



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 06/13/2013
Date of Incident: 10/28/2013
Date of Oral Report: 10/28/2013

FAMILY KNOWN TO:

Snyder County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

06/10/2015

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, 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 Child Line 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 Child Line. Snyder County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:

| <u>Name:</u> | <u>Relationship:</u> | <u>Date of Birth:</u> |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| [REDACTED] | Victim Child | [REDACTED] 2013 |
| [REDACTED] | Half Sibling | [REDACTED] 2008 |
| [REDACTED] | Half Sibling | [REDACTED] 2010 |
| [REDACTED] | Mother | [REDACTED] 1989 |
| [REDACTED] | Father of Victim Child | [REDACTED] 1984 |
| [REDACTED]* | Father of siblings | [REDACTED] 1977 |

*Indicates that this individual does not reside in the same residences as the victim child.

Notification of Child (Near) Fatality:

Child came in by ambulance for respiratory arrest. The alleged perpetrator (AP) called the ambulance around 4:15 pm on October 28, 2013 because the child stopped breathing and he was scared. The child needed to be [REDACTED]. The child was [REDACTED] and the medical exam revealed [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]. The child had a [REDACTED] with a [REDACTED]. The case was certified as a near fatality by [REDACTED] of Geisinger Hospital.

Snyder County Children and Youth Services received a child protective services report during on call on October 28, 2013. The Child Protective Services (CPS) case was registered as a Near Fatality due to the child being in critical condition [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] Unit at Geisinger Medical Center with [REDACTED].

Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to [REDACTED] family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Caseworker, Supervisor and the Agency Director on 10/30/2013 and 11/12/2013. The

regional office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting on 11/26/2013 where copies of the medical reports were presented.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

On 04/19/2013, Snyder County Children and Youth Services received a referral on this family prior to child's birth due to reports of [REDACTED] between the child's mother and father, but there was no evidence of [REDACTED] and the mother minimized the December 2012 dispute as just being hormonal due to their recent pregnancy. Information about [REDACTED] and support resources were reviewed thoroughly. The mother denied any concerns for such with the father.

The mother shared the steps she took to file a protection from abuse (PFA) order against her [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]; the father of the mother's two other children. Records confirmed the protection from abuse is in effect from 01/19/2012 -01/18/2015. The child's sibling's father has visitation with his two children every other weekend, reportedly without further incident. The PFA was recently modified allowing him to have unsupervised contact. Snyder County Child and Youth Services were involved with the family from April 2013 to June 2013 for domestic violence. Mother continues to deny any domestic violence allegations from the past or present. The referral was closed during the assessment period.

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

Child came in by ambulance for respiratory arrest. AP called the ambulance around 4:15 pm on October 28, 2013 because the child stopped breathing and he was scared. The child needed to be [REDACTED]. The child was [REDACTED] and the medical exam revealed [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]. The child had a [REDACTED] with a [REDACTED]. The case was certified as a near fatality by [REDACTED] of [REDACTED].

When the child was admitted to GMC, he needed [REDACTED] in order to breathe. The child had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There was [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] and the child had substantial [REDACTED] needs at this time with a [REDACTED].

Snyder County Children & Youth Services has indicated the child's father for child abuse on 11/12/2013 with the filing of the CY 48. The indication was based on medical evidence of [REDACTED]. Medical staff concluded that the head injury happened on 10/28/2013 just prior to the call into 911 while in the father's care. Criminal charges are pending. Father's bail reduction hearing request was denied, he remains incarcerated in Snyder County. No date has been set for his trial yet.

Current Case Status:

The victim child returned to his mother on 02/10/2014 [REDACTED] (Mother has physical and legal custody). The other children were returned to their mother on 02/04/2014 after [REDACTED] revealed no past physical injuries. Mother is utilizing day care 5 days a week

while she works. Service providers changed due to mother's change in residence. The family currently has [REDACTED] services [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Victim child's father remains incarcerated.

