



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 05/05/14

Date of Near Fatality Incident: 05/05/14 – 07/03/14

Date of Oral Report: 07/03/14

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

REPORT FINALIZED ON

03/06/15

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 was 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. Montgomery County did not convene a review team in accordance with Act 33 related to this report due to case status being Unfounded.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
██████████	Victim Child	05/05/14
██████████	Biological Mother	██████/90
██████████	Biological Father	██████/86

Notification of Child Near Fatality:

The victim child was admitted to Lehigh Valley Hospital on 7/3/14 ██████████ as an allegation of neglect to ChildLine on this same date. The victim child was diagnosed with severe failure to thrive and he weighed less than his birth weight. The child required ██████████, and he was ██████████. The parents reported that they have been feeding the child but that the child has severe ██████████ and has been on medication since the third week of life.

The parents stated that ██████████ had a ██████████ study but the reporting source did not know where the study was completed or the results of the study. His rectal temperature was low and his blood glucose level was abnormally low placing him at risk for ██████████. The reporting source stated that a medical cause had not been ruled out but that the cause was suspected to be abuse or neglect. The reporting source also stated that Dr. ██████████ had certified that the child was in critical condition. He is expected to survive. The child is having numerous medical tests, including ██████████ testing. Medical staff are concerned that his blood sugar is elevated. He has gained some weight in the hospital. The parents are not restricted in their visitation and they have been entirely appropriate during visits

Summary of DPW Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (SERO) obtained and reviewed all case record information provided by Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth pertaining to the [REDACTED] Near Fatality CPS case; which included the review of the medical records from both Lehigh Valley Hospital, CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) and the victim child's pediatrician, Dr. [REDACTED]. The child's case record included the County's assessment and investigation records, their ongoing structured case notes and progress notes along with the safety and risk assessments completed until the case was closed on 08/07/14.

SERO initiated and maintained contact with the CPS investigator, [REDACTED] and her supervisor, [REDACTED], throughout the completion of the CPS investigation.

The regional office also participated in the Act 33 Near Death Review Team meeting at the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth on 06/30/14 where the outcome of the investigation was discussed along with the qualifying information that supported a determination [REDACTED] case of neglect and supported by the Physician Teams at both Lehigh Valley Hospital and CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)..

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

No involvement by Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth prior to this report.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

The initial 24-hour visit was completed by Lehigh County Children and Youth staff as a courtesy contact with no safety threats being identified on 07/04/14; and the victim child was [REDACTED] in critical condition due to severe weight loss and other medically related concerns regarding failure to thrive.

Once the child was [REDACTED] and the Montgomery County caseworker in coordination with the hospital social worker had an opportunity to research the history of medical care by the parents and confirm that level of care with the child's pediatrician, it was apparent that the child's lack of weight gain was medically related and not because of neglect on the part of the parents.

The child's pediatrician reported that the mother has kept all of her [REDACTED] appointments since birth with last one being on 06/23/14 when he was almost back to his birth weight; with the recommendation to continue breast feeding along with supplementing with his formula and to start giving him [REDACTED] for a suspect [REDACTED] problem.

The parent's attempts to address their sons continuing medical problems were found to include at least seven (7) visits to their pediatrician as well as contact with Grand View Hospital for testing to confirm the [REDACTED] problem.

Lehigh Valley Hospital decided to transfer the child to CHOP on 07/09/14 due to persisting medical issues related to low temperature, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] problems which they felt needed further testing.

Once the Physician Team at CHOP was able to review the victim child's medical condition, the social worker reported to Montgomery CYC that the child's lack of weight gain was strictly due to medical reasons and not neglect and that the hospital would not be treating this case as a Near Fatality case but will medically stabilize the child and [REDACTED].

The victim child [REDACTED] CHOP on 07/23/14 as a failure to thrive case not related to parental neglect with a medical diagnosis of [REDACTED] which will be treated with an [REDACTED].

The County caseworker maintained constant telephone contact with child's mother until a home visit could be arranged on 08/01/14 due to the unavailability of the father because of work. Follow-up visit to the child pediatrician and [REDACTED] have already occurred since discharge with appointments with a [REDACTED] specialist and [REDACTED] at CHOP during the week of 08/04/14.

The case was determined to be [REDACTED] along with case closure with the County CYC.

Current Case Status:

No ongoing services recommended.

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

No report was required.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Near Fatality Review Report was received by the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth on 09/04/14 and discussed with their Quality Assurance Administrator, [REDACTED].

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths:
 - ✓ The County conducted their investigation collaboratively with all the Multidisciplinary Team members and assured safety of the victim child at all times.
- County Weaknesses:
 - ✓ None identified at this time.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance: Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:
 - ✓ None identified at this time.