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REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

██████████

BORN: September 30, 2009

DATE OF NEAR FATALITY: June 24, 2012

FAMILY WAS KNOWN TO: Monroe County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON: March 8, 2013

DATE OF ORAL REPORT: 6/24/12

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 No. 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, Department of Public Welfare 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. Monroe 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>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child (VC)	09/30/2009
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1970
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1967
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2001
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2003
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2006
[REDACTED]	Paternal Grandfather	[REDACTED] 1941

Notification of Near Fatality:

On June 24, 2012 Monroe County Emergency Medical Team and Pocono Mountain Police were called to the VC's home. It was reported that a three year old child fell out of a second story window. On June 24, 2012 at 11:00 PM, a Monroe County Children and Youth Services (MCCYS) on call caseworker received a Child Protective Services report from [REDACTED]. The referral source was [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED] who stated the VC fell out of a second story window and had a [REDACTED]. The VC was admitted to the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] certified the case as a near fatality. On June 25, 2012 the Northeast Regional Office (NERO) of Children, Youth and Families received the report of the near fatality.

Summary of DPW Child Fatality Review Activities:

The NERO human services program representative met with the MCCYS child protective services supervisor, caseworker, assistant director and director to discuss this case. The NERO human services program representative had obtained and reviewed the entire file regarding this family. The NERO also participated in the internal fatality review team meeting on August 1, 2012.

Summary of Services to the Family:

At the time of the near fatality MCCYS was assessing the family for general protective services pertaining to a referral which was made to the agency on June 5, 2012.

Children and Youth Involvement Prior to Incident:

This family was known to MCCYS. On June 5, 2012 [REDACTED] received a general protective services referral. The referral source stated that the children and the home were dirty. The referral source also stated [REDACTED] heard the father had hit [REDACTED]. A MCCYS caseworker went to the home on June 8, 2012 but no one was home. The caseworker left a note asking the family to call her. The family did not call the caseworker so on June 11, 2012 the caseworker made another unannounced visit to the home and was able to meet with all the family members. The home was found to be dirty and cluttered but not deplorable, discipline was also addressed. The family was still being assessed when the VC fell out the window on June 24, 2012.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On June 24, 2012 the VC's father was in his bedroom on the computer and the VC's mother was in the kitchen cooking dinner. The VC's ten year old brother was watching his siblings, [REDACTED] who was five years old and the VC who was two years old at the time of the incident. The three children were upstairs playing in their bedroom (the three brothers share a room). The ten year old child had to go to the bathroom; therefore he left the other two wander in the bedroom alone while he went to go to the bathroom. One of the boys pushed a toy box under the window and VC climbed on top of it and fell out the window. The VC fell about twenty five feet. There were no screens on this window. An eight year old child was walking home from a friend's house and saw the VC outside of the home crying and trying to stand up. The VC was on the ground under his bedroom window. The eight year old child carried the VC to the front door and the VC's parents called 911. Pocono Mountain Police and Emergency Medical Service responded to the call. [REDACTED] was taken to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was diagnosed with a [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED]. He also had [REDACTED] and an [REDACTED] on the right side of his forehead. Mother stayed at the hospital with [REDACTED]. Parents signed a safety plan that the children would be under the direct supervision of a parent at all times. [REDACTED] remained in the hospital for two days for observation and was then released on June 26, 2012. [REDACTED] (mother), [REDACTED] stayed at a neighbor's home. [REDACTED] (father), [REDACTED] stayed at the family home and made all the necessary repairs to the home. On June 28, 2012 mother, [REDACTED] returned to the family home.

Current Case Status:

MCCYS indicated both parents for lack of supervision which resulted in physical injuries. Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department criminally charged both parents for endangerment of a minor child. Their sentencing is scheduled for April 30, 2013, [REDACTED]. The home is rented by the family and the landlord lives in New Jersey. The family made most of the repairs at their own expense, MCCYS also [REDACTED]. The landlord was cited by the local code enforcement officer. The VC suffered no permanent trauma as a result of the incident. The parents have all their children residing with them. The family is still open in the Intensive In-Home Unit with MCCYS. The caseworker makes biweekly announced and unannounced visits to the home. A Parent Advisor also goes into the home. Currently the children appear to be properly supervised and there are no home conditions of concern.

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

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.

Strengths: MCCYS received the Childline report on June 24, 2012 they made a determination that the case would be indicated and filed the CY48 on July 24, 2012. This report was completed within the 30 days. Since the case was indicated an internal review was required. MCCYS convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. MCCYS also met time frames and made an appropriate determination regarding this case.

No deficiencies were noted.

No recommendations at this time.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

On August 1, 2012 MCCYS conducted their Act 33 review of the near fatality. The NERO attended this review. NERO received a written copy of their review on August 30, 2012. NERO is in agreement with the internal report and found no areas of concern with their process and documentation.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

County Strengths: Safety was assessed for all the children in the home and a safety plan was put into place. The investigation was conducted in a timely manner. MCCYS obtained all medical and educational records for all the children in the home. All parties were interviewed and received rights letters. MCCYS was supportive of the family and [REDACTED]. MCCYS conducted an internal review in accordance with Act 33 of 2008. MCCYS also had a multi-disciplinary team meeting regarding the family. MCCYS continues to provide appropriate services to the family.

County Weaknesses: None.

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance: None.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

MCCYS should continue to follow the requirements regarding Act 33 of 2008. MCCYS should continue to seek technical assistance through the NERO as needed.