



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Raheemah Shamsid-Deen Hampton
Managing Director
Southeast Region

801 Market Street, 6th Floor
Suite 6112
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

(215) 560-2249/2823
Fax: (215) 560-6893

REPORT ON THE DEATH OF

Na'ilah Parker

BORN: 02/05/2009

DIED: 02/19/2009

**FAMILY KNOWN TO:
FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO ANY COUNTY AGENCY**

**REPORT DATED: 08/06/09
REPORT FINALIZED: 02/04/10**

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, now known as Act 33 was signed into law by Governor Rendell on July 3, 2008 and went into effect 180 days from that date, December 30, 2008. This Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets standards for reviewing and reporting child fatality and near child fatality as a result of suspected child abuse. DPW must conduct child fatality and near fatality review and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.

Circumstances of Death

On Monday 02/09/2009, 4 day old Na'liah Parker had stopped breathing and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. The investigation revealed that mother was feeding child at approximately 3:00 AM; mother states that she then swaddled child and put her in the bassinet on her back. Mother stated that around 3:30 AM child started making a gurgling sound at which time she got out of bed picked the child up and the child's mouth was open. Mother stated she then took child's clothing off to check to see if she was breathing and child was not. Mother said she called 911 at 3:48 AM and before she could give them her address, her cell phone died. Mother stated that she then plugged her cell phone up to the battery charger and rebooted her cell phone and called 911 again to give them the same information along with her address. Mother stated that she was told by the operator to lay child on the floor and then breathe into her mouth and nose. Mother stated that she breathed one time and then two times following. Mother stated that the rescue came and took over. Mother stated she then called father to meet her at the hospital and told him that the EMS said child did not have a pulse. Mother stated that child was transported to Einstein Hospital. Mother stated she stayed back with police officer and got dressed. Mother stated the police transported her to the hospital. Mother stated she was at Einstein Hospital for 2 1/2 hours before child was transported to St. Christopher's Hospital. Mother stated when they arrived at St. Christopher's, father and MGF, [REDACTED] arrived.

DHS SW spoke with Police [REDACTED] who stated that mother appeared credible with her statement. [REDACTED] stated she believes mother's story. DHS SW observation on mother is that mother appears to have a delayed response to questions; however, she did comprehend well. Mother also appeared to be in "shock" over child; but appeared creditable and consistent with her story. Child's father was not at mother's home when the incident occurred. DHS SW spoke with [REDACTED] stated mother's story was consistent and mother is appropriate with staff; also, mother appears to understand what was going on. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The family stayed close to the child's side during the hospital stay and had many family discussions with the doctors. On February 19, 2009 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], little Na'liah Parker was pronounced dead.

The cause of death listed was: Near-Miss Sudden Infant Death, which was described by [REDACTED] from the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's office, as an Interruptive SIDS, meaning that the child managed to survive the SIDS probably because the mother interrupted when she heard the child's gurgling and picked her up.

Summary of Review

Family Constellation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Parker, Na'ilah	Child	02/05/2009
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED]

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed

For this review the SERO reviewed the City of Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Notice and Pronouncement of Death, Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) [REDACTED], DHS Risk Assessment, DHS Safety Assessment, Interview with Philadelphia's Special Victim Unit, [REDACTED] who interviewed Nurse Practitioner [REDACTED] at St. Christopher's Hospital, Medical Records from Albert Einstein Medical Center, and Medical Records from St. Christopher's Hospital For Children also interviewed [REDACTED] of the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office who is assigned to this case and [REDACTED], DHS SW

Case Chronology.

- On February 9, 2009 DHS received a [REDACTED] involving "Baby girl" Parker who had presented at the hospital via ambulance.
- 02/09/2009- [REDACTED] sent to [REDACTED] advising her of the [REDACTED] -Re: Physical Injuries
- 02/09/2009-Safety Assessment Completed-Safety Decision is that child is "Safe"-Safety Analysis-"Child is at St. Christopher's Hospital. Child is not showing signs, movement. Child is breathing on her own; however is receiving oxygen by machine. Mother appears creditable and consistent with story. Mother appears to display protective capacities to ensure Child's safety and well being."
- 02/09/2009- 2:45 PM-DHS SW assigned attempted to contact [REDACTED]
- 02/09/2009- 3:15 PM-DHS SW made contact with St. Christopher's Hospital, [REDACTED] and made arrangements to go to hospital and conduct [REDACTED]
- 02/09/2009- 6:30 PM- DHS SW conducts initial investigation with Mother and Father [REDACTED] that Na'ilah was not doing well.
- 02/17/2009-11:30AM-DHS SW received a phone call from [REDACTED], [REDACTED], stating that Na'ilah's condition has not changed. [REDACTED] stated the Doctor's conferred with Na'ilah's mother and father

about taking her off ventilator. [REDACTED] stated the parents needed time to make their decision.

- 02/19/2009- 9:40 PM- Na'ilah Parker was pronounced dead.
- 02/20/2009- DHS SW [REDACTED] [REDACTED] advising that Na'ilah had died. [REDACTED] said that Na'ilah died from Interrupted SIDS, R/O Child Abuse.
- 02/26/2009- Risk Assessment Completed-Overall risk was assessed to be "Low"- "Child died due to SIDS. Mother was appropriate. No abuse or neglect suspected."
- 02/26/2009-DHS Investigation Completed- [REDACTED]
- 02/26/2009- [REDACTED] and Closing Letter sent to [REDACTED] (from DHS) advising her that the Child Abuse allegations against her were determined to be [REDACTED] and that the case with DHS is closed.

Findings and Recommendations

It was determined by [REDACTED] that the cause of death is:

Primary Diagnosis: Near-Miss Sudden Infant Death

Secondary Diagnosis: Cardiopulmonary arrest

Third Diagnosis: Anoxic Brain Injury

[REDACTED] from the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's office is assigned to this case. [REDACTED] states that his final report will probably say that the child died of SIDS and that the manner of death will most likely be listed as natural as there are no signs of trauma.