



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 04/28/2014
Date of Incident: 01/09/2016
Date of Report to ChildLine: 01/09/2016
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

FAMILY KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:

Clearfield County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
8/25/2016

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.

Clearfield County was not required to convene a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. A status determination of the Report of Suspected Abuse was made within 30 days of the report to ChildLine; therefore, a review team was not required.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1990
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1990
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	04/28/2014
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 2015

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Western Region office of Children, Youth and families (WRO) obtained and reviewed all current and past records pertaining to the family. WRO was notified of the near fatality on 01/10/2016. Clearfield County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) made a status determination within 30 days of the report to ChildLine; therefore, a review team was not required.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

On 05/02/2014, a General Protective Services (GPS) referral was received and screened out on the same day. The mother gave birth to the victim child and the mother's toxicology screen came back positive for marijuana. The victim child tested positive for marijuana as well. The mother [REDACTED]. The victim child was not [REDACTED]. When the victim child and mother [REDACTED], the mother and the child intended to go stay with the maternal grandmother in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The maternal grandmother had a pediatrician in place for the infant. [REDACTED] was to follow the infant's [REDACTED] health needs, as well as [REDACTED]. CCCYS made a referral to Lancaster County Children and Youth Services on 05/02/2014.

On 07/10/2015, a GPS referral was received and accepted for assessment. The mother gave birth to her second child. The mother and the child's [REDACTED] were tested and were determined to be positive for marijuana. The mother is [REDACTED] and the hospital [REDACTED]. The CCCYS caseworker made unannounced home visits to the family home without any concerns. Collateral contacts were made with no concerns noted. Mother's drug tests were clean. CCCYS referred the family to [REDACTED]. The referral was closed on 08/27/2015.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 01/09/2016, at 9:07 PM CCCYS was contacted [REDACTED] regarding an online report. [REDACTED] Police Department had received a call [REDACTED] regarding a 20-month-old child who had got a hold of a [REDACTED] pill and licked it. The mother tried to elope from the hospital with the victim child and security was notified. A subsequent referral was received later that same evening at 10:09 PM [REDACTED] regarding the victim child ingesting the mother's [REDACTED]. The victim child was to be monitored overnight for 12- 24 hours. The victim child vomited once and poison control was involved. The mother had the medicine on a dresser and the victim child got up onto the bed and got the pill. The mother found the victim child licking the tablet and called poison control. Poison control told the mother to proceed to the emergency room. Dr. [REDACTED] had certified the victim child to be in serious condition based on the suspected neglect. The child was expected to survive.

On 01/09/2016, the CCCYS caseworker called the mother to obtain some information and to find out where everyone was that evening. The mother reported she got her [REDACTED] pill and was going to take it; however, the baby started to cry. The mother said that she turned around to see why the baby was crying. The victim child got to the dresser and grabbed the pill and tried to stick it in her mouth. The father saw this occur and grabbed the pill from the victim child. The mother then called poison control.

On 01/09/2016, the CCCYS caseworker went to [REDACTED] and saw the victim child and her father. The CCCYS caseworker also saw the mother and the victim child's younger sister that same night in their home. The caseworker saw the lock box where the medications are kept. The maternal grandmother agreed to remain in the home with them that evening. At this point, the CCCYS caseworker was not aware the Child Protective Services (CPS) report was made a near fatality. A safety assessment was completed on 01/09/2016, and the children were deemed safe. The CCCYS caseworker was notified the following morning that the report was registered as a near fatality.

On 01/10/2016, the CCCYS caseworker went to [REDACTED] and saw the victim child, the mother and the father. The victim child was doing well and was running around the hospital room. She appeared happy and full of energy.

She was also eating while the CCCYS caseworker was there. The victim child [REDACTED] to her parents' care on 01/10/2016. The victim child was in good health [REDACTED]. The CCCYS caseworker drug tested both parents on 01/10/2016. Both parents admitted to smoking a small amount of marijuana. The mother stated that they both [REDACTED]. The drug test came back positive for the mother and father for marijuana [REDACTED]. The CCCYS caseworker went to the parents' home to take pictures of the bedroom, the lockbox, the dresser and to see the victim child's sister. The parents signed releases for poison control, the hospital [REDACTED].

On 02/04/2016, the CCCYS caseworker attempted to make a home visit to the home. No one was home at the time.

On 02/08/2016, the CCCYS caseworker made a call to Dr. [REDACTED]. The physician reported the victim child was never in critical condition. The victim child was monitored at the hospital and then sent home. The physician reported the incident could have been critical if the child actually ate the pill.

On 02/10/2016, the CCCYS caseworker made a home visit with the victim child, the mother, and the victim child's sister. The medications were still located in a locked box. The mother reiterated the night of the incident she had got [REDACTED] out of the lock box. She had turned around for one second to tend to the victim child's sister, and the victim child picked up the [REDACTED] pill and licked it. The mother reported that this was an accident. At no time would she put her children at risk. The CCCYS found no concerns in the home or with the children.

On 02/12/2016, a safety assessment was completed, and the children were deemed safe.

The case was unfounded on 02/08/2016. The intake investigation was closed on 02/12/2016. CCCYS deemed the children safe and deemed the overall risk to be low. CCCYS assessed the incident an accident. The mother took immediate action in calling poison control and by taking the victim child to the emergency room. The victim child was never listed in critical condition according to the treating physician. The parents continued to keep their medications locked in a lock box. The parents cooperated with the investigation.

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

CCCYS made a status determination within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine; therefore, a County Internal Report was not required.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

CCCYS made a status determination within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine; therefore, a County Internal Report was not required.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- CCCYS began the intake investigation immediately and within the required time frame.
- The CCCYS caseworker saw the victim child and family in a timely manner in order to make an informed decision regarding safety and well-being of the children.
- The initial safety assessment and closing safety assessment were completed in accordance to the Safety Assessment Bulletin timelines.
- The children and family were seen in their home on two occasions prior to case closure.
- An unfounded status determination was made within 30 days of the day of the oral report to ChildLine.
- Although the mother and father signed releases to obtain information from Poison Control, [REDACTED] the case file only contained a collateral contact with the physician [REDACTED]. There was no evidence in the case file that collaterals were made with [REDACTED] or Poison Control.
- The case file reviewed did not contain evidence that CCYS verified the mother or father's [REDACTED].

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The Department recommends collateral contacts be made with all applicable and accessible people and/or providers who can contribute valuable information when assessing safety and well-being of families.