



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 01/16/2013
Date of Incident: 09/28/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 09/28/2017
CWIS #: [REDACTED]

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

Philadelphia Department of Human Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
04/10/2018

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 has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 10/20/2017.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	01/06/2013
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED]/2011
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED]/1992
[REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED]/1993
[REDACTED]	Mother's Paramour	[REDACTED]/1993

*Not residing in Household.

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (SERO) obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the family. SERO conducted interviews with Philadelphia Department of Human Services caseworker, supervisor and an administrator. SERO also participated in the Review Team meetings on 10/20/2017 where copies of the medical examiner's reports were presented, and the investigation was discussed.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) had received two referrals on this family (09/27/2017 & 10/16/2015) that were alleging incidents of inappropriate discipline but were not screened out and not accepted for investigation based on the screener's assessment that there were no allegations of abuse or neglect issues.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 09/28/2017 PDHS received a Child Protective Service referral from ChildLine pertaining to a 4-year-old child that nearly died as a result of physical abuse. The child's body had injuries consistent with being struck by both a linear object and/or belt. The child sustained extensive bruising on his back, thighs, buttocks, right

shoulder, and right arm. The child was certified by St. Christopher Hospital to be in serious or critical condition on 09/28/2017.

There was one other child in the home and a safety assessment dated 09/29/2017 determined that the children in the home were unsafe and an [REDACTED] removing both children from the home, placing them with the maternal grandmother. The family was referred for case management services.

The collaboration between the DHS Investigative Team and the [REDACTED] Police) and the [REDACTED] revealed sufficient evidence to support the Child Protective Services investigation allegation of causing extensive bodily injury through a recent act/failure to act. On 10/26/2017, PDHS indicated this investigation naming both the child's mother and her paramour as perpetrators. Law enforcement arrested and charged the biological mother on 10/29/2017 with Aggravated Assault, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Possession of an Instrument of Crime with Intent, Simple Assault and Recklessly Endangering the Welfare of Another Person. On 10/13/2017, the biological mother posted bail and on 02/16/2018, she was able to negotiate a 12 months max probation plea. Also on 12/13/2017, [REDACTED] the child abuse report as "Founded". The biological mother's paramour was also arrested on 10/29/2017, and charged with Aggravate Assault, Unlawful Restraint, False imprisonment, Conspiracy, Endangering the Welfare of Children, Possession of an Instrument of Crime with Intent, Simple Assault, Recklessly Endangering the Welfare of Another Person. The paramour remained in prison until 02/07/2017 where he negotiated a 4-year maximum probation plea.

The victim child and his sibling are currently in a kinship home with their maternal grandmother (MGM) and the family is receiving case management services. The children were monitored through [REDACTED] until it was determined services were no longer needed. The victim child receives [REDACTED] and his sister [REDACTED].

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 collaboration between the DHS Investigative Team, [REDACTED] Police) and the [REDACTED] were outstanding in reaching the outcome in this investigation. In addition, the county diligently utilized the family resources to avoid placing the children in traditional foster care.

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

- The ACT 33 Team and DHS agrees that the hotline staff should do more follow-up with collateral sources of information especially in cases where the

information obtained from the initial reporter was insufficient to initiate an investigation.

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;

- The ACT 33 Team recommended that DHS considered using the hotline screening units to preliminarily assess reports for investigation or assessment prior to formally rejecting the report.

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

- None

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

- None.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Department concurs with the county report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

- The collaboration between the DHS Investigative Team, the [REDACTED] Police) and the [REDACTED] were outstanding. Also, [REDACTED] referral to [REDACTED] has been completed to explore the VC's father as a permanent resource. He currently have line-of-sight supervision with his son.

County Weaknesses:

- None.

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

- None noted.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The Department identifies that additional policy and guidance related to the practice of screening out referrals that are of a General Protective Services nature.