known to the agency prior to the incident. The babysitter was arrested on the date of the incident and charged with criminal homicide and is incarcerated awaiting criminal proceedings.

#### Philadelphia County

7. A 2-month-old male child died on Aug. 3, 2014, due to injuries sustained from physical abuse. The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families (SERO) substantiated the case in Oct. 2014 naming the child's father as the perpetrator. The child was brought to the hospital emergency room by the father on Aug. 1, 2014. Upon arrival at the hospital, the child was unresponsive, his body was floppy and he had blood coming out of his right ear. The father reported that he had left the child alone in a room while he went out to get some milk and when he returned to the room he found the child on the ground. The father stated that the child fell out of the bassinet and that the fall was approximately four feet. According to the attending physician, the father's explanation was not consistent with the child's injuries and the father was detained, at the hospital, for questioning by the police. The child was listed in critical condition and placed on life support. Two days later the family consented and the child was removed from life support and died. The autopsy revealed a fracture around the child's skull and cranial bleeding. The autopsy also revealed healing rib fractures of the right side and liver lacerations. The cause of death was determined to be cranial cerebral trauma. During the investigation, the father admitted to "rough housing" with the child, which consisted of bear hugging the child, hitting the child on the back to put him to sleep and throwing the child up in the air. The father also admitted that on multiple occasions he gripped the child by the torso and forcefully shook him. At the time of the incident, the child resided in the home with his father, mother, paternal grandfather and grandmother, an aunt, the grandparents' 7-year-old nephew and a 1-year-old sibling. The child's paternal grandparents were serving as kinship foster parents for the nephew at the time of the incident. The nephew was immediately moved to another foster home within the provider agency. The sibling was taken into protective custody and placed in foster care. The family was known to the Philadelphia Department of Human Services prior to the incident due to a previous Child Protective Services referral received in May 2013 naming the victim child's father as the alleged perpetrator in an incident involving the 7-year-old nephew. The report was unfounded as the injuries to the child did not rise to the level of abuse under the law. A plan of correction was put into place to ensure that the alleged perpetrator did not have any unsupervised contact with the nephew and he was referred to parenting/discipline classes. The mother of the deceased child currently continues to have regular, supervised visitation with the sibling and was referred for a parenting capacity evaluation. Agency services are being provided for the 1-year-old sibling. The father was arrested and charged with murder and endangering the welfare of a child and is currently incarcerated.

8. On Sept. 25, 2014, a 16-month-old female child died due to neglect. A lack of supervision resulted in the child drowning in a bathtub. On the date of the incident, the child was being bathed with her two siblings, 6 years old and 2 years old. The mother was bathing the children and left the bathroom to retrieve the children's pajamas. The father then called the mother to the kitchen where a discussion ensued. The parents were alerted to the bathroom when one of the child's siblings screamed. When the mother and father reached the bathroom, the child was face-down in the bathtub. Emergency personnel responded to the home but the child had

died prior to their arrival. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) conducted an investigation of the alleged neglect and on Oct. 21, 2014, indicated both the mother and father as perpetrators of child abuse. As a result of the child's death, the two siblings are living with their maternal grandmother who was granted temporary legal custody. The parents were granted liberal visits with the children. The mother, father and six-year-old sibling are receiving grief counseling and the family was accepted for additional services through a social services agency. The family was known to DHS prior to the child's death for unfounded reports of physical abuse and domestic violence. The report was made in Mar. 2014 regarding an incident that reportedly occurred in the summer of 2013. Law enforcement continues to investigate this current incident.

9. A 6-year-old female child died on Sept. 26, 2014, as a result of medical complications related to her asthma issues. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) indicated the report in Oct. 2014 and named the child's biological mother as perpetrator of medical neglect. The victim child had been hospitalized on numerous occasions due to complications with her asthma. On the day the child died her mother found her on the floor not breathing and proceeded to call emergency services immediately and performed CPR until they arrived. After the child was taken to the hospital it was noted by the child's pediatrician that the mother had missed a couple of follow up appointments after hospitalizations over the past few months. The mother stated that she had missed one follow up appointment with the child's doctor. Prior to this incident the mother was given medical equipment that allowed her to care for the child at home so they would not have to spend as much time in the hospital. After this incident the mother received grief counseling and she took part in individual and group therapy sessions. DHS visited the home to assure the safety of the victim child's sibling. There were no concerns regarding the mother's ability to care for the child, and it was reported that the maternal aunt agreed to stay with the family to help care for the child. In Oct. 2014 the Northeast Treatment Center began providing the family with in-home safety services which they reported the mother successfully completed in Dec. 2014. Prior to this incident the family was not known to children and youth services. There are no criminal charges pending against the mother at this time.

