



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF



BORN: 05/08/2008
DATE OF INCIDENT: 03/25/2009

FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO:
ANY COUNTY AGENCY OR TO ANY SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY

REPORT DATED: 10/05/09
REPORT FINALIZED: 02/12/10

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 by Governor Rendell on July 3, 2008 and went into effect 180 days from that date, December 28, 2008. This Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets standards for reviewing and reporting child fatality and near child fatalities that were suspected to have occurred due to child abuse. DPW must conduct child fatality and near fatality reviews and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.

Notification of Fatality / Near Fatality:

On March 25, 2009, [REDACTED] initially presented at Crozer Chester Medical Center's Emergency Room with a [REDACTED], bruising to his face and ears and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had a seizure upon [REDACTED] to the emergency room. [REDACTED] was determined to be in critical condition and [REDACTED] was transferred to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] Children's Hospital for sixteen days and [REDACTED] he was [REDACTED] to Children's Hospital's Seashore House [REDACTED].

Family Constellation.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	victim child	05/08/2008
[REDACTED]	biological mother	[REDACTED] 1989
[REDACTED]	biological father	Unknown
[REDACTED]	biological mother's paramour	Unknown

[REDACTED] the biological father of [REDACTED], is not a household member. His whereabouts are unknown and [REDACTED] reported there is no contact information for [REDACTED] or any of his family. [REDACTED] is not listed on [REDACTED] birth certificate. [REDACTED] reports [REDACTED] is 38 years old. [REDACTED] is not a household member; he is 17 years old and resides with his mother and grandmother at [REDACTED] in Philadelphia, PA.

Delaware County Children and Youth were unable to locate [REDACTED] for interviews. The Delaware County police were unable to locate [REDACTED] for interviews.

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed.

For this review the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) reviewed the county case record, Chester Police interviews and the adjudication hearing court report. [REDACTED], administrator for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED] casework supervisor, for Delaware County Children and Youth were interviewed.

Case Chronology:

Previous Children and Youth involvement:

The family did not have a prior history with Delaware County Children and Youth. However, the biological mother of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], has a history of involvement with New Jersey Department of Youth and Family Services as a child. She self reports spending time in placements that include Juvenile Detention for assault, [REDACTED], group home and foster care while living in New Jersey. [REDACTED] was returned to her mother's home when she was 17 years old. [REDACTED] reports she has [REDACTED]. Prior to living in Delaware County, [REDACTED] and her child were living in a homeless shelter in Philadelphia. [REDACTED] admitted to the use of marijuana and completed a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been recommended to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] reports she has been living in Chester, PA for approximately 9 months.

Circumstances of Near Fatality.

On March 25, 2009 at approximately 4:30 pm, Children and Youth Services received a referral from [REDACTED] regarding the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. The reporting source stated that [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED] was not acting like himself and became lethargic. [REDACTED] called 911. [REDACTED] was originally transported to Crozer Chester Medical Center where it was determined that he [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] also had bruising to his face and ears almost as if someone had grabbed his face and squeezed it. A chest x-ray was completed and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had a seizure when brought into the Emergency Room and was listed in critical condition. The CT of his head [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] and transferred to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. [REDACTED] contacted Delaware County Children and Youth later in the evening and reported that [REDACTED] was being evaluated for a possible stroke. Treating medical professionals at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia report the following information: the child's head injuries are a result of blunt force trauma to the head; [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]. The child underwent a [REDACTED] on March 25, 2009 to [REDACTED]. On April 22, 2009 [REDACTED] underwent a [REDACTED] and required five days of recovery. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] Children's Hospital for sixteen days. [REDACTED] suffered from a [REDACTED] to the left front and left back region of his head and a portion of the right back region of the head. [REDACTED]. In addition, [REDACTED] to the brain, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] to the left eye. The child was noted to have [REDACTED] that were resolving, and mild hearing loss bilaterally. [REDACTED] had suffered severe pain and impairment of

functioning [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] from Children's Hospital he was [REDACTED] to Children's Hospital's Seashore House [REDACTED]

03/31/2009: Office visit with [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] interview and investigation. [REDACTED] history was obtained, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was assessed. The allegations were presented and discussed. The releases of information for medical reports were signed.

