



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 09/30/2013
Date of Incident: 02/18/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 02/18/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Delaware County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
11/06/2017

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 team 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 has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 03/01/2017.

Family Constellation:

First and Last Name:

Relationship:

Date of Birth:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
* [Redacted]
* [Redacted]

Victim Child
Mother
Father
Maternal Half Sibling
Maternal Grandmother

09/30/2013
[Redacted] 1975
[Redacted] 1976
[Redacted] 2005
[Redacted] 1954

*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 Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the county Case Manager and Administrator. There was an Act 33 Review on 03/01/2017. The case was determined to be indicated on 04/19/2017 for serious physical neglect due to an egregious failure to supervise, naming the biological father as perpetrator. The mother was also identified as an alleged perpetrator at the time of intake but was unfounded through the investigation. There is a criminal investigation pending. There were no charges filed at the time of the investigation.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

There was no children and youth involvement prior to this incident.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 02/18/2017, Delaware County Children and Youth Services (DCCYS) received a Child Protective Services (CPS) referral alleging a three year old male child nearly died on 02/18/2017 as a result of serious physical neglect.

The mother was working and was not home at the time of the incident. The father called emergency medical services after the child woke up at 02:00AM with an episode of emesis. The father thought the child ingested a [REDACTED] tablet on the evening of 02/17/2017 after the father noticed a wrapper on the floor of his living room. The father stated he found the tablet and it appeared to be the same shape and size that he remembered putting into his wallet earlier. On 02/18/2017, the child was taken to Delaware County Memorial Hospital. Poison Control recommended observing the child for a 24 hour period because of the child's altered mental status. The child was then transferred and admitted to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) as the child was becoming increasingly less responsive with a decreased respiratory rate and was less able to be aroused.

[REDACTED] The child's urine tested positive for cocaine. The father tested positive for cocaine on an agency administered drug test on 02/20/2017. There were no other children in the home. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the family was accepted for ongoing services. The mother and father both tested positive for cocaine and allegations of parent substance abuse and domestic violence were validated on a General Protective Services referral.

The family had no prior history with DCCYS; however, the family was known to the local police for having a history of domestic violence.

DCCYS indicated the case on 04/19/2017 for serious physical neglect due to an egregious failure to supervise. The biological father was identified as the perpetrator of the neglect. The father was arrested on 05/01/2017 and released on unsecured bail. The mother was unfounded at the conclusion of the investigation.

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:

Delaware County convened a review team on 03/01/2017, in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. The CPS referral was determined to be indicated, on 04/19/2017, within 30 days of receiving the report.

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

No deficiencies 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 deficiencies noted.

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

No recommendations noted.

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

No recommendations noted.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Department concurs with the county report and findings. The county report was received on 03/01/2017 and was determined to be indicated on 04/19/2017.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

The investigation was thorough, citing all of the interactions with family, medical staff, the police department, and extended family members.

County Weaknesses:

No weaknesses identified.

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

None identified.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The Department recommends there be a continued strengthening of drug and alcohol treatment, as well as education, statewide.