



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 08/17/2016
Date of Incident: 01/04/2017
Date of Report to Child Line: 01/04/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Delaware County Children & Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
11/02/2017

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.

Delaware County Children and Youth Services (DCCYS) convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 02/01/2017.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
██████████	Victim Child	08/17/2016
██████████	Mother	██████████ 1978
* ██████████	Father	██████████ 1975

*Not member of the household, or did not live in the home at the time of the incident.

Summary of OCYF Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families (SERO) obtained and reviewed all current investigation notes and gathered pertinent information from the Delaware County Act 33 team.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

No prior involvement with Delaware County Children Youth Agency.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On the day of the incident 01/04/2017, the mother brought the child to the pediatrician for a four month wellness visit. During the visit, it was noted that the child was found to have failure to thrive and had only gained 300 grams in over a two-month period amounting to approximately 3 grams a day. Previous visits had revealed some concerns for the child’s health and growth. On the day of the wellness appointment, the child was still noted as being unkept; as was evidenced by scales on his scalp, decreased subcutaneous fat resulting in his ribs and spine being noticeably visible, distended abdomen and a left club foot. As a result of this, a Child Protective Services report (CPS) was made to ChildLine for Causing Serious Physical Neglect, and the child was directly admitted to Crozer Pediatrics ██████████

██████████ The mother appeared apprehensive of DCCYS involvement. While in the

care of Crozer Pediatrics, the victim child gained weight and began to thrive. [REDACTED] the mother refused to cooperate with the CPS investigation and the child was placed in foster care where he is thriving and doing well. Both the mother and father have not visited the child since placement despite efforts by the county agency to engage the parents. The parents remain unresponsive to the agency's attempts; as such, the current goal remains as reunification with a concurrent goal of adoption due to abandonment. The [REDACTED] Police department was notified; however, upon review, the department did not take any further action as they cited that the issue was not a criminal matter. On 02/23/2017, Delaware County Children and Youth Services indicated the report naming the child's mother as the perpetrator for serious medical neglect.

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:

- The county was very responsive in addressing the concerns noted in the report and collaborated well with key players,

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:

- None noted

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

- None noted

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

- Given the consistency in the lack of hygiene and other nutritional concerns, identifying and establishing a benchmark when these issues need to be considered notable that a GPS/CPS (as deemed appropriate) report needs to be called in. A potential list of questions would need to be considered to include but not limited to:

- How many missed medical appointments (especially for newborns/infants/special needs) should be considered a red flag?
- Numerous requests for change in service providers within a short period of time (especially when concerns are presented to the caregiver) when does this become an area of concern?
- While it may be difficult to track outside of various medical networks, it is plausible that some type of tracking system may be put in place and could be as simple as an additional intake question when a child comes into receive services from a new provider.
- When medical professionals have concerns of failure to thrive, hygiene or nutritional issues, assigning a nurse practitioner for family support and monitoring. This is especially crucial in the case of new parents or parents who appear to lack the appropriate level of knowledge with infants.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The department attended the Act 33 meeting on 02/01/2017 facilitated by the Delaware County Review Team. The county submitted an untimely report on 06/19/2017.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

- The county was very responsive in addressing the concerns noted in the report and collaborated well with key players,

County Weaknesses:

- No clear documentation detailing if and how the child's biological father was engaged in the process; unclear if he was aware of the issue surrounding his son's care

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

- County failed to submit a timely Act 33 report and the SERO will provide technical assistance for further compliance in submitting timely reports.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

- None