pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

MALLORY CARTER

Date of Birth: 6/14/2014
Date of Incident: 7/14/14
Date of Oral Report: 7/31/2014

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Delaware County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
March 2, 2015

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, DHS 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. Delaware County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:

Name:	Relationship:	Date of Birth:
Mallory Carter	Victim Child	06/14/14
[redacted]	Mother	[redacted]83
[redacted]	Father	[redacted]83
[redacted]	Sibling	[redacted]/99
[redacted]	Sibling	[redacted]/09
[redacted]	Sibling	[redacted]/11

Notification of Child Fatality:

[redacted] contacted Delaware County Children and Youth Services to report the death of the VC on July 29, 2014. Lab test results determined that the VC had a lethal dose of [redacted] in her system. The ME suggested that the drugs in the VC system could have been ingested from a patch. The ME reported that toxicology results showed that the child had .21 ml [redacted] and 1.2 ml of [redacted] in her system. The level of drugs in the VC system was equivalent to what is found in a 25 ml patch used in hospitals for [redacted]

The [redacted] Police Department informed the ME that the home of the VC was a known drug house. The ME had a meeting on 7/29/2014 with the DA and the [redacted] police [redacted] Homicide.

Summary of Southeast Region Child Fatality Review Activities:

The South East Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the family. This included the Multidisciplinary Team report, Risk Assessment, FSP and Police Report. SERO participated in the Act 33 Review on July 29,

2014 and collaborated with Delaware County Children and Youth Services, Physicians and police.

Children and Youth Involvement Prior to Incident:

The family had no prior history with Delaware County C and Y.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

The mother said she put VC down to sleep in her pack and play on 7/14/14 and when she awoke to check VC, the VC was cold and not in the same position as she was in the bed when she put her down to sleep. VC was found face down and not breathing in the corner of the pack and play. Mother began CPR immediately and called family members for assistance. 911 was called and paramedics continued CPR on the way to Crozier-Chester Medical Center. VC was pronounced dead at the hospital on 7/14/14 at 10:02am. There were numerous people in the home the day prior to the VC's death. Mother agreed to drug testing and tested positive for marijuana. [redacted], neither the father of the VC nor the fathers of the siblings have been interviewed.

Current Case Status:

[redacted] and the ME's determination of the VC's cause of death still pending, [redacted] has been made.

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

- Strengths:
  None identified.

- Deficiencies:
  More collaboration between local police and C&Y since police knew that the VC resided in a known drug house and didn't provide this information to C&Y

- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:

  There were no recommendations.

  Recommendations for Change at the State Level:

  There were no recommendations.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Southeast Region is in receipt of the County's Act 33 review, and has reviewed it. The Department is in agreement with the findings.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:
  The county provided follow up with public and private stake holders from the onset of the [redacted] report and investigation.
  Delaware County C&Y completed interviews and collateral contacts as required.

- County Weaknesses:
  None identified

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:
  None identified

Department of Human Services Recommendations:
The Regional Office agrees with the Act 33 recommendation for increased collaboration between the local police and C&Y agency as noted.