#### York County

10. A 1-year-old female child died on March 16, 2014, due to physical abuse. York County Office of Children, Youth and Families (YCOCYF) indicated the sibling's paternal uncle for physical abuse as a result of alcohol impairment which resulted in the child's death. The child was staying over at her sibling's paternal grandmother's home where the child's sibling's paternal uncle also resides. The child was sleeping on a mattress located on the floor of the sibling's paternal grandmother's room. The sibling's paternal uncle came into the room and asked for the child to be permitted to sleep on his chest. The sibling's paternal grandmother denied this request. He then came back into the room after the sibling's paternal grandmother was sleeping and took the child to his bedroom. The sibling's paternal uncle reported that he put the child on his chest with the child lying on her stomach. He reported waking and finding the child on her back. The sibling's paternal uncle reported hearing his mother calling for him and attempted to rouse the child at which point he noticed she was not breathing. The sibling's paternal uncle reported that he realized the child was deceased at this point and began to consume large amounts of alcohol. The sibling's paternal uncle reportedly attempted two times to hang himself from his ceiling with rope but failed. After the second failed attempt he took the

child to the sibling's paternal grandmother for help. Emergency medical services were contacted and cardio pulmonary resuscitation was begun on the child. The child was pronounced dead at the hospital. An autopsy was performed which revealed a blood ethanol level of 0.04% which professionals stated would have to be ingested to register at this amount. YCOCYF was involved with the sibling of the child prior to the child's death but were not involved with the family at the time of the child's death. Concerns regarding the mother's ability to protect her children precipitated the involvement. The agency completed an assessment, finding the mother to be appropriate and the allegations to be unsubstantiated. The child's sibling has not had contact with the paternal uncle or paternal grandmother since the incident. The sibling's paternal uncle was charged with murder of the third degree, involuntary manslaughter, endangering welfare of children and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence. He is currently being held in York County Prison with a trial pending.

### **Near Fatalities**

#### **Bedford County**

1. A 2-month-old female child nearly died as a result of injuries received from physical abuse. Bedford County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) substantiated the case naming the father as the perpetrator. On the evening of July 15, 2014, the child was transported by the parents to the emergency room. During the examination it was determined that the child had subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhaging and bilateral retinal hemorrhaging with no external trauma to the skull. She was flown to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. At the time of the incident the child was in the care of her father while her mother was shopping. Neither parent had an explanation for the child's injuries. Medical professionals indicate the injuries cannot be explained by any other etiology than abusive head trauma. On July 16, 2014, BCCYS filed for emergency custody and a safety plan was developed with the paternal and maternal grandparents to ensure the parents' visitation with the child was supervised. She was discharged from the hospital to the care of her maternal grandmother. However, due to the maternal grandmother's work schedule it was decided that the paternal step-grandmother would have physical custody. It was stipulated that the paternal grandfather had to leave the residence since he could not be an approved caregiver due to an indicated sexual abuse report from Greene County. All visits with the parents are supervised. The child's father was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, and endangering welfare of children. There are no other children in the home and the family had not been known to BCCYS.

#### **Berks County**

2. On July 4, 2014, a 10-month-old female child nearly died due to physical abuse. The mother's paramour was indicated as the perpetrator of physical abuse by Berks County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS). The mother worked third shift and when she came home her paramour notified her of a change in the child's behavior. The child was reportedly acting differently than normal. Emergency services were called to the home and found bilateral bruising below the child's ears, blood on one side of the child's jaw below the ear, she was disoriented, gazing to the right and having difficulty breathing. The child's mother was the only adult in the home that appeared to be concerned for the child's condition. The child was

transported to the hospital where medical professionals determined the child had a subdural hematoma and was in critical condition. She was transported to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital where she was intubated and underwent emergency surgery to decrease intracranial pressure. In addition, skeletal films revealed 15 rib fractures in various stages of healing, and multiple bruises to her ears, under-chin area, chest, legs and arms. The rib fractures were consistent with squeezing or shaking. The child lived with her mother and two-year-old sibling in the home of the mother's paramour. A safety assessment was conducted and the child's sibling was removed from the home and placed in foster care. The child was discharged from the hospital to a rehabilitation facility and after being re-hospitalized for various medical concerns, she was discharged into foster care where she remains with her sibling. The parents have supervised visitation three times per week with parenting services in place. The family was not known to BCCYS prior to the incident. The mother's paramour confessed to inflicting the injuries to the child and was charged with aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of children. He is currently incarcerated.

