



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

Ny'iem Peterson-Dixon

Date of Birth: 06/25/2015

Date of Death: 09/25/2015

Date of Report to ChildLine: 09/25/2015

CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

03/03/2016

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.

Allegheny County has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The County completed the investigation within 30 days and unfounded the case and no abuse was suspected based on the interviews with the parents and the coroner’s report.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Ny’iem Peterson-Dixson	Victim Child	06/25/2015
██████████	Biological Mother	██████████/1996
██████████	Biological Father	██████████/1991
██████████	Maternal Grandmother	██████████/1967

Summary of OCYF Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (WERO) obtained and reviewed all current records pertaining to the ██████████ family. WERO staff did not participate in an Act 33 meeting due to the County completing the investigation and finalizing the report within the 30 day time frame. The report was finalized on 10/20/2015 ██████████.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

No prior involvement with Allegheny County Children, Youth and Families.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 09/25/2015, Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) were notified ██████████ that a 3-month-old child had arrived by ambulance around 7:00 AM and was pronounced dead upon arrival. It was stated that the paramedics attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), however was not able to resuscitate the victim child. The report stated the mother and father were home with the victim child overnight and into the morning. It was reported by the parents that the victim child was breathing around 4:00 AM. When

the parents woke up around 6:00 AM they noticed the victim child was not breathing and they called 911. The report shows that emergency medical services (EMS) arrived at the home at 6:21 AM and the victim child was transported to CHP where the victim child was pronounced dead.

The attending physician also reported that the victim child's body was turned over to the medical examiner and that an autopsy would be performed. The physician's report showed that the victim child did have a skeletal survey [REDACTED]

The Child Advocacy Center provided a report dated 09/25/2015 [REDACTED]

Interviews with the parents were completed. The mother reported that during the day of 09/24/2015 she cared for the victim child and everything was fine. She stated that the father returned home from work between 10:45-11:00 PM and she went to bed. The father reported that he fed the baby and put him to sleep in the bouncy chair. He stated that after the victim child finished his bottle he did not burp the baby. The mother stated that she woke between 5:30-6:00 AM and started to get ready for work. Shortly after getting ready for work she heard the father yelling, "my baby" "my baby", the mother then called 911 and laid the victim child down and began CPR, she reports that the victim child threw up some formula while performing CPR.

The maternal grandmother, who is also a household member, stated that she may have heard the baby "being fussy" but did not think anything about it and continued to get ready for work and she left around 5:00 AM.

On 09/26/2015, the county received a call from the medical examiner and he stated that the autopsy was completed on 09/26/2015 and that there were no visible injuries noted. It was also stated that the toxicology and neuropathology results would not be completed for two or three months. He stated that he would contact the county upon receipt of the results.

On 10/13/2015, the county completed a visit to the family home and interviewed the parents and maternal grandmother. The home was cluttered and there were no signs of any baby items as the family had removed all of the victim child's belongings from the home. All utilities were working.

The mother reported to the county worker that the victim child was a happy baby and smiled often and was meeting all of the milestones for his age. She stated that [REDACTED] Pediatrics was the child's primary care physician. She reported that the victim child was up to date on immunizations and healthy. She stated that the day prior to the death everything was normal, the victim child was

acting as he had every day. She stated that she was not working that day and it was a typical morning for the two of them and that she then took him to daycare as she had plans for the day. She picked him up around 5:15 PM and took him home. He slept until 7:30 PM; she then changed him, and fed him. They then played in her bedroom until the father returned home around 9:00 PM (conflicting times from what was reported to CHP). The father then played with him and the mother went to sleep. She stated that everything seemed fine. The mother stated that she woke up around 5:45 AM and went to get ready for work. She stated that she did not check on the baby, but shortly after being downstairs she heard the father yell for her. The father stated the baby was not breathing and she called 911. She then began to give the victim child mouth to mouth resuscitation, and the father did chest compressions. She reports it appeared as though the victim child spit up; she said the paramedics arrived shortly after the call and came in and worked on the victim child for a few minutes before placing him in the ambulance and transporting him to the hospital. The parents were not permitted in the ambulance, so they walked to the hospital. She stated that at the hospital the victim child was pronounced dead.

The father reported that upon arriving home from work, he played with the victim child and he seemed a little fussy, so he placed him in the bouncy chair and went downstairs to fix him a bottle, he said the victim child finished the bottle. The father said he burped the victim child then he changed his diaper and placed him in the bouncy chair. This occurred around 11:00 or 11:30 PM, and then the father went to sleep. He stated that the victim child did not wake during the night.

The father reported that on the morning of 09/25/2015, he woke around 6:00 AM and noticed that the mother already had gotten out of bed. He stated the victim child was leaning on his side, which was different than when he went to sleep. The father stated he went to his child and picked him up and realized the victim child was not breathing; he screamed for the mother and she ran up and called 911. She gave the phone to the father as she started to perform CPR on her child. He reports the paramedics arrived about 10 minutes after the call and transported the victim child to CHP. The parents then walked to the hospital, where the victim child was pronounced dead.

The maternal grandmother was also interviewed by the county worker. She stated that on the day of the incident, she got up for work at 5:15 AM, got ready and then left for work. Shortly after arriving at work she received a call informing her of what happened. She stated that she did not check on the baby when she got up or before she left for work.

The county submitted a status [REDACTED] on 10/20/2015, the case was then closed due to no other children being in the home. At this time, there have been no criminal charges filed in regards to any of the caregivers.

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

The county did not submit a local Act 33 report as no meeting was conducted based on the report [REDACTED] within 30 days.

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

There was no report submitted.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:
 - County conducted a thorough investigation of the events and reviewed all medical reports and coroner's report.
- County Weaknesses:
 - There were no weakness noted in the review of this incident.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency:

There were no statutory or regulatory concerns noted by the Department.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

At the time of this report, the death was being marked as not suspicious of abuse or neglect. Due to the findings, there are no recommendations being made at this time.