



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 06/07/2012
Date of Incident: 07/08/2016
Date of Report to ChildLine: 07/08/2016
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

FAMILY KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:

Butler County Office of Children, Youth, and Families

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
12/21/2016

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.

Butler County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) was not required to convene a review team related to this report. BCCYS received a report of Suspected Child Abuse on 07/08/2016. The child Protective Services Investigation Report was filed on 07/18/2016 with a status finding of "Unfounded".

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1991
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1978
[REDACTED]	Victim child	06/07/2012
[REDACTED]	full sibling	[REDACTED] 2014
[REDACTED]	maternal half-sibling	[REDACTED] 2010
[REDACTED]	full sibling	[REDACTED] 2016
[REDACTED]*	maternal uncle	[REDACTED] 1993
[REDACTED]*	maternal aunt	[REDACTED] 2005

* 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 Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Family Services (WRO) obtained and reviewed the current and past case information regarding the victim child's family. The victim child's medical records from the incident were also reviewed.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

Butler County had no previous involvement with the victim child's family, however maternal grandparents of victim child, were formerly known to Butler County CYF as resource parents. The maternal grandparents [REDACTED] are not currently active as a resource family home for Butler County.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

A report of suspected child abuse was made 07/08/2016 for a previously healthy female child. [REDACTED] reported the victim child was found unresponsive in the family kiddie pool. The victim child [REDACTED] in the field. The victim child arrived at CHP via ambulance.

On 07/07/2016, the victim child was reportedly in a kiddie pool, the mother left the victim child in the pool which had about a foot of water in it. The mother went into the house to breastfeed another child and left the victim child outside with 6-year-old sibling and an 11-year-old maternal aunt. The maternal aunt went into the house to assist maternal uncles with mixing the cake that they were making. She reportedly was only gone for less than a minute. The mother corroborated this saying that she heard the door. When the maternal aunt returned outside the victim child reportedly was face down in the kiddie pool and had fallen off her toddler lawn chair which was sitting inside of the kiddie pool. The 11-year-old maternal aunt pulled the victim child out of the water, she pushed on her chest and water came out of victim child's mouth. The maternal aunt went inside to alert the mother and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) was called to the home. The victim child was unresponsive [REDACTED] by EMS. The victim child was transported to CHP via ambulance [REDACTED]

On 07/08/2016, the BCCYS caseworker spoke with the father and initiated a safety plan. The safety plan was the father would assure the safety of the children by not allowing the mother to have any unsupervised contact with the children during the investigation. All parties agreed upon this safety plan.

The victim child was reportedly in stable condition and [REDACTED] home on 07/11/2016. The caseworker had instructed the father to call the agency when the family received confirmation that the child [REDACTED]. The father reportedly contacted the caseworker to inform the caseworker that they would be arriving home at approximately 7:00 PM; however, the caseworker was not available to meet with them at that time.

On 07/12/2016, the caseworker completed a home visit with all household members. The home was reportedly appropriate with no observable safety hazards. The father showed the caseworker the kiddie pool which had been set out for garbage. The mother also pointed out the chair that the victim child had fallen out of into the pool. The mother reported that the incident happened very quickly and she felt that the children were in safe care while she went inside to breast feed her newborn. The mother stated that when she went inside she could see the children due to the wide visible view of the area that the children play in from the house. She also felt the maternal aunt was appropriate to supervise the children while she was in the house. The mother stated that the incident was a horrible accident.

The caseworker observed the victim child as being playful and interacting with her sibling appropriately. All children had appropriate beds and there was ample food in the home and all working utilities.

[REDACTED]

The victim child was [REDACTED] This was provided due to mother's report that earlier on the day of the incident the victim child was acting like she was under the weather, with a decreased appetite. The mother stated the victim child was "a little warm" and "mopey" and was lying around in the morning. She had declined by lunch, but she wanted to go outside to play.

On 07/15/2016, the caseworker met with the maternal aunt, who was responsible for supervising the children outside while the mother went inside to breastfeed her infant child. Per the maternal aunt she ran into the house to put icing on a cupcake so that she could bring it outside, when she returned she observed the victim child face down in the pool. She pulled her out of the pool and began during chest compression which she learned from watching a television program called "Psyche". She stated that she called the victim child's mother and then called 911. The medical report [REDACTED] corroborates this story.

The caseworker spoke with the [REDACTED] who stated that there was no police presence at the scene, however medical was called. [REDACTED] stated that based on the information that was gathered there would be no criminal investigation due to the incident being an unfortunate accident.

On 07/15/2016, BCCYS submitted the Child Protective Service Investigation Report with a finding of "Unfounded". The incident was determined to be an accident. The case was closed.

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

BCCYS was not required to submit a report

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families; None Required

- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families; None Required
- 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 Required
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; None Required
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse. None Required

Department Review of County Internal Report:

BCCYS was not required to submit a report given the agency decided to unfound the Child Protective Service report within 30 days of the oral report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

- Butler County responded immediately to the hospital upon receiving the report, they contacted the [REDACTED] to make sure they were aware of the report and to coordinate the interview process. The agency established a safety plan with the father for the victim child and the siblings. The victim child, her siblings as well as the maternal aunt who was supervising the children were seen in a timely manner. A home visit was conducted to the family's home. The caseworker maintained daily contact with the hospital and the parents regarding the child's condition and new developments with the case. The agency obtained the victim child's medical records and they were in the case file.
- County Weaknesses: None identified

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

Parent Education should be available to parents as to who is an appropriate babysitter. In addition Public Service Announcements should be made in the Summer stating children should never be without adult supervision when they are in a swimming pool.