#### Dauphin County

3. An 11-year-old female child nearly died on Aug. 2, 2014, due to severe dehydration and malnutrition and which was a direct result of neglect. Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth (DCSSCY) indicated the report for physical neglect in Aug. 2014 and named both parents as perpetrators. On Aug. 1, 2014, the child's mother called police to inform them that one of the child's siblings had died. She stated that something began to smell and for a few days she thought it was a dead rodent. When she eventually confronted her husband (the victim child's father) she asked him if the child had died and was told that the child had been dead for a few days. The reason her husband had not told anyone was because he was afraid of what might happen. After police arrived and found the deceased child they also found that there were five other children in the home. One of the children they found was in a vegetative state and appeared near death. Immediately after the discovery police officers contacted both the District Attorney's office and DCSSCY. The immediate response included a safety assessment which identified multiple safety threats. The five siblings were removed from the home and taken to the hospital for evaluation. The victim child's doctor stated that she arrived severely dehydrated, hypothermic, and had a heart rate of 30 beats per minute, which is extremely low. The doctor also stated that if the child had not been brought to the hospital she would have died within 10-12 hours. Shortly after the children were taken to the hospital both parents were taken into police custody to give their statements. The child's mother stated that she was caring for the child, who was in a constant vegetative state as a result of a medical condition, and never left the second floor to look after her other children. Four of the five children had previously been diagnosed with some type of physical, mental and/or cognitive disability. All of the children were evaluated and on Aug. 2, 2014, the victim child was transferred to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital while the four siblings were discharged and placed in foster care. The victim child remains in a vegetative state but has been stabilized and discharged from the hospital on Aug. 15, 2014, into foster care. Since the incident the children have been able to visit each other on a weekly basis, and often times they visit each other a few days each week. The family has had a history with children and youth services. In Oct. 2013 a General Protective Service (GPS) report was received regarding the family alleging there was domestic violence between the parents as well as possible

inappropriate disciplining of one of the children. During this investigation the caseworker learned of the children's disabilities as well as the father's mental health issues, for which he was seeing a counselor. The caseworker informed the parents of other services that may help them, including parenting classes, county case management services and family based services. The family at that time did follow through with the family based services. The county completed the assessment and did not find ongoing services necessary as the children's medical and educational needs were being addressed at that time. In Jan. 2014 another GPS report was received regarding one of the victim child's siblings. The sibling was admitted to the hospital for non-neglect issues but appeared very unkempt with dirty nails that were untrimmed. It was also reported that the family was not visiting the child while she was in the hospital which concerned staff. The caseworker called the hospital and discussed with physicians the child's discharge plans and closed the case. Prior to 2013 there were numerous GPS reports all of which alleged that the children had poor hygiene, and were wearing the same clothes to school. DCSSCY noted that there were no safety threats or allegations of child abuse or neglect in these GPS concerns. At this time both parents are incarcerated awaiting trial. The father has been charged with criminal homicide, endangering the welfare of children, concealing the death of a child, and abuse of a corpse. The mother has been charged with criminal homicide and endangering the welfare of children.