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

- Strengths:
The family continues to utilize the [REDACTED] services. A safety assessment was completed and maternal grandparents were a resource for the other two siblings as arranged by the family.
- Deficiencies:
None
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:
None
- Recommendations for Change at the State Level:
The video on Shaken Baby Syndrome shown at hospitals isn't adequate. Information needs to be disseminated to paramours as the statics indicate that the majority of Shaken Baby Syndrome is perpetrated by the mother's paramour.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The County report was received on 11/12/2013. Abuse awareness needs to be offered to everyone. The state concurs with all recommendations.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths:
Snyder County Children and Youth Services conducted a thorough and timely investigation in conjunction with the law enforcement officials. Safety assessments were completed. Referrals for services were completed and necessary services were coordinated for the family.
- County Weaknesses:
None
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:
None

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

Snyder County Children and Youth Services conducted a thorough and timely investigation in conjunction with the law enforcement officials. Safety assessments were completed. Referrals for services were completed and necessary services were coordinated for the family. It is recommended that these practices continue.

Naylor Observatory, 670 Observatory Drive, Lewisberry PA

We invite you and your family to visit Naylor Observatory on selected evenings this year. Come and observe the beauty of the moon, planets, double stars, star clusters, nebulae and galaxies with your own eyes through our large telescopes. We are more than 100 amateur astronomers from the Harrisburg area who belong to ASH, a non-profit organization founded in 1955. Admission is free. As a non-profit organization we welcome your donations to help keep our Observatory open to the public. **Weather conditions determine if we will be open on a scheduled date. Only one of four nights are clear enough to use our telescopes. We cannot predict which nights will be clear when we make up this schedule. If it is overcast or raining, we will not be open.** If in doubt, call (717) 938-6041 after sunset.

GETTING TO NAYLOR

Finding Naylor Observatory safely without getting lost is easier if you plan to arrive before it becomes completely dark. We unlock our gate shortly after sunset. Do not come earlier. There is no on-street parking. If you park at the gate entrance we can't get in to unlock the gate. **WATCH OUT FOR DEER!!** Deer commonly run across the hilly roads leading to the Observatory and can collide with your vehicle. The following directions are not the shortest local routes to the Observatory, but allow you to turn into our driveway from Observatory Drive without having to make a blind left turn across traffic.

Directions from Harrisburg: Take I-83 South to the exit marked Lewisberry Road, PA-114 Exit (New Exit 39A, Old Exit 18). At the end of the exit ramp, turn left and go West on PA-114 (Lewisberry Road) for 3.3 miles. At this point there is a fork in Lewisberry Road near Mt. Zion Church. Take the left branch which continues as Lewisberry Road and PA-382. Take PA-382 South for 1.0 miles to where it crosses School House lane. Turn right on School House Lane. (A small white church named Deliverance Tabernacle is on the left where you turn.) Drive 0.5 miles down School House Lane until it ends intersecting Brenneman Drive. Turn left on Brenneman Drive and go 0.1 miles until you reach the first road on your right which is Seitz Drive. Turn right on Seitz Drive and go 0.9 miles until you reach the first road on your right which is Siddonsburg Road. Turn right on Siddonsburg Road and go .4 miles to Observatory Drive. Turn right on Observatory Drive and go .6 miles. Our driveway in on the right immediately **AFTER** passing two brick columns marking our neighbor's paved driveway. Turn right into the next unpaved driveway marked by a large white sign, red ground lights, and two wooden posts. **If you turned onto an asphalt paved driveway between two brick columns, STOP IMMEDIATELY! Don't drive up to our neighbor's house. This activates his garage lights and spoils the viewing for visitors already at Naylor. Backup and find our driveway.** Use parking lights only while on our driveway. Park on the grass on the left side of our driveway. Sign in at the Asper Building before going to the telescopes. Continue to be mindful of your child's location.

Directions from Mechanicsburg: Take PA-114 East through Lisburn. Turn right on PA-382. Follow the "Harrisburg" directions from this point.

Directions from York: Take I-83 North to the exit marked Newberrytown, PA-382 Exit (New Exit 32, Old Exit 13). At the end of the exit ramp, turn left on PA-382. Go North on PA-382 to Lewisberry. Pass through the flashing light at the intersection with PA-177. Continue on PA-382 for another 1.5 miles until you reach Brenneman Drive. Turn left on Brenneman Drive and go 0.3 miles to the first road on your left which is Seitz Drive. Turn left on Seitz Drive and follow the "Harrisburg" directions from this point.