



REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

Omar Braxton-Cooper

Date of Birth: 04/12/2017

Date of Death: 05/26/2017

Date of Report to ChildLine: 05/26/2017

CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Delaware County Children and Youth
Philadelphia Department of Human Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

01/12/2018

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))

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 convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 06/23/2017.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Omar Braxton-Cooper	victim child	04/12/2017
██████████	biological mother	██████████ 1994
██████████	biological father	██████████ 1985

Summary of OCYF Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families (SERO) obtained and reviewed current documentation pertaining to the ██████████ case from both Philadelphia County and Delaware County. Delaware County also attended the Philadelphia County’s Act 33 which convened on 06/23/2017.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

This family had a short history of involvement with the Philadelphia County prior to victim child expiring. This family became known to Delaware County Children and Youth Services on 04/14/2017 due to victim child testing positive for ██████████ Biological mother of victim child only attended one pre-natal appointment and stated that she was taking ██████████ but stopped taking it 2 weeks prior to birth of victim child. The parents of victim child had a history of domestic violence and it was alleged that ██████████ which she denies. Both tested positive for substance abuse. Biological mother tested positive for ██████████ and biological father tested positive for marijuana and had pending criminal charges for driving under the influence and possession.

There was safety plan implemented on 04/19/2017 due to domestic violence and prenatal drug use/exposure whereas victim child was ██████████

with biological mother and maternal grandmother. Maternal grandmother agreed to supervise victim child at all times. [REDACTED]

On 05/08/2017, a caseworker went to the home to meet with family since the family was transferred [REDACTED], however, no one was home. Maternal grandmother left the baby with a friend to file a Protection from Abuse Order against biological mother and biological father due to biological father being aggressive towards maternal grandmother and she no longer wanted him on her property. Biological mother and biological father went to the friend's house and took victim child but returned on 05/11/2017 but no longer wanted maternal grandmother to be part of the safety plan and wanted maternal grandfather to be the safety plan provider. Maternal grandfather agreed and signed forms to do so but did not comply to the safety plan and both parents left the same day with victim child.

On 05/15/2017, Delaware County Children and Youth Services submitted a referral through the Child Welfare Portal to refer the case to Philadelphia Department of Human Services. Delaware County followed-up with a phone call to the hotline to discuss the severity of having this family serviced and by 05/17/2017, the case was assigned to a DHS caseworker and Delaware County Children and Youth closed their case out once ensuring Philadelphia Department of Human Services caseworker was assigned.

Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a [REDACTED] report on 05/15/2017, due to the family relocating from Delaware County to Philadelphia County in need of an assessment and continued services. Unfortunately, Philadelphia Department of Human Services were not able to locate the family prior to victim child's death.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 05/26/2017, Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a [REDACTED] report stating that Victim Child who was two months old had expired at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Prior to victim child being seen at CHOP he was taken to [REDACTED] Hospital by his parents because he was bleeding from his nose. Victim child's parents could not provide a reason why child was bleeding. [REDACTED]

It was reported that victim child's injuries were [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] admitted that victim child fell off the air mattress and hit his head hard because it woke him up. [REDACTED] consoled victim child but did not tell [REDACTED] that victim child fell off the air mattress because he did not want to argue. That morning [REDACTED] went on his interview and came home. Victim child was asleep and [REDACTED] went to the store. Victim child woke

up, began to cry and scream [REDACTED] then placed the child in his bouncy chair. The victim child somehow got out of the swaddle blanket. [REDACTED] wrapped victim child up again and tossed victim child onto the air mattress. [REDACTED] swaddled victim child real tight took him off the mattress and tossed victim child into the bouncy chair. Victim child at first was crying then it progressed to him breathing heavily and panting. [REDACTED] denied that he threw, struck or punched victim child but, when [REDACTED] returned from the store, [REDACTED] picked victim child up and he appeared lifeless. [REDACTED] was going to call police and started but [REDACTED] stated that he could get them to the hospital quicker than the police could arrive. Victim child was taken to [REDACTED] Hospital and was resuscitated then transferred to CHOP.

This case was [REDACTED] on both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on 06/27/2017. Child was pronounced deceased on 05/26/2017 and suffered severe head trauma and internal injuries consistent with child abuse. [REDACTED] was arrested on 05/26/2017 and is currently at [REDACTED] Correctional Facility charged with murder and endangering the welfare of a child.

Law enforcement involvement in this case is on-going.

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

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

None noted

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

The transfer of case between counties when the case is very vulnerable and the communication shared was insufficient.

Efforts to locate family prior to victim child's death was not executed in detail resulting in victim child not being seen.

Delaware County should have [REDACTED] when parents violated first safety plan.

Biological mother never signed second CYS safety plan which questioned its validity.

The cancellation of [REDACTED] should not have occurred.

- 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; and

None noted

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

None noted

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Department does not have any concerns with report which was received on 09/21/2017. Delaware County was in attendance at the Philadelphia County Act 33 Review meeting on 06/23/2017.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:

Philadelphia County conducted a clear investigation.

- County Weaknesses: and

Philadelphia County should have visited all addresses on [REDACTED] report to attempt to locate victim child.

Delaware County should have ensured that child was safe in his residence in Philadelphia County prior to closing case out

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

Both Counties will be cited under 3490.53 (b) and the Safety Plan Guidelines.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

Formal guidelines and agreements for counties to ensure effective and efficient collaboration between counties and transferring high-risk cases. A standard process for all 67 counties is a needed to ensure that there is not a lapse in safety assurance to eliminate any possibility of a child fatality or near fatality. A standard process, including a joint meeting between the counties with the family so that all will be in congruent with details of the case.