#### Erie County

4. On July 18, 2014, a 3-month-old male child nearly died due to physical abuse. Erie County Office of Children and Youth (ECOCY) substantiated the case naming the mother and father as perpetrators of abuse. The mother and father brought the child to the hospital emergency room where medical personnel noted the child to be lethargic and having possible seizures. The child was transported via helicopter to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh where it was determined the child sustained bilateral subdural hematomas, retinal hemorrhages, bruising to the forehead, generalized petechia as well as acute and chronic injuries. The injuries the child received are believed to be the result of Shaken Baby Syndrome. The father reported being in the bathroom brushing his teeth while the mother was in the downstairs portion of the home. The mother stated that she was outside of the home loading the car for a fishing trip. Both parents stated the child was strapped into his car seat but conflicting accounts of where the car seat was placed. The father claims it was on the kitchen floor. The child's two-year-old sibling was coloring on the couch in the living room and the father reported hearing a "thud". He went to the kitchen and found the child lying on his back with his sibling standing over him. The parents reported that the sibling must have removed the child from the car seat and dropped him on his head. ECOCY removed the sibling from the home as a result of the near death incident and placed her in foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed into foster care with his sibling. Criminal charges were filed against the father for aggravated assault, simple assault and endangering welfare of children. He was incarcerated but released on bond. He is not permitted to see the victim child but was allowed supervised visitation with his daughter providing he attend mandatory visitation training. He failed to attend the training and has not seen either child. The mother is allowed visits with both children supervised by the YWCA but rarely sees her children. The family was not known to ECOCY prior to this near death incident.

#### Fayette County

5. A 13-year-old female child nearly died on July 19, 2014, as a result of severe medical neglect. Fayette County Children and Youth Services (FCCYS) has substantiated the case and named both parents as perpetrators of child abuse. The mother stated the child had an “unresponsive episode” at which time she transported her to Uniontown Hospital. Upon initial examination, hospital staff noted the child’s appearance cachectic and that she had multiple sores on her body and extremities. Due to the extent of her injuries and condition the child was transported via medical helicopter to the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Intensive Care Unit where she was found to be extremely malnourished and emaciated, experiencing a low heart rate and blood pressure, deranged electrolytes and her CPK, a marker of muscle breakdown, was extremely elevated. She also had rib fractures and a skull fracture. The child required intubation and was administered medication to help her blood pressure and heart rate to normalize. At the time of hospital admission she weighed 50 pounds which is less than she weighed at 7 years old. The mother reported that the child had been seen by multiple medical providers since Jan. 2014 including multiple hospital admissions for seizures and open sores. In April 2014 the parents wanted the child to be admitted for eating disorders but there was no medical data to support the request. The parents claim she has food allergies and eating disorders which resulted in her low weight. The only explanation given by the parents for the child’s injuries was that a 5-year-old foster child living in the home would occasionally hit her. On Aug. 7, 2014, the child was moved to the Children’s Institute for rehabilitation. The parents were allowed to visit with the child under the grandmother’s supervision. Upon the child’s discharge from the rehab facility FCCYS obtained custody and placed her in the care of a foster family. The child has been attending all medical, dental and vision appointments as well as appointments related to the incident. The child lived with her mother and father, two siblings ages ten and seven, and two foster children who had been placed in the home by Westmoreland County Children’s Bureau (WCCB). The agency removed the two foster children from the home. After a thorough safety assessment, FCCYS concluded the other two children were safe in the home. This family was known to WCCB as a foster family but was not known to FCCYS prior to this incident. No charges have been filed and the investigation is ongoing.

#### Montgomery County

6. On Sept. 10, 2014, a 5-month-old male child nearly died due to physical abuse. Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (MCOCY) indicated the mother as perpetrator of physical abuse. The mother reported that while the child was on the changing table he turned blue and went stiff. Paramedics were called and the child was taken to a hospital emergency room where a CAT scan of the child’s head showed acute and chronic subdural hemorrhages. The child was transferred to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for surgery. The mother admitted to shaking the child on the morning of the near death incident. Upon discharge from the hospital, the child was placed into foster care. The child remains in foster care and his care is being followed by a nurse. At the time of the near death incident, the child had six siblings residing in the home. A safety assessment was conducted and no safety threats to the older children were identified. The siblings remain in the home with their mother with in-home services provided. Prior to the near death incident, MCOCY was involved with the family for both general protective services and child protective services regarding reports of physical abuse, medical neglect and lack of supervision. There are currently no charges

pending against the mother. The police investigation is ongoing as other caretakers for the child are interviewed.

Note: This summary was updated on August 7, 2015.

