



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 07/21/2015
Date of Incident: 05/13/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 05/14/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

**FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY
WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

Erie County Office of Children and Youth

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
11/07/2017

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:

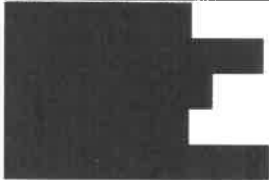
Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through OCYF, must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a fatality or near fatality. This written report must be completed as soon as possible but no later than six months after 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.

Erie County Office of Children and Youth (ECOCY) was not required to convene a review team. A status determination of "Unfounded" was made within 30 days of the Report of Suspected Child Abuse being received; therefore, a review team was not required.

Family Constellation:

First and Last Name:



Relationship:

Date of Birth

Mother

1991

Father

1984

Victim child

07/21/2015

Maternal half-sibling

2013

Maternal Great

1945

Grandfather

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (WRO) obtained and reviewed all current records pertaining to the family. The WRO spoke with the ECOCY caseworker and supervisor regarding this case on 05/14/2017 and on 06/01/2017. ECOCY made a status determination within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine; therefore, a review team was not required to meet.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family did not have prior involvement with ECOCY.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 05/14/2017, ECOCY received a Child Protective Services (CPS) report alleging that while taking a bath, the victim child stood up and then fell face first into the bath water. Allegedly, the victim child was being cared for by his maternal great grandfather at the time who witnessed this occur. The maternal great grandfather grabbed the victim child out of the tub after he fell, and then the mother took him. The mother witnessed the victim child vomit blood and water, and he was slightly unresponsive. The victim child was taken to the emergency room at the local hospital. At that time, the incident was being reported as a near drowning/near fatality.

According to the mother, on 05/13/2017 she had the maternal great grandfather stay home with her two children while she went to the store. The mother came home, and was putting things away while the maternal great grandfather gave the children a bath. The mother reported the victim child kept trying to get out of the tub, and the maternal great grandfather had to keep putting him back in the tub. The mother reported that as she walked into the bathroom, the victim child fell into the tub, and swallowed a huge gulp of water. The maternal great grandfather grabbed the victim child, and the mother then grabbed the victim child from the maternal great grandfather. The victim child was choking on the water and gasping to breathe. The mother reported that she turned the victim child over, and started to hit him on the back. The victim child spit some water out, and was unconscious. The mother took the victim child outside, and was standing on the porch with him to get some fresh air. While outside, the victim child spit up some more water. As the mother and the victim child were outside on the porch, the mother's boyfriend and his mother arrived, and they all took the victim child to a local hospital around 7:30pm. The victim child was then flown to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh (CHP) around 3:00am the next morning. The victim child was kept overnight for observation.

[REDACTED] The child was [REDACTED] on 05/14/2017 and was to follow-up with his primary care physician.

During the interview with the maternal great grandfather, he reported that he was giving the victim child's older sibling a bath. The victim child wanted to get in the tub as well. The maternal great grandfather took off the victim child's clothes, and put them on the floor. He put the victim child in the tub with his sibling. The maternal great grandfather reported that once he put the victim child in the tub, he got up from sitting on the toilet, and picked up the child's clothes from the floor. He turned his back to put the clothes on the sink, and heard a thud. When he turned around, he saw the victim child had fallen backwards. The maternal great grandfather reported the victim child was not submerged in the water, but did have soap in his eyes, nose and mouth. The maternal great grandfather reported he screamed, and took the victim child out of the tub. The maternal great grandfather patted the victim child on the back. The victim child did not pass out. The mother heard the scream and came in the bathroom. The mother grabbed the victim child from the maternal great grandfather. The family decided to take the victim child to the local hospital's emergency room to make sure he was okay. The maternal great grandfather reported that he will not give the children baths anymore.

ECOYC unfounded their CPS report on 06/01/2017, as they could not determine if the incident was a result of abuse or neglect. ECOYC determined the incident was an accident. Law enforcement was notified, and did not pursue the case. No charges were filed. The family refused services. ECOYC closed the case on 06/30/2017, after they verified there were no medical concerns from the victim child's physician.

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

ECO CY made a status determination within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine; therefore, a County internal report was not required.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

ECO CY made a status determination within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine; therefore, a County internal report was not required.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

- ECO CY began the intake investigation immediately and within the required time frame.
- The ECO CY caseworker saw the victim child and family in a timely manner in order to make an informed decision regarding safety and well-being of the children.
- The initial safety assessment and closing safety assessment were completed in a timely manner.
- The victim child and family was seen on two occasions prior to case closure.
- An unfounded status determination was made within 30 days of the report to ChildLine.

County Weaknesses:

There were some inconsistencies in the mother and the maternal great grandfathers account of the incident. Such inconsistencies should be further explored during investigations and additional interviews completed.

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

There were no areas of non-compliance by the county.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The Department recommends the development of Public Service Announcements regarding the importance of constant supervision of children when giving baths to prevent accidents.