



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 02/06/2014
Date of Incident: 02/19/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 02/19/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

McKean County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
08/21/2017

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.

McKean County Children and Youth Services (MCCYS) unfounded the report of suspected child abuse within 30 days of receiving the report. Therefore they were not required to convene a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report.

Family Constellation:

| <u>First and Last Name:</u> | <u>Relationship:</u> | <u>Date of Birth</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| [REDACTED] | Victim Child | 02/06/2014 |
| [REDACTED] | Mother | [REDACTED] 1987 |
| [REDACTED] | Father | [REDACTED] 1986 |
| [REDACTED] | Sibling | [REDACTED] 2015 |
| * [REDACTED] | Half Sibling | [REDACTED] 2009 |
| * [REDACTED] | Half Sibling | [REDACTED] 2008 |

* 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 Families obtained and reviewed all current and past records pertaining to the family. The victim child’s medical records were obtained and reviewed. McKean County Children and Youth Services (MCCYS) unfounded the report of suspected child abuse within 30 days of receiving the report. Therefore they did not have to submit a county report on the near fatality. MCCYS documented all of their investigation activities and supplied the Western Region Office all necessary documentation.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

There was one prior report on 07/12/2016 in which it was alleged the victim child’s half sibling was dragged by her hair and wrists by the victim child’s step-mother. The victim child’s half sibling denied the allegations and reported that her mother never hit her. The report was not substantiated and closed on 08/01/2016.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

[REDACTED]

On 02/19/2017, the victim child was taken to a local hospital's emergency room due to having a seizure lasting for 45 minutes prior to the ambulance arrival. The victim child then continued to have a seizure for another 45 minutes once at the hospital. The victim child's mother stated to emergency room staff that the victim child had [REDACTED] but the mother stopped giving the victim child [REDACTED] eight weeks before this incident because the victim child "just didn't act like herself" and was having behavioral issues. The behavioral issues the mother reported were looking and acting depressed. The father was aware of the stoppage [REDACTED]. The mother stated that the victim child will always have seizures [REDACTED]. The victim child was flown by helicopter after stabilizing to the Regional Pediatric Center. MCCYS asked that Allegheny County Children Youth and Families (ACOCYF) provide a safety assessment of the children at the hospital. ACOCYF took pictures of the children and spoke with the parents/alleged perpetrators. The victim child's mother stayed with the victim child at the hospital until the victim child [REDACTED] and the father took the victim child's sibling home. The father works during the day so the maternal grandmother was at the home to supervise the victim child's sibling during the day.

[REDACTED] The victim child was confirmed to have a genetic condition [REDACTED]. The victim child [REDACTED] from the Regional Pediatric Center on 02/23/2017 to the care of the parents. [REDACTED]

MCCYS made a home visit with the family on 02/24/2017. The victim child [REDACTED] and did not talk much but did get up to cuddle with her mother at one point. [REDACTED] On 03/14/2017 the mother took the child to Philadelphia [REDACTED]. The victim child is currently [REDACTED] in Philadelphia and is only home on weekends. The victim child was scheduled for a [REDACTED] appointment on 05/03/2017 and the results of the appointment are not known as the case was closed by the agency on 03/17/2017.

MCCYS was notified of the incident on 02/19/2017. The report was accepted for assessment of causing serious physical neglect of the victim child by failure to provide medical treatment/care for the victim child. MCCYS submitted the Child Protective Service Investigation report to ChildLine with a status of "Unfounded" on 03/21/2017 based upon the information provided by medical professionals during the course of the investigation.

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

MCCYS was not required to submit a report.

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

- 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; and
 - 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:

- MCCYS unfounded the report of suspected child abuse within in 30 days of receiving the oral report. Therefore they were not required to submit an internal report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:
 - MCCYS completed the ChildLine investigation within 30 days of the date of the oral report.
 - MCCYS ensured safety of the other child in the home. They interviewed the mother and father. A home visit was made to the family home.

- MCCYS responded immediately to the report.
- MCCYS obtained the victim child's medical records as part of the investigation.
- MCCYS supplied all records to the Western Region Office.

- County Weaknesses:
 - None noted.

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.
 - None noted.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

- Emergency Room physicians at local hospitals should consult with a child's treating physicians [REDACTED] to obtain the child's medical history before certifying a Near Fatality report.