7. A 9-month-old female child nearly died on July 18, 2014, due to injuries she received as a result of physical abuse. Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (MCOCY) substantiated the case in Aug. 2014 naming the child's grandmother as the perpetrator. On the day of the incident the grandmother was watching the child while the child's mother was at work. When the mother picked up her child at the end of the day she noticed bruises for which the child's grandmother had no explanation. The mother immediately took her daughter to the Pottstown Emergency Room where she was diagnosed with a subdural hematoma of her head and bruises to the face. The child was transported to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit and treated for her injuries. MCOCY conducted interviews of the mother and grandmother which cleared the mother as a possible perpetrator. During the course of the investigations, a safety plan was put into place to prevent the grandmother from having unsupervised contact with the child. There were no concerns regarding the mother's ability to care for her child or to ensure her safety; there are no other children in the home. The child was released from the hospital into her mother's care. An investigation by the Pottstown Police Department included a failed polygraph test by the grandmother and follow-up interviews containing numerous inconsistencies. No charges have been filed.

#### Philadelphia County

8. On July 8, 2014, a 3-month-old female child nearly died as a result of injuries caused by physical abuse. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) substantiated the report on Aug. 12, 2014, naming the father as perpetrator. The parents were separated but maintained an amicable relationship. On the date of the incident, the mother had just left to go out for the evening leaving the child in the father's care at his mother's home. He called her within minutes to come back because the baby was grey and limp. The father said he was lying down with the baby and when he got up he picked her up and her head fell back. The mother returned immediately and took the baby to St. Christopher's Hospital. Emergency room staff intubated and stabilized the child, conducted a CT scan and diagnosed a left frontal subdural hematoma and retinal hemorrhaging. The doctor stated that sleeping with the child would not cause that type of trauma and that the injury is consistent with being shaken. The parents had no explanation for the child's injuries. The child was transferred to a rehabilitation facility for ongoing treatment where the mother and father were allowed supervised visits – the mother visited daily; the father not at all. The child was released from the rehabilitation facility into her mother's care and DHS has accepted the family for services. The mother continues to follow through with all medical appointments for the child and has filed for a Protection From Abuse order for herself and the child against the father. This family was not known to DHS prior to this incident. The criminal investigation is ongoing as the father continues to avoid police and has not made himself available to investigators.

9. A 3-month-old male child nearly died on September 9, 2014, as a result near drowning in his home. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) indicated the mother as a perpetrator for lack of supervision. A 13-year-old female sibling was directed by her mother to

bathe her three younger siblings ages 1-year-old, 3-years-old and the victim child. The 1-year-old began to cry so she removed him from the bathtub and took him to another room leaving the victim child and the 3-year-old in the bathtub unattended. She didn't immediately return to the children in the bathtub. The mother went to check on the children and found the victim child lying face down in the water. The mother began to scream and called 911. The father rushed in and began chest compressions while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. The ambulance was taking too long so the father transported the child to the hospital where testing showed minimal brain activity. The child was placed at Pediatric Specialty Care as a result of his severe medical concerns. The siblings were taken into temporary custody but have been returned to their parents. The family is living with relatives. Counseling has been provided to the parents and parenting classes have been scheduled. The family was known to DHS from several unsubstantiated General Protective Service reports over the last few years relating to lack of supervision and the children's hygiene. The family has been provided voluntary, in-home services through DHS. There have been no criminal charges filed in this case.

10. A 7-month-old male child nearly died on June 1, 2014, after nearly drowning in a bathtub. Philadelphia County Department of Human Services (DHS) substantiated the report in July 2014 and indicated the child's father as the perpetrator. On the date of incident the father was bathing the victim child and his 18 month old sister when he stepped out of the bathroom for two minutes. He reported that when he returned the victim child was floating in the bathtub and unconscious. The father states he took the child downstairs immediately and performed CPR for five minutes when the child began vomiting and opened his eyes. Emergency services arrived at the home and the father told them that he was performing CPR because the child had swallowed some bath water which had worried him. With incorrect information the EMT's were unable to perform proper procedures for a possible drowning victim. It was not until the child was at the hospital and more in depth questions were asked that the father admitted what really happened. During the incident the mother was on the porch braiding her younger sister's hair and was unaware that the child nearly drowned. A safety assessment was completed which found that the children were safe in the home with the mother. She requested that the father leave the house after the true version of events was told, to which he agreed. Philadelphia's Special Victim's Unit investigated the case and determined that the incident was an accident and no charges were filed in the case. The father is still involved in the children's lives and is currently receiving parenting education and life skills counseling. The child was discharged from the hospital and is expected to be fine. In home services started for the mother and children after the child returned home from the hospital. The family was known to DHS due to a report that alleged marijuana was being smoked in the home. That report was screened out without an assessment being conducted.

