



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 03/01/2017
Date of Incident: 12/17/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 12/17/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Bucks County Children and Youth

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
09/06/2018

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. Bucks 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 01/05/2018.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	03/01/2017
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1966
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1983
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2005
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2015
[REDACTED]	Maternal Grandfather	Unknown

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current investigation notes and gathered information from the Bucks County and the Act 33 teaming in Philadelphia County. Follow up interviews were conducted with Philadelphia County’s Administrator and social worker. SERO discussed the case with Philadelphia County detective and reviewed hospital medical records.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family was known to Bucks County Children and Youth since 2007:

On 4/17/2007, a General Protective Services (GPS) report came in that mother was [REDACTED] around the child [REDACTED]. The mother stated that she was expecting and not smoking. The referral was closed on 4/30/2007.

On 12/7/2007, a GPS report was received that mother was using drugs. The family was accepted for ongoing general protective services. The mother failed to participate in [REDACTED]. The custody of [REDACTED] was given to his father. The case closed in July of 2009.

On 5/23/2015, a GPS was received with concerns that [REDACTED] was born with [REDACTED]. A safety plan was completed that the maternal grandfather would reside in the home and assure safety of the child. [REDACTED] was still living with

his father, and weekend visits continued. Mother was in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

On 3/2/2017, a GPS referral was received that mother had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The mother had been clean for two years and was in treatment. This referral was closed on 3/28/2017.

On 07/17/2017, a GPS report was received that the parents were using drugs. The Mother stated that she had [REDACTED] and that was in 2006. The father was [REDACTED]. The family was cleared of drug use. The children had up to date medicals and the case was closed. The family informed the county that they were moving to Philadelphia. Bucks County did not notify Philadelphia of the move.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 12/17/2017, the victim child was taken [REDACTED] for a possible ingestion of [REDACTED]. The victim child was given at least two shots of [REDACTED] at the hospital and air lifted to [REDACTED]. The mother did not accompany the child to [REDACTED]. The victim child was sitting up and talking when he arrived at [REDACTED]. The father stated that he was on his way to work when the mother contacted him. She stated that the victim child was playing in the closet of the room where the maternal uncle resided. She stated that the victim child was not breathing right, and his eyes were rolling back in his head. Father called 911 and arrived at the home when EMS got there.

The father was at the hospital with the Victim child and [REDACTED]. The father was very appropriate with the children and very attached to them. The father stated that the mother went home to get [REDACTED] and come to the hospital. The mother reported that the drugs must have been left by the paternal uncle who left the home about two weeks ago to enter [REDACTED]. The mother stated that she cleaned the room after the uncle left. The uncle was interviewed by police who stated that he used [REDACTED] once and that was in the bathroom. He stated that he was a [REDACTED] addict and did not use any other drugs.

The mother returned to the hospital 2 and a half hours later. She reported that she went to get [REDACTED] because the social worker wanted to examine the children. [REDACTED] was not present in the home. The detective felt that mother went home to clean up. It should be noted that the police did not go to the home to gather evidence. [REDACTED] was examined and is healthy. She was [REDACTED].

The parents were informed that the victim child was [REDACTED] on 12/18/2017. [REDACTED] on 12/20/2017, for the victim child and his sibling. [REDACTED]. The maternal grandmother confirmed that her son was using [REDACTED]. She stated that she and her husband moved out of their home because they were tired of allowing him to live there using drugs. She has a small apartment but is willing to move into a larger place to care for the children. She confirmed that her son resided in the home of the victim child

but moved two months ago. She stated that she and other family members helped clean out the room.

The test results confirmed that the child [REDACTED]. The victim child is doing well and has fully recovered. The children were [REDACTED] because the grandparents could not add the children to their lease. The family was [REDACTED]. Referrals were made for mother to attend [REDACTED] and continue her [REDACTED]. The children were evaluated and are on target. The father is visiting with the children but the mother's whereabouts are unknown and she has not visited the children since May 1, 2018. [REDACTED] This report was indicating naming the mother as the perpetrator of the abuse. She has not been criminally charged.

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 County agency collaborated well with the hospitals social worker the physician and collected all medical reports. The county kept the investigation opened to try and determined how the child got the drugs. The county opened the case, [REDACTED] and provided services to the child and made referrals for the parents.

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

NO deficiencies were 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;
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies;
Bucks County will look into procedures for calling counties when a family moves.

Police should look into procedures for responding more quickly when a child is suspected of drug ingestion.

- 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:

The Department reviewed the Act 33 report. The Department is in agreement with the county's report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

The county agency collaborated well with the hospitals social worker and physicians and the collected all medical reports. The County met with the detective and made numerous hospital and home visits to follow the progress of the case.

- County Weaknesses:

NONE

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

NONE

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The department is in agreement that the police should be summoned to the home when a child has ingested drugs. Evidence could be gathered.

Although the family [REDACTED] for some time it had a long history of drug use. Given these facts counties should put procedures in place to contact the county if a family relocates to another county.