



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 01/14/2000
Date of Incident: 06/25/2015
Date of Report to Child Line: 06/25/2015
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Cumberland County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
04/06/2016

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.

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 07/15/2015.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Aunt/Guardian	[REDACTED]/1968
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	01/14/2000
* [REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED]/1977
* [REDACTED]	Biological Mom's Paramour	Unknown
* [REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED]/1977

* 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 [REDACTED] family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Caseworker and Supervisor on June 25, 2015, and July 15, 2015. The regional office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meetings on July 15, 2015.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The biological mother has a history with Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth (DCSSCY) but no involvement with Cumberland County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS). In Dauphin County, the biological mother had numerous General Protective Services (GPS) referrals dating back to 2001. The concerns included the children being left alone with no supervision, environmental concerns, prostitution and homelessness.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

Thursday, 06/25/2015, the victim child was taken to the Harrisburg Hospital by ambulance. She had taken [REDACTED] and was found on the floor wearing only a bra by her mother. The victim child snorted crushed [REDACTED]. She urinated in her bed and then went to the bathroom to clean up and passed out to the point of being comatose on the toilet. The victim child was visiting her biological mother [REDACTED]. She resides with her aunt, Sharon Howard. The biological mother took a picture of the victim child on the floor and sent it to the aunt and then left the home. The aunt rushed over and called the ambulance. Friday, 06/26/2015, [REDACTED] called ChildLine to report a Near Fatality but ChildLine refused to take the report. He was told to have CCCYS call it in.

[REDACTED], biological mother, and her paramour, [REDACTED], were indicated of child abuse on August 21, 2015. The indicated status is supported by the fact that the perpetrators failed to seek out immediate medical care for the victim child. As a result of the perpetrator's failure to act, the victim child was unconscious upon her admission to the hospital. [REDACTED] physician who examined the victim child reported that the case rose to the level of a near fatality due to the severe condition the victim child was found in. The criterion for the Child Protective Services Law has been met. The mother is incarcerated in the [REDACTED] Prison due to outstanding warrants and her paramour is still residing in the home.

The victim child continues to reside with her maternal aunt. There is no police involvement in this case. The police have stated that "mother called for help, she just did not call the right person". The case has been transferred to DCSSCY.

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

Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families:

- The case has been transferred to DCSSCY for services. The biological mother has a history in Dauphin County but no involvement with CCCYS. The agency will continue to look for [REDACTED] options for the child. There is no police involvement in the case. A Family Group conference was recommended for the family.

•

Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families:

- None

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

- None

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:

On 07/22/2015, the county report was received and discussed with the county regarding the report and its contents. The Department concurs with the county report findings and recommendations.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

- The cooperation between CCCYS and DCSSCY was commendable. Services were coordinated for the best interest of the victim child.
- CCCYS 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 victim child safe during the investigation.
- Safety assessments were completed in a timely manner.

County Weaknesses:

- None

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

- None

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

There are no recommendations as of this review.