



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 05/21/2014

Date of Incident: 07/26/2016

Date of Report to ChildLine: 07/28/2016

CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

01/11/2017

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.

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 08/12/2016.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1985
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	05/21/2014
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2012
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2009
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2011
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2016

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CERO) obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. CERO staff conducted interviews with the following Lancaster County Children and Youth Staff: Intake Supervisor and caseworker. These interviews occurred on 08/12/2016 and 09/21/2016. CERO staff participated in the Act 33 meeting that occurred on 08/12/2016 in which medical professionals, agency staff, and legal counsel were present and provided information regarding the incident.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

Family was not known to county children and youth agency.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 07/28/2016, Lancaster County Children and Youth Services received a referral [REDACTED] regarding the victim child. The child was brought to the hospital, on 07/26/2016, via ambulance after the mother called 911. At the time of the incident the father was at work and the mother was in the home caring for their youngest

child while the victim child and two other siblings were playing in the barn being supervised by their 6 year old sister. The mother gave the child activated charcoal and called 911 after being notified by her 6 year old daughter that the victim child drank and spilled an unknown substance and then "didn't look good". The mother found the child shaking and vomiting.

The sister reported that the victim child climbed onto a shelf and brought down a jug, later identified as homemade pipe cleaners. The victim child drank some of the contents and then spilled the contents onto his chest.

The victim child was taken to a local hospital and then air lifted to a burn center with 3rd degree burns to eight percent of his body. Upon arrival, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The child [REDACTED] on 07/26/2016. The child remained in the hospital until [REDACTED] 08/03/2016. The child attended both follow up appointments.

A home assessment was completed and all remaining chemicals have been safely secured. The Amish community is assisting Lancaster County Children and Youth Services regarding the safety of the children. The mother was charged with misdemeanor child endangerment and is awaiting court.

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services substantiated the case on 09/16/2016 naming the mother as the perpetrator. Mother was indicated for causing serious physical neglect by failing to supervise the child.

The family was accepted for services on 09/13/2016. The parents agreed to work on parenting skills. The mother also agreed that she will not let the children out of her sight and the family has safely secured all harmful chemicals from the children. The Amish Liaison Team continues to work with the family.

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 county agency investigation complied with regulations and response times as required.

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

The county agency report did not reference any deficiencies.

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 county agency report did not mention any recommendations for change at the state or county level.

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

The county agency report did not mention any recommendations for change at the state or county level.

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

The county agency report did not mention any recommendations for change at the state or county level.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The county report was received on 08/12/2016. There were no issues or concerns regarding the report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

Upon review of the documents associated with this case, it would appear there is a positive working collaboration between law enforcement, medical facilities and the county agency. Also, the county agency seems to have a good working relationship with the Amish community.

County Weaknesses:

The circumstances of this case and the review of the county's work did not identify any systemic weaknesses. This family was not known to the county agency. Families within the Amish community have historically disciplined and supervised their children differently than the rest of the non-Amish community. Changing this philosophy has been slow but steady.

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

There were no areas of non-compliance found during the review of this case.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The Department concurs with the findings and recommendations of Lancaster County Children and Youth Services' Act 33 meeting.