04/1/2009: County made contact with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia social worker. [REDACTED] was medically stable and waiting for a [REDACTED] bed at the Seashore House.

04/2/2009: County made contact with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] suffered blunt force trauma to his head. There is no medical explanation for [REDACTED] injuries. [REDACTED] continues to be tube fed and will remain [REDACTED] until he can tolerate bottle feeding and regains body strength. A portion of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/06/2009: Delaware County Children and Youth Services Internal Review was held.

05/18/2009: Family was accepted for services.

06/09/2009: Family Services Plan was developed.

06/01/09: Risk Assessment was completed. It was determined that the overall severity and overall risk are HIGH RISK. Risk/Severity Assessment Form was completed in response to Risk Assessment.

The [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 5/18/2009, naming biological mother [REDACTED] as the [REDACTED] of serious physical injury to [REDACTED], based on medical evidence. Medical professionals determined that his injuries were a result of blunt force trauma to the head that was non-accidental in nature.

Current / most recent status of case:

- On June 1, 2009 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] signed a voluntary placement agreement granting Delaware County Children and Youth temporary legal and physical custody [REDACTED]. The family was accepted for services.
- [REDACTED] is placed in foster care with Bethanna-Lancaster. [REDACTED] is provided with visits once every two weeks for one hour at the Children and Youth services office in Chester located at 531 Penn Street. Bethanna will transport [REDACTED] to the visits. [REDACTED] is responsible for transporting herself to the visit. Should [REDACTED] move further away and need to take a bus to the visits, tokens will be provided after reviewing budgeting and income with

Children and Youth Services. [REDACTED] must confirm her visit with Children and Youth Services at least 24 hours in advance.

- Due to the extent of injuries [REDACTED] suffered, he [REDACTED] receives [REDACTED] through [REDACTED] and Schrieber's Pediatric Rehabilitation Center.

County Strengths and Deficiencies as Identified by the County Review Report:

Strengths: According to the county findings, the Risk/Severity Assessment was completed as determined by the Pennsylvania Model Risk Assessment. It was determined that the overall severity and overall risk are High. The county obtained the necessary medical background of [REDACTED]. The county identified goals in the Family Service Plan that would address mother's [REDACTED]. The county also addressed mother's [REDACTED] and made the appropriate recommendations and referrals. The county verified that [REDACTED] had no history with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services.

Deficiencies: There was discussion that [REDACTED] was living with her mother prior to the incident. It was also stated that the maternal grandmother noted bruising on the child after they moved from her home in New Jersey; however, she did not make a referral to Children and Youth. The county did not provide any documentation of the maternal grandmother's biographical information. There is no evidence that the Delaware County Children and Youth contacted New Jersey Department of Youth and Family Services. Upon further investigation by SERO (court reports from adjudication hearing on June 30th 2009, Master [REDACTED]), it was determined that Delaware County did contact New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, to obtain childhood documents of [REDACTED]. On June 19, 2009, a request was made to [REDACTED] the Legal Department of the State of New Jersey's Department of Youth and Family Services, requesting access to the [REDACTED] family's case file and copies of all pertinent information relating to [REDACTED] and agency services provided to the family.

County Recommendations:

On May 6, 2009 Delaware County Children and Youth Services had an internal review of the [REDACTED] family case. The review team did not have any recommendations for changes at the state and local level on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to this case. The family was not known to the agency. [REDACTED] had recently moved to the area and there were no child welfare issues that would have warranted a referral to the agency. [REDACTED] was living with her mother and meeting the needs of her child. This incident occurred when [REDACTED] moved out of her mother's home. The review team recognized that collaboration of community agencies and service providers is essential when working as a team and addressing the needs of the client. Delaware County did invite Philadelphia Department of Human Services to attend the review; however, there was no representation from DHS.