Note: this summary was added on June 16, 2015.

#### Pike County

11. A 2-year-old female child nearly died on Aug. 6, 2015, as a result of medical neglect that began on Jan. 17, 2013. A report of child abuse was originally received by Pike County Children and Youth Services (PCCYS) on July 3, 2014, due to the mother not following pre-operative and post-operative medical instruction. PCCYS substantiated the case on July 29, 2014, naming the mother as the perpetrator. The child was born at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) with a mediastinal lymphangioma (benign tumor) in her chest. She was

seen again at 3-months-old for an MRI and was doing well. At that time the doctor requested the child be seen again at approximately 1-year-old to assess any development of the tumor. The mass could grow and compromise the child's heart function and ability to breathe. The mother didn't take the child for a follow-up until Nov. 2013. After several cancellations of the pre-MRI appointment with an anesthesiologist, the child was finally seen for pre-operative evaluation but never brought back for the MRI. In Apr. 2014 the mother called CHOP requesting the child be seen due to difficulty breathing, having fevers, and not eating. The mother was instructed to immediately take the child to the local emergency room. Medical staff from CHOP followed up and the mother told them the child had been seen at a local urgent care facility, she had a viral illness and was under the care of her pediatrician. There is no record of the child being seen by urgent care or the pediatrician. At the request of CHOP the child was brought to their office at which time she was admitted. Testing revealed a "huge anterior multilobulated cystic mediastinal mass" compressing her heart. The child was noted to be ASA Status 4 defined as an "incapacitating disease that is a constant threat to life". Her respiratory rate should have been 20-30 however her respiratory distress caused her rate to be 80-100. On May 12, 2014, a four hour surgery removed the tumor which the surgeon described as the largest mass he had seen in his 25 year pediatric career. Post-operative recovery was difficult noting a deep vein thrombosis which required painful injections of Lovenox twice daily for treatment of the clot. In addition to the twice daily injections, discharge instructions included lab work crucial to ensuring the proper levels of Lovenox. The child was released from the hospital on May 20, 2014, with an appointment scheduled for June 2, 2014, with a local pediatrician. That appointment was missed and CHOP immediately followed up to find out why. The mother claimed the pediatrician cancelled the appointment which was untrue and the child was seen the next day. There was no record of lab work which was to have been done on June 2, 2014, for CHOP to monitor the blood clot. An MRI was conducted on June 11, 2014, with a post-procedure appointment scheduled with the doctor the same afternoon. The mother did not take the child to that follow-up appointment. Between June 11, 2014, and July 3, 2014, the child missed multiple appointments at CHOP and with the pediatrician. On July 3, 2014, a report was made to ChildLine for neglect. A PCCYS caseworker immediately responded to the home and found no safety threats and all of the children remained in the home. The caseworker conducted a follow-up visit just prior to receiving the full medical record and correspondence at which time the agency opened the family for services. The mother would not appear for scheduled visits and not respond to unannounced visits. The mother refuses to sign the family service plan but has been taking the child for all scheduled medical appointments since the case was opened for services. The family was not known to PCCYS prior to this series of incidents. A criminal investigation is ongoing.

#### Schuylkill County

12. A 5-month-old female child nearly died on July 16, 2014, from injuries she received as a result of physical abuse. On Aug. 25, 2014, Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services (SCCYS) indicated her father as the perpetrator. The child was brought to the hospital due to an altered mental state. Testing evidenced bi-lateral chronic subdural hematoma with acute and sub-acute ischemia. The physician reported suspicion the injuries were caused by non-accidental trauma. During evaluation the child evidenced three separate seizures and was flown to Lehigh Valley Hospital for further treatment. The parents offered no explanation for the

child's injuries in the initial interviews conducted by SCCYS and local law enforcement. SCCYS assessed and ensured the safety of the victim child's 1-year-old half-sibling. In subsequent questioning the mother stated that a conversation she had with the child's father led her to believe he caused the child's injuries. The father was arraigned on July 18, 2015, for charges of recklessly endangering another person, simple assault, and aggravated assault. He was incarcerated at the Schuylkill County Prison and shortly thereafter posted bail. The mother was awarded a temporary Protection From Abuse (PFA) order against the child's father and at the final PFA hearing the father agreed to a 2 year no contact order. After several weeks in a rehabilitation facility the child was released to her mother's care. SCCYS opened the family for agency services to provide support through the criminal proceeding, provide support in the child's ongoing rehabilitation, and to monitor the continued safety of both children. The father's criminal charges are still pending.

