



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF

ROAN McCONAHY

Date of Birth: July 30, 2013
Date of Death: March 12, 2014
Date of Oral Report: March 18, 2014

FAMILY KNOWN TO:

Lawrence and Mercer County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
March 6, 2015

This report is confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released.

(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. Mercer County did not convene a review team because the allegations of abuse were [REDACTED] within 30 days of the date of oral report to ChildLine.

Family Constellation:

| <u>Name:</u> | <u>Relationship:</u> | <u>Date of Birth:</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Roan McConahy | Victim Child | 7/30/2013 |
| [REDACTED] | Mother | [REDACTED] 1995 |
| [REDACTED] | Brother | [REDACTED] 2011 |
| [REDACTED] | Maternal Cousin | [REDACTED] 2012 |
| [REDACTED] | Maternal Aunt | [REDACTED] 1993 |
| [REDACTED] | Maternal Grandmother | [REDACTED] 1968 |
| [REDACTED] | Maternal Aunt | [REDACTED] 1992 |
| [REDACTED] * | Father | [REDACTED] 1991 |

*Indicates that this individual did not reside in the household.

Notification of Child Fatality:

On March 12, 2014, Mercer County Children and Youth Services received a referral reporting that [REDACTED] Police in [REDACTED] were called to the home due to a report of a deceased 7 month old male child. There had been a party in the home with alcohol and marijuana. The mother stated that she put the child to bed around 9:00 pm. The older maternal aunt went to bed around 2:00 am, reportedly in the same bed as the child. The mother went to check on the child and found the child to be wrapped in a comforter and not breathing.

The report was not registered [REDACTED] as a fatality until March 18, 2014.

Summary of DHS Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Western Region Office of Children Youth and Families reviewed the case files from Mercer County Children and Youth Services and Lawrence County Children and Youth Services pertaining to the child's family. The intake caseworker from Mercer County Children and Youth Services and the ongoing supervisor from Lawrence County Children and Youth Services were also interviewed.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

On December 2, 2013, Lawrence County Children and Youth Services received a Child Protective Services (CPS) report that the child had visitation overnight from October 31, 2013 to November 1, 2013 with his father and, when the mother picked up the child from the father's home on November 1, 2013, the child had three scratches on his left side of the scalp above the left eye and two large bruises on his forehead above the left eye. [REDACTED] swelling in that area as well. The father had no explanation for the injuries and denied anything happened. The mother took the child to the [REDACTED] Grove City Hospital. The Lawrence County Children and Youth Service's caseworker confirmed this information at a home visit to the child's mother's home on this date. The child's mother reported that no additional medical treatment was necessary.

The Lawrence County Children and Youth Service's caseworker made numerous attempts to contact the father by making unannounced home visits and attempted phone calls. The father did not respond to any of the caseworker's attempts.

In a [REDACTED] dated December 27, 2013, Lawrence County Children and Youth Services [REDACTED] based on medical records from Grove City Hospital showing that the child had two bruises on his forehead and swelling; along with abrasions.

On January 2, 2014, the child's mother met with the Lawrence County Children and Youth Service's caseworker at the agency office and was informed that the case would be open due to the child's father [REDACTED].

On January 13, 2014, the Lawrence County Children and Youth Service's caseworker attempted to contact the child's father via the telephone. A message was left informing the child's father that the family was going to have an open case with the agency. The case was opened and transferred to the [REDACTED] Unit.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

Mercer County Children and Youth Services received a referral on March 12, 2014 reporting that the [REDACTED] Police in [REDACTED] were called to home of the child's family for a report of a deceased 7 month old male child.

The referral further alleged there had been a party at the home with alcohol and marijuana being used. The child's mother stated that she put the child in bed around 9:00PM on March 11, 2014. She stated that the child's maternal aunt went to bed at approximately 2:00AM in the same bed as the child. The referral further alleged that the child's mother went to check on the child and found him wrapped in a comforter and he was not breathing. The [REDACTED] Police in [REDACTED] had determined the death to be accidental. The referral further stated that the home was cluttered and a "mess", but was habitable; there were no signs of neglect or abuse and that the children appear to be well cared for.

On March 12, 2014, Mercer County Children and Youth Services conducted an unannounced home visit to the home of the child's family. Present at the home visit were the child's mother, two maternal aunts, maternal grandmother, brother, and maternal cousin. Mercer County Children and Youth Services determined that the child's brother and maternal cousin were safe at that time.

On March 17, 2014, Mercer County Children and Youth Services spoke to the [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] Barracks. The Agency was advised that the autopsy for the child found the cause of death to be Undetermined Asphyxiation. The [REDACTED] further advised that it has yet to be determined if charges would be filed and the police report would be forwarded to the Mercer County District Attorney.

Mercer County Children and Youth Services received a phone call from Lawrence County Children and Youth Services on March 18, 2014 at 9:35 am regarding the child. The Lawrence County caseworker reported that the case was opened in Lawrence County as the intake caseworker assumed the family resided in Lawrence County. She stated the case was opened as the child's father [REDACTED] in December 2013 due to the child having unexplained bruising on his head. She stated the case was opened at the end of January, 2014.

Supervision with the caseworker's supervisor occurred on March 18, 2014. Information regarding the cause of death was reported. A meeting then occurred with the agency Director, Associate Director, Casework supervisor, and caseworker. The Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families was contacted by the agency Director and the caseworker was directed to have the incident [REDACTED].

Child Line was contacted on March 18, 2014 at 12:47 pm and the incident was registered as a Child Fatality.

A home visit was conducted on March 18, 2014 by Mercer County Children and Youth Services and a [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] Barracks. Present were the child's mother, two maternal aunts, maternal grandmother, brother, and maternal cousin. Mercer County Children and Youth Services determined that the child's brother and maternal cousin were safe at that time.

