



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

DYLAN MOYER

DATE OF BIRTH: 09/26/2003

DATE OF DEATH: 06/17/2011

**The Family was not known to the
Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency**

REPORT FINALIZED ON: 06/07/2012

This report is confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released.

(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6340)

Unauthorized release is prohibited under penalty of law. 23 Pa. C.S. 6349 (b))

Reason for Review:

Senate Bill 1147, Printer's Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008. The bill became effective on December 30, 2008 and is known as Act 33 of 2008. As part of Act 33 of 2008, DPW must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a child 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.

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine. On 7/21/11 Bucks County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
Moyer, Dylan	Victim Child	09/26/2003
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1971
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] /1967

Notification of Child (Near) Fatality:

On 06/23/11 Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency received a [REDACTED] from Childline. The report stated that the father beat his child and wife to death with a baseball bat. The father called the police on 06/17/11 at 9:30 pm. The police found the child and his mother dead in their home located in Warrington, PA. Later, that same day the body of the father was found at the Southeastern Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) train station located in Hatboro, Pa. reportedly the father committed suicide by allowing the SEPTA train to run him over.

Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office received the oral report on 6/23/11. The Department made contact with The Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency. The family was not known to Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency. The County did not have records or documents to review. The County received all information from the police investigation and the autopsy summary dated 6/18/11. The Bucks County District Attorney's Office closed the case three days after the murder /suicide. The Department attended the Act 33 Review Meeting on 07/12/11.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to the Incident:

The family was not known to Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services.

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

On 06/17/11, the father reported that he murdered the child and the child's mother. They were beaten to death with a baseball bat. Later the father killed himself by lying across a railroad track. The father was found dead at the Septa train station in Hatboro, Pa. According to the autopsy report, the child and his mother were found beaten to death in their residence in Bucks County. Based on the autopsy and police investigation, the child was asleep in his bed down the hall from the mother when the father beat him with the baseball bat. According to the interviews and documentation the father probably killed the mother after the child. The mother reportedly was sitting up in the bedroom and the father hit her in the head with the baseball bat from behind.

On 06/18/11 the Bucks County Coroner at the Bucks County Forensic Facility in Warminster performed an autopsy on the child. The child suffered from extensive bruising on the left side of his head and the left ear. The left ear canal had a lot of blood loss; linear bruises across the middle and upper back; massive laceration and hemorrhaging of the left cerebral hemisphere of the skull. According to the autopsy report, the cause of death for the child was blunt forced head trauma. After the father murdered the child and the mother, he wrote an apology on his Facebook page. The father posted on Facebook, "I am sorry for the pain and suffering that I have caused. If there were any other options, I would have taken them....but there weren't. I love you [REDACTED] and Dylan". In addition to the post on Facebook, the father alerted the police by leaving a note on the front door. The note requested that the police contact his father and the in-laws were contacted. While it is uncertain, the police suspected that the father probably committed the murders the day before (6/16/11) he committed suicide.

According to the police investigation, the father and the mother had been employed in computer technology field. The father was working as a free lance consultant in computer technology and the mother was currently unemployed. The family was financially challenged and there was no money in their bank accounts. The family home was valued at six-seven hundred thousand dollars and listed in the paternal grandfather's name. There were three mortgages on their home. The family had no furniture in the home and the mattresses were on the floor.

The Police reported the family was known as good neighbors. According to the neighbors and the school there were no signs of abuse. The child was also known to be pleasant and was a good student in school. The police investigation did reveal that the mother had a journal. The journal indicated that the mother suffered from depression and suicidal thoughts. The journal suggested that the

father was controlling and domineering, the father had a point system for the family. For example if the mother lost weight, kept the house clean or fixed a good meal the mother would earn points. The police investigation revealed that the father had a history of soliciting prostitutes on the internet. The family had no known history of mental health, gambling or substance abuse. The family was unknown to the child welfare system. The only involvement the [REDACTED] had with law enforcement was a minor traffic violation.

Current Case Status:

It was noted that [REDACTED] had a son from a previous marriage. The 14 year old son's mother lives in Las Vegas. The son safely lives with the maternal in-laws. The County reported based on the request of the Warrington Police Department to secure the privacy of the child, that they did not have access to the child themselves but that the Warrington Police Department had gone to the home and determined the child was safe

On 07/20/11, Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency [REDACTED] the case. The father was identified as the [REDACTED]. The Bucks County District Attorney closed the case.

County Strengths and Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child (Near) Fatality Report:

Strengths:

A Fatality Team meeting was held on July 21, 2011. The County immediately provided information to the Department regarding the [REDACTED]

Deficiencies:

There were no deficiencies identified.

Recommendations for Change at the Local Level and State Level:

- The Act 33 Review Team discussed that ongoing education of medical Professionals (specifically Obstetricians/Gynecologists) on signs of emotionally/psychological abuse.
- The Act 33 Review Team discussed alternative ways to explore and educate the community on child abuse and the damaging effects on families and communities.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Act 33 Review Team was a complimentary team of experts and professionals committed to the prevention and treatment of child abuse. Present at the meeting: Bucks County Advisory Board Member, Bucks County Coroner,

and Warrington Township Police Department, Woman's Place, Bucks County of Mental Health and Developmental Programs, Doylestown Hospital Nurse, Southeast Regional Office, Bucks County Director, Social Worker, Supervisor and Manager.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

County Strengths: The County agreed to contact Dylan's School to offer Grief Counseling for the children. The Act 33 review was timely and the team focused on the prevention and treatment of child abuse.

County Weaknesses: There were no areas of concern.

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance: There were no areas of concern.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The Department did not have any recommendations regarding this investigation.