



## **REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth: 09/10/2008**  
**Date of Incident: 03/13/2017**  
**Date of Report to ChildLine: 03/14/2017**  
**CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]**

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

Philadelphia Department of Human 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.

Philadelphia 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 04/07/2017.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	09/10/2008
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1972
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2007

**Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:**

For this review the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) reviewed all records and case notes for the victim child, siblings and family during the investigation. SERO reviewed the county’s investigation/assessment and structured case notes. Interviews were completed with the investigative social worker as well as the social worker from the community umbrella agency. SERO attended the Act 33 Review Team meeting held on 04/07/2017.

**Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:**

On 05/24/2007, Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) received a Child Protective Services (CPS) report alleging that the mother fell on top of the victim child’s sister, who was 7 weeks old at the time, while she was intoxicated. The aunt pulled the mother off the child who was observed to have blood coming from her nose and swelling under her eye. The victim child’s sister was admitted to Saint Christopher’s Hospital for observation and the mother was arrested. The report was investigated and indicated. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Tabor Children’s Services provided in home services from 05/30/2008 to 06/06/2008. [REDACTED]

On 03/24/2009 , Philadelphia DHS received a General Protective Services (GPS) report alleging that the victim child, who was 6 months old at the time, was not receiving proper care. The report alleged that mother was not feeding the child or changing her diaper. The mother was reportedly smoking crack and drinking alcohol in the room with the victim child. The report was investigated and determined invalid and the case was not accepted for services.

**Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:**

On 03/13/2017, Philadelphia DHS received a CPS report alleging that the victim child, was unconscious when she arrived at St. Christopher's Hospital. [REDACTED] Victim child's urine drug screen was positive for [REDACTED] cocaine, [REDACTED] and Tylenol. The mother explained that she had some [REDACTED] that she kept in her medicine cabinet and believed that the victim child may have taken the medication due to stress. The mother was unable to provide an explanation for why the victim child had ingested the illegal substances. The mother [REDACTED] however, she denies using cocaine. [REDACTED] she was subject to random drugs screens. Her most recent drug screen on 02/01/2017 was negative for substances. The mother suspected that a man she had dated previously may have brought the drugs into the home but she provided limited information.

On the date of the incident, the mother reported that the victim child and her sister had been in a fight at school and were suspended as a result. The family took a nap around 4:00 or 4:30 PM. The mother and victim child's sister woke up around 7:00 PM but the victim child did not wake up. The mother stated that she attempted to wake her and observed the empty [REDACTED] bottles lying near the bed. She placed the victim in the tub, began running cold water, and then called an ambulance. The ambulance drove the victim child to St. Christopher's Hospital.

The victim child's father traveled from Florida [REDACTED] upon hearing about the incident. [REDACTED] He expressed interest in taking care of the girls but [REDACTED] he could not care for the girls at this time. [REDACTED] The victim child remained hospitalized.

On 03/18/2017 the county worker met with the victim child's sister at her paternal aunt's home. The sister explained that she and the victim child were taking a nap while her mother cooked. Her mother came in the room and asked where her [REDACTED] were because they were not in the closet. The victim child did not wake up when mother came to rouse her and the mother saw the empty [REDACTED] bottles on the floor. She explained that the mother took the victim child into the bathtub, ran cold water, and called 911. The victim child's sister reported that she did not recognize the name of the man her mother identified as her ex-paramour.

The paternal aunt explained to the county worker that she could no longer take care of the child and identified a maternal aunt and provided her contact information.

On 03/25/2017, the county worker was able to interview the victim child [REDACTED] where she had been transferred on 03/22/2017. She provided additional details regarding the fight with the boy. She reported that her stomach was hurting later that day so she went into her mother's [REDACTED] and took pills from one bottle. She was unable to recall how many she had taken but denied ingesting anything in powder form. She was under the impression that the pills would help her stomach pain and denied trying to self-harm. The victim child was able to recognize the ex-paramour but denied any allegation of mistreatment. She reported that he had brought [REDACTED] into the home but she denied ever touching his [REDACTED]

On 03/28/2017, the victim child gave another possible explanation for her positive drug test [REDACTED]. She disclosed that she had eaten what she thought was candy off a bench near her school.

On 04/05/2017, [REDACTED] the victim child and she was transferred to the maternal aunt's home. Upon her arrival, her sister greeted her and gave her a big hug. The siblings then sat on the couch and shared stories of their experiences to date.

On 04/07/2017, the CPS report was indicated based on medical evidence for causing bodily injury to child with medical evidence.

On 06/16/2017, the mother was arrested and charged with endangering the welfare of a child. Her trial is scheduled for 07/24/2017.

**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;

[REDACTED]

The Wordsworth Community Umbrella Agency (CUA) Case Management Director and the CUA Director agreed to follow up [REDACTED]

The Act 33 Team felt that the Intake Social Work Services Manager (SWSM) did a good job with the investigation.

- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;  
None noted.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;  
No recommendations.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and  
No recommendations.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.  
No recommendations.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The Department has received and reviewed the report provided by the county dated 07/06/2017 and is in agreement with the county's findings.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

- County Strengths:  
There was clear documentation in the case notes and investigation report. All parties were interviewed in a timely manner. Kin were identified and siblings were placed together.
- County Weaknesses:  
None noted.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.  
None noted.

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

- Parents should be educated on the importance securing their medications.
- Create PSA on the importance of having lockboxes for medications and/or illegal substances.
- Create a PSA to make the public aware of prescription drug take-back boxes which were created to reduce the amount of prescription drugs available for potential misuse and abuse.