



## REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth: 06/13/2014**  
**Date of Incident: 06/10/2015**  
**Date of Report to Child Line: 06/10/2015**  
**CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]**

**FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME  
OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

Cumberland County Children & Youth Services

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**  
10/29/2015

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. Section 6349 (b))

**Reason for Review:**

Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through OCYF, must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a 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.

The Child Protective Services Law also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a fatality or near fatality is substantiated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the report to ChildLine.

Cumberland County has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 09/08/2015.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	06/13/2014
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1996
* [REDACTED]	Mother's Paramour	[REDACTED] 1993
* [REDACTED]	Biological Father	Unknown

\* Denotes an individual that is not a household member or did not live in the home at the time of the incident, but is relevant to the report.

**Summary of OCYF Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:**

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the caseworker, and the supervisor on 06/10/2015 and 09/08/2015. The regional office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting on 09/08/2015.

**Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:**

The family was not known to Cumberland County Children & Youth Services prior to the incident on 06/10/2015.

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

It was reported that the mother left for work around 11 PM and arrived back home around 3 AM. She checked on the baby and said the baby was sleeping. The mother then went to bed and slept until 3 PM. At that time she found the baby was still sleeping but discovered the baby was covered in bruises. The mother woke the baby and went to the paramour's mother's house to see if any of the marks were

from bed bugs. The paramour's mother recommended that she take the baby to the emergency room. The mother's paramour said that the baby fell off the couch, but his explanation was not consistent with the child's injuries. The child was taken to PinnacleHealth Harrisburg Hospital on 06/10/2015 with bruising all over her body. A computerized axial tomography scan showed that the child had [REDACTED] so the child was transferred to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. Along with the bruising the child sustained [REDACTED]. The attending physician certified the child to be in severe condition and later changed to a near fatality. The child had been shaken. She is expected to survive [REDACTED].

Later, the alleged perpetrator texted the child's mother and said that he can't live anymore and to say good bye to his mother for him. Police went to the home and found that the crib was full of feces and vomit.

The child [REDACTED] to her mother. The mother and child receive help from her family and church members.

The mother's paramour was indicated as a perpetrator of child abuse on 08/07/2015. The investigation determined the child sustained her injuries while under the care of the mother's paramour. He was a household member at the time of the incident. The mother was not in the home at the time the child was injured. A criminal investigation resulted in numerous criminal charges that include aggravated assault, simple assault, reckless endangerment and endangering the welfare of a child. The perpetrator is incarcerated awaiting court proceedings.

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

The County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting convened on July 8, 2015.

**Strengths:**

- Officers are willing to accompany caseworkers to scenes and these are good teamings. Cumberland County already has a protocol that all physical abuses cases must go to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. It makes the process easy and seamless.

**Deficiencies:**

- There are many discrepancies and differences between hospital emergency room procedures and employee perceptions of what should occur when presented with a child with injuries.

**Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;**

- The DA office is working on a child abuse protocol that will be sent out to each police department. Additional recommendations include that "hard copies" be provided to detectives as well as police officers as they are usually the first responders.
- Joint training with police officers and CYA staff is recommended.

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies;

- None

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.

- None

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

Central Region received the Cumberland County Internal Fatality Review Team report on 09/22/2015. Verbal feedback was provided to the County on 09/22/2015. The Department concurs with the county report's findings and recommendations.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

County Strengths:

- Cumberland County was instrumental in re-uniting the mother and her estranged family thus providing assistance for the mother and her child.
- CYA will continue to monitor the case on an on-going basis.
- Encourage a Family Group Conference for the family, including the biological father's family as well.
- Officers are willing to accompany caseworkers to scenes and these are good teamings. Cumberland County already has a protocol that all physical abuses cases must go to Hershey Medical Center. It makes the process easy and seamless.
- The District Attorney's office is working on a child abuse protocol that will be sent out to each police department. Additional recommendations include that "hard copies" be provided to detectives as well as police officers as they are usually the first responders.

County Weaknesses:

- None

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.

- None

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

Cumberland County Children, Youth and Family Services conducted a timely investigation in conjunction with the law enforcement officials. The agency provided necessary services to all family members and was able to keep the child safe during the investigation. These practices should continue within the County.