pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[redacted]

BORN: August 15, 2010
Near Fatality: June 4, 2012

FAMILY not KNOWN TO:
Crawford County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
January 17, 2013

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. Crawford County has not convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report because the report was unfounded within 30 days of the date of the initial referral.

Family Constellation:

Name:	Relationship:	Date of Birth:
[redacted]	victim child	08/15/2010
[redacted]	sibling	[redacted]2007
[redacted]	Mother	[redacted]1987
[redacted]	Father	[redacted]1979
*[redacted]	Maternal Grandmother	

Notification of Child (Near) Fatality:

Crawford County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) received a report [redacted] dated June 1, 2012 stating that the child fell out of a 3rd story window after playing in the window. The report was initiated by [redacted]. The mother reported that she was in the same room as the child and the child was pointing at things outside of the window. The reporting source did not know if there was a screen in the window or not. The child has been certified to be in serious condition; however, there were no visible injuries to the child. The child is expected to survive. The mother reported that the child fell onto a bush and the reporting source believes this might have saved the child's life. Tests were conducted but no results are back. The child is immobilized and transported by helicopter to [redacted] The report was made due to the concern that the mother was not providing adequate supervision to prevent the child from falling out the window. The report will be registered for imminent risk of death, and processed as a near fatality.

Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed the agency and medical records regarding the current CPSL investigation. Follow-up interviews were conducted with the CCCYS supervisor.

Summary of Services to Family:

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

This family did not have previous involvement with CCCYS.

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

At 5:30pm on June 1, 2012, the CPS report of a near fatality was made regarding [redacted]. Upon receipt of the report, the agency contacted Allegheny County Children Youth and Families to request a courtesy visit with [redacted] as she was at [redacted] The caseworker provided the details of the report and requested the agency visit the child and family at the hospital. Allegheny County responded at 7:55pm by visiting the child at the hospital, and conducted an interview with the mother. At this time, the mother reported that the child had an [redacted]. The child was observed to be in a neck brace. The mother reported that she and her daughters were all in the same room and the mother reported that she will normally open the top window downwards rather than raising the lower half of the window. She reported that [redacted] was standing on a chair and had her arms up on the window ledge and her head was against the screen as she watched the birds. The mother reported that the screen fell out and the child started to fall; that she tried to grab her legs but she fell out of the window. The child landed in bushes and then from the bushes landed on the ground. The mother reported that she ran downstairs and outside and the child was crying and she yelled for someone to call 911 as people were gathering around. The child's 4 year old sibling stated that her sister was watching the birds and rain and her foot went out the window and then her sister fell out the window.

[redacted] was [redacted] on June 2, 2012 at 10:44am. She had no internal injuries, no fractures or any other know injuries, except for a bruise on her right hip and right knee. On June 2, 2012 at 6:00pm, the caseworker went to the mother's home to interview her and assess the safety of [redacted] and her sibling. A note was left as the mother did not answer the door.

At 6:35pm, the mother contacted the agency on-call number so a caseworker went to the home to assess the situation. The mother reported that at approximately 9:30pm she was sitting on the couch in the living room and [redacted] was sitting on the arm of a children's rocker near the window. The sibling was sleeping in her mother's room. [redacted] was leaning against the screen and looking at the birds while listening to the rain. The sibling woke up and came into the living room and sat on her mother's lap. The mother reported

that she got up to shut the window as she did not want [redacted] near the window since her sister was now in the room. As soon as she got up to get [redacted] the screen popped out of the window and [redacted] began to fall. The mother reported that she attempted to grasp the child's feet and the tips of her fingers literally touched the child's toes but she could not stop her from falling. The mother stated that she ran outside and the child was gasping for air so she sat her upright to assist with her breathing. A bystander contacted 911 and the ambulance came. The mother signed releases so the agency could obtain the medical records.

The caseworker noted that during the home visit, [redacted] was very active and did not appear to be in any pain or to be fearful of the current situation. The maintenance department of the apartment building installed safety latches in all the windows of the apartment that day which allows for the windows to only open 5 inches. The caseworker provided the mother with a set of window and door alarms to use as needed. The safety assessment was completed and it was determined that the mother had the protective capacity to care for and protect the children. The mother was very attentive to the children's needs, and was working with [redacted] in her home. She was also attending [redacted]. There was no safety concerns noted with the home.

The CY 48 was submitted on June 25, 2012, as unfounded as the facts gathered did not meet the criteria for abuse or lack of supervision per the CPSL. A risk assessment was completed on June 13, 2012, and the severity was rated as Moderate, but the risk was rated as no risk. As a result of the assessment, the case was closed on June 25, 2012.

Current Case Status:

~~The case was closed on June 25, 2012 as there were no concerns identified.~~

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. Crawford County did not convene a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report as the report was unfounded within 30 days of the report being initiated.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

An internal report was not completed as stated above.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths: The County did a thorough investigation and assessment regarding this CPSL investigation. The medical records were obtained and reviewed.

- County Weaknesses: None were noted.

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

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The Department has no recommendation at this time.