



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 03/10/2017

Date of Incident: 11/08/2017

Date of Report to ChildLine: 11/10/2017

CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

FAMILY KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:

Clarion County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

04/19/2018

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))

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Reason for Review:

Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through the Office of Children, Youth and Families (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.

Clarion County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) had convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The report of suspected child abuse was filed on 11/10/2017. The county unfounded the report on 12/06/2017 which is within 30 days of the report to ChildLine; therefore, was not required to convene a review team for the near fatality report.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	03/10/2017
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1978
[REDACTED]	Maternal Half-Sibling	[REDACTED] 2014
[REDACTED]	Babysitter/Transporter	[REDACTED] 1996
[REDACTED]	Friend of Mother	[REDACTED] 1985

*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 (WRO) obtained and reviewed all current and past records pertaining to the family. The victim child’s medical records were obtained and reviewed. WRO was notified of the near fatality on 11/10/2017. CCCYS documented all of their investigation activities and supplied the WRO all necessary documentation.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

CCCYS had two prior General Protective Service (GPS) referrals on the family.

On 04/01/2016, CCCYS received a referral alleging that one month prior to the referral, the mother hit the victim child’s half-sibling in the head with an open hand causing the half-sibling to cry. This allegedly occurred at a local facility during a [REDACTED] class. Allegedly, since that incident, the

victim child's mother continues to raise her hand toward the half-sibling which causes the half-sibling to duck and cover her head in anticipation of being hit. The mother admitted to hitting the half-sibling, as the half-sibling was throwing food at people. The mother stated that she did not typically use physical discipline. The half-sibling appeared to be not fearful of the mother and the mother and the half-sibling had a good relationship. The risk and safety assessments were completed and rated low. The caseworker went to the home and deemed the home and the half-sibling to be safe. Services were offered and declined.

On 06/27/2017, CCCYS received a referral that two children were outside and not being supervised. It was also reported that sometimes the mother would go to the neighbor's house and the children are left alone in the apartment. While the caller was on the phone, they reported the mother was outside with the children. The agency went to the home and met with the mother and the children. A safety assessment was completed and there were no issues identified. The report was determined to be invalid.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 11/08/2017, the victim child's mother was at a [REDACTED] appointment and the transporter/babysitter, who is a friend of the mother, was holding the victim child when the victim child became non-responsive. The mother took the victim child to [REDACTED] Hospital for seizure activity. The mother was unsure why the victim child was seizing. She did report that the victim child had a cough, congestion, and rhinorrhea for the past three days. At the hospital, the seizing continued for an hour [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The victim child was transferred to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) where he tested positive for [REDACTED], which is a [REDACTED] like street drug. The victim child was admitted [REDACTED] at CHP.

As a result of this incident, a report of suspected child abuse was made [REDACTED] on 11/10/2017. CCCYS was assigned to the investigation. CCCYS requested that Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) do a courtesy safety check on the victim child at CHP, which they did. The parents of the victim child refused to give the location of the victim child's 3-year-old half-sibling or seek medical care for the same sibling.

The CCCYS caseworker requested [REDACTED] Police [REDACTED] assistance in locating the victim child's half-sibling. With the assistance of [REDACTED], the half-sibling was located. [REDACTED] informed the CCCYS caseworker that there had been a [REDACTED] overdose in the same apartment building the previous night and that the exposure was so extreme that one of the [REDACTED] Troopers [REDACTED]. The CCCYS caseworker and two [REDACTED] Troopers then went to the home of the babysitter/transporter, who is a friend of the mother and who lives in the same apartment complex, to determine if she could be a potential caregiver for the half-sibling. The home was cluttered but not dirty. The babysitter/transporter reported

that her home is going to be sprayed for fleas; hence, the CCCYS caseworker did not approve this friend of the victim child's mother to be a caregiver for the half-sibling.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The victim child's half-sibling was immediately taken to Clarion Hospital and completed a urine screen, which tested negative for all drugs.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The victim child's [REDACTED] was "ingestion, drug inadvertent or accidental, seizures." The victim child was [REDACTED] on 11/11/2017. [REDACTED]

On 11/13/2017, the CCCYS caseworker and the [REDACTED] Trooper interviewed the victim child's mother and father. Both parents denied knowing anything about how the victim child was exposed to the drug. Both parents completed drug tests and tested positive for Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and [REDACTED]

The mother reported that on the day of the incident she had gone to an [REDACTED] appointment and had taken the victim child with her. When she was done, the babysitter/transporter, a friend of the mother, had picked her up and had brought along another friend. The second friend sat in the back seat of the car with the victim child. After lunch, the babysitter/transporter took the mother and the victim child to [REDACTED] along with the mother's other friend. The babysitter/transporter watched the victim child while [REDACTED] was seeing the mother. The mother came out of [REDACTED] twenty minutes later and when she went into the waiting room, the babysitter/transporter informed her that they needed to leave immediately as something was wrong with the victim child. The mother described the victim child as limp and lifeless and his eyes had rolled into the back of his head. The mother called 911 on the way to the hospital. Later, the babysitter/transporter who had been with her at [REDACTED] had told the mother that she had received a text message from the other friend who had attended the [REDACTED] appointment with them. The text message indicated that the other friend had touched the victim child's face and that the other friend had used crystal methamphetamine that morning.

The CCCYS caseworker attempted to contact the babysitter/transporter who was with the mother and victim child at [REDACTED], but there was no return call. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There was no documentation that the agency

attempted to contact the mother's other friend who was with them at the dentist office.

[REDACTED]

The victim child's drug exposure remains unexplained.

The CCCYS caseworker submitted the Child Protective Service (CPS) investigation report on 12/06/2017 with the finding of "Unfounded" to ChildLine. The case was closed for services on the same date by the agency. There were no criminal charges.

On 12/19/2017, CCCYS received a CPS report on the victim child who had burns on his right lower leg and foot. The CCCYS caseworker saw the victim child on 12/20/2017 and spoke with the victim child's mother regarding the incident. The mother stated that the victim child was pulling on the flat iron cord and it fell on him. The incident was accidental and the mother treated the burn. CCCYS submitted the Child Protective Service investigation report on 12/20/2017 with the finding of "Unfounded" to ChildLine. The case was closed for services on the same date by the agency.

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

The agency was not required to hold an Act 33 meeting due to the report being unfounded within 30 days; hence, the county was not required to submit a county report on this near fatality.

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

None identified.

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

None identified.

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 identified.

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

None identified.

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

None identified.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

CCCYS unfounded the report of suspected child abuse within 30 days of receiving the oral report. Therefore, CCCYS was not required to submit an internal report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

CCCYS met reporting requirements in appropriate time frames.

CCCYS responded immediately to the report.

CCCYS worked well with law enforcement [REDACTED]

CCCYS attempted to interview the babysitter/transporter who was with the mother and the victim child on the day of the incident.

CCCYS worked well with the medical providers.

CCCYS ensured safety of victim child and half-sibling.

CCCYS supplied all records to the WRO.

County Weaknesses:

There is no documentation in the case file that the adults that were with the mother and the victim child on the day of the incident were drug tested to determine if they had exposed the victim child to the N-allylnorfentanyl.

There is no documentation in the case file that CCCYS consulted with medical personnel to determine if the victim child's medical condition could have been the result of someone touching his face, who had just used crystal methamphetamine.

There is no documentation in the case file that CCCYS considered indicating the case on an unknown perpetrator which the Child Protective Service Law permits.

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

None identified.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

Continue to educate parents of the fatal dangers of drugs such as crystal methamphetamine, fentanyl, and other opioids as it is so prevalent in our area.