



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 05/05/2016

Date of Incident: 07/16/2016

Date of Report to ChildLine: 07/16/2016

CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Cumberland County Children & Youth

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

12/29/2016

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 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.

Cumberland 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 08/10/2016.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	05/05/2016
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED]/1995
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED]/1983
* [REDACTED]	Paternal Half Sibling	[REDACTED]/2011

*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 Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CERO) obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Caseworker, and the Supervisor on 07/19/2016 and 08/10/2016. CERO also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting on 08/10/2016.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family was not known to Cumberland County Children & Youth Services prior to the incident on 07/16/2016.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 07/16/2016 at 4:08 PM, the agency received a Child Protective Services referral. [REDACTED] was brought to [REDACTED] Hospital Emergency Room reporting injuries to the child's chest. It appears someone pushed down on the child's chest with knuckles or possible finger and/or thumb prints. The child's mother was reportedly at work and the father was responsible for the child.

The father reported that he heard the infant roll off the bed and begin to cry (the referral source indicated that the child is too young and too small to roll). The father then indicated that he noticed the child's breathing was different and brought the child into the Emergency Department. The child has an irregular temperature and is lethargic. The child's breathing is irregular as well. The following injuries have been sustained, surface bleeding around the brain, and bleeding between the two hemispheres of the brain. The child also had complications with abnormal blood clotting and had begun to have seizures after the incident.

The parents have provided different accounts as to when the injuries occurred. The referral source indicated that the "parent's stories do not add up."

The referral source indicated that x-rays will be completed in order to determine if there are any internal injuries to the child. The child was transferred to Hershey Medical Center.

Cumberland County Children and Youth Services substantiated the case on 09/12/2016 naming the biological father as the perpetrator. The indicated status is supported by the fact that the child received severe injuries from an incident on 07/16/2016 where the perpetrator had been caring for the child. A medical professional has determined the injuries are consistent with child abuse. There is a current police investigation which continues to be ongoing.

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 caseworker remained calm and consistent when mother became out of control during the investigation.

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:

It is recommended that only experts should be the ones to disclose the determination of abuse to the family. The family received mixed messages at both hospitals from staff that were not on the abuse team.

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:

CERO received the Cumberland County Internal Fatality Review Team written report on 08/31/2016. Verbal feedback was provided to the County on August 31, 2016. The Department concurs with the county report's findings and recommendations.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

Cumberland County Children, Youth and Family Services conducted a timely investigation in conjunction with the law enforcement officials.

The agency provided necessary services to all family members and was able to keep the children safe during the investigation.

County Weaknesses:

None identified.

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

None noted.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

There are no recommendations at this time.