



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 07/01/2014
Date of Incident: 10/21/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 10/21/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

**FAMILY NOT 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:
08/30/2018

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.

The 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 11/17/2017.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2005
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2010
[REDACTED]	Paternal Uncle	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Paternal Uncle's Paramour	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	07/01/2014

Summary of OCYF Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office of Children and Youth and families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the county Case Manager and [REDACTED].

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family was not known to the Department of Human Services. The Maternal uncle who resided in the home was known to the Department as a child.

Circumstances of Child (Near) Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 10/21/2017 Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a report that the victim child was shot in the head by his brother. The child was taken [REDACTED] and later transferred to [REDACTED]. The victim child was shot in the left side of his forehead and it was not known at the time if he would survive.

The mother works as a hair dresser and was not home at the time of the incident. The father is employed with a social service agency. The victim child and two siblings were home with a sitter. The father arrived home from work and left the

three children alone while he took the babysitter home. The father received a call that the VC was shot while the sitter was still with him. The police were present when the father arrived back at the home. The mother arrived a short time later. The detective stated that the father appeared to be very upset with the six-year-old who was the shooter and was not consoling to him. The father was angry, to the point that the detective placed himself between the child and the father because he was concerned that the father would abuse the child. The children were interviewed by the detective and the county worker. There was no mention of physical abuse or domestic violence and that the gun belonged to the maternal uncle. The mother arrived at the hospital distraught. The father never consoled the mother. He was only concerned if he was in trouble. The father was arrested on 10/22/2017 and charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Recklessly Endangering another person.

The county worker interviewed the mother at the hospital that day as did the detective. The mother stated that the grandmother died in 2015. The paternal uncle and his paramour resided in the home of the grandmother but she is not sure how long they lived there. When the maternal grandmother passed away and the paternal uncle could not manage the mortgage payments. The paternal uncle asked them to move in so they would not lose the family home. They agreed to move in about 4 or 5 months ago to help with the payments. The mother was adamant that she did not know there was a gun in the home. She stated that the account of events provided to her was that the victim child and [REDACTED] were playing in the bedroom when the father and the sitter left. She stated that [REDACTED] did not shoot at the victim child. He shot at the wall and the bullet ricocheted off the wall and hit the victim child. The mother remained at the hospital overnight and when the social worker arrived the victim child was responsive but heavily sedated.

The county worker interviewed the paternal great uncle and his wife. They provided the same account that the family was asked to reside there when the paternal uncle got behind in the mortgage. He also stated that the family could not have known that there was a gun in the home because they would not have allowed it. He went on to say that he would not be surprised if the paternal uncle told the kids not to tell. He stated that there was a lot of traffic in and out of the home but stopped when the [REDACTED] family moved in.

The detective stated that the paternal uncle could not be found nor his paramour. The detective stated that this is not the first time that the uncle has been on the run. It is suspected that the gun belonged to the paternal uncle because the boys were in his room. The detective also stated that the uncle has a history of selling drugs. A large amount of [REDACTED] was found in the home. The detective also noted that the home smelled like [REDACTED]. There is a warrant out for the Maternal uncle.

The county worker interviewed the babysitter. She stated that she goes to the home after school and watch the children until one of the parents get home. The mother works late hours and the father works until 8 PM and sometimes other

shifts as needed on weekends. The sitter also stays there Friday and Saturdays and they take her home on Sunday morning.

The maternal grandmother was interviewed, and a safety plan was implemented [REDACTED]. The maternal grandmother stated that the paternal uncle is always in trouble and suspected of selling drugs. The maternal grandmother also stated that the father sells pills and that the mother is depended on the father.

The victim child is doing well breathing on his own and saying a few words. He was transferred to [REDACTED] for rehabilitation services. He is receiving [REDACTED]. He also wears a helmet. The caregiver was trained on the care of the child for medications feeding and follow up appointments.

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 took appropriate action interviewing the family, developing the safety plan and placements of the children.
- 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;
Parent education must continue around gun safety. We must provide free gunlocks for a family who owns firearms.
- 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:

The Department received the county's report on 02/15/2018 and agrees with their findings.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

Philadelphia DHS collaborated with the medical team and the child abuse team at [REDACTED]. Job well done.

County Weaknesses:

None identified.

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

None identified.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The Department agrees that there should be continued gun education and public service announcements. There should also be discussions with the medical providers around gun safety and free gun locks.