13. A 3-month-old male child nearly died on Aug. 26, 2014, after he was hospitalized due to physical abuse. Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services (SCCYS) indicated the case in Oct. 2014 and named the child's biological mother as the perpetrator due to physical abuse. The child's mother contacted emergency medical services (EMS) in the early morning hours of Aug. 26, 2014, and stated that while feeding her child he began to turn blue and became unresponsive. EMS workers intubated the child and flew him to a local hospital where doctors completed a near fatality report. Testing at the hospital revealed that the child had five skull fractures as well as clavicle, rib, radius as well as both left and right side femur fractures. All of these injuries are indicative of abuse and were noted to be in numerous stages of healing. After hospitalization the mother was interviewed by both the police and SCCYS. The mother stated that the child was cranky and refusing to eat which frustrated her. She then admitted to throwing the child against the wall causing him to hit his head and fall to the floor. At this time the mother was incarcerated and charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, and endangering the welfare of a child. On Aug. 28, 2014, a detention hearing was held regarding the child which both parents attended and custody was temporarily granted to SCCYS. The child's father has denied paternity and does not want to care for the child. A dependency hearing took place on Sept. 2, 2014, where it was decided that the child would remain in the custody of SCCYS. The child was eventually stabilized and transferred to a children's hospital for rehabilitation. The child was discharged from the hospital to the care of a kinship foster home. The mother and child were living with the child's maternal grandmother and her paramour at the time of incident. Police and SCCYS interviewed them afterwards and both denied hearing anything out of the ordinary on the morning of the near fatality. After the interview they both agreed to take a polygraph test, which they passed. There are no other children in the household. The family was known to SCCYS prior to this incident. The victim child was born premature in June 2014. During hospitalization the nursing staff reported that the mother needed constant reminders for basic care of the child, such as feeding, changing clothes, diapers, and bathing. There was concern expressed at the hospital related to the mother's ability to care for her child. By the time they were discharged the nursing staff felt much better about the mother's interactions with her child, as well as her ability to care for her child. For the next four weeks, after being discharged from the hospital, the child was seen on a weekly basis by his pediatrician to make sure he was gaining weight. After the first month of visits the child's pediatrician felt his growth was progressing well since his discharge from the hospital. In July 2014 the child was assessed for early intervention services. He was placed in

their Tracking Program to provide for periodic assessments and is scheduled for reevaluation in Sept. 2014. The child's progress will be closely monitored and appropriate services will be scheduled. The mother is currently incarcerated while awaiting trial.

#### York County

14. A 3-year-old male child nearly died on Aug. 14, 2014, as a result of injuries sustained from physical abuse. The York County Office of Children, Youth and Families (YCOCYF) substantiated the case in Oct. 2014 naming the mother and her paramour as perpetrators. EMS was dispatched to the home of the victim child on Aug. 14, 2014, for a report of a fall. When they arrived the child was on the floor and lethargic with bruising on the left side of his face and a bloody lip. At the hospital, medical personnel observed bruising in various stages of healing all over his body, petechiae on the child's penis, and the hair on the back of his head appeared to be burned. He was diagnosed with a brain bleed and was flown to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital for treatment. The mother's paramour reported that two to three days ago the child fell off the top bunk bed. The mother initially denied any abuse of the child or any domestic violence in the home but after continued interviewing by law enforcement she admitted to the police that the paramour had been beating the children with a closed fist. The YCOCYF took custody of the victim child, his sibling and the child of the mother's paramour and placed them with the maternal grandmother of the victim child. As a result of information obtained through interviewing, 11 additional reports of abuse were made to ChildLine. The family was known to the agency prior to this report and was under investigation for a report received on Aug. 8, 2014. The paramour was arrested on Aug. 14, 2014, charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, aggravated assault-victim less than 6, and endangering the welfare of children and remains in the York County Prison. The mother was arrested on Sept. 2, 2014, charged with simple assault and endangering the welfare of a child. She posted bail and is allowed agency supervised visits with her children. The mother is receiving services for anger management, employment and housing. The children receive counseling twice a week in the home of their grandparents.