



**REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth:** 08/03/2015  
**Date of Incident:** 01/23/2017  
**Date of Report to ChildLine:** 01/24/2017  
**CWIS Referral ID:** [REDACTED]

**FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**  
07/26/2017

Unredacted reports are confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released to the public.  
(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6340)

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

**Reason for Review:**

Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through OCYF, must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a 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.

The Child Protective Services Law also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a fatality or near fatality is substantiated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the report to ChildLine.

Lackawanna County did not convene a review team in accordance with the CPSL related to this report as the case was unfounded within 30 days of the date of report.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1990
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	08/03/2015
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2010
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2014
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	[REDACTED] 1957

\*Denotes an individual that is not a household member or did not live in the home at the time of the incident, but is relevant to the report.

**Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:**

The Northeast Regional Office of Children, Youth, and Families (NERO) communicated with Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services (OYFS) via phone upon receipt of the report to review the initial referral and allegations.

The NERO secured and reviewed current case documentation. Since the case was unfounded within 30 days of the incident, an Act 33 meeting was not convened.

**Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:**

There was no prior children and youth involvement with this family.

**Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:**

OYFS received a referral on 01/24/2017 stating that the victim child was brought to the emergency room of Moses Taylor Hospital via ambulance after he ingested at least one of his maternal grandmother’s [REDACTED] pills. Reportedly, the mother was watching television when she noticed the child stumbling around

and they called the ambulance. Upon arrival at the hospital, the child was not moving [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The child was not opening his eyes and would go to eight respirations per minute and back to normal and then back to eight [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A drug screen completed on the child was negative. The child was transferred to [REDACTED] Hershey Medical Center. The child was certified to be in serious condition based upon neglect and was expected to survive.

OYFS caseworkers immediately made contact with the family upon receipt of the referral. Since the mother was at the medical center with the child, the worker made phone contact with her. The mother stated that her other two children were currently at her home with the maternal grandmother. The mother stated that the father of the children is deceased. The mother reported that the maternal grandmother, who was visiting from New York, had been cleaning out her purse and took her medications out. Mother stated the medication bottles were in a Ziploc bag but the [REDACTED] bottle was not in the bag and was just in her purse. Mother said that a pill must have fallen out of the bottle. When asked how she knew the child ingested the pill, the mother stated that the police officer spoke to her 6 year old who reported that the child took a pill. A Dauphin County Children and Youth caseworker saw the victim child at the medical facility and an OYFS caseworker went to the home to see the child's two siblings and speak with the maternal grandmother. Both children were found to be asleep upon the caseworker's arrival. There were no safety concerns found with the home. The caseworker spoke with the maternal grandmother about the incident. Maternal grandmother reported that she had been cleaning her purse out on the mother's bed when the child came onto the bed. Maternal grandmother stated she had her medicine out and she noticed that the child had one of her [REDACTED] pills in his hand and she immediately removed it from him and did not believe the child took any pills. Maternal grandmother said that the pills had fallen out while she was cleaning her purse. Maternal grandmother reported that about an hour later the child started acting lethargic and was walking funny and the mother immediately called the ambulance. While at the home, the caseworker examined the bottles and found that the lids were not "child proof" and opened very easily. The maternal grandmother showed the caseworker where she was currently keeping her medications which was on the top shelf in the closet. The maternal grandmother reported that she had been at the home since 01/17/2017 and was returning to her home in New York on 01/29/2017. The caseworker also spoke with the responding police officers and hospital staff who reported that they had no concerns with either the mother or the maternal grandmother.

The child was [REDACTED] the following day with no medical concerns or issues. Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services determined the case to be unfounded on 01/31/2017 as the child was adequately supervised and the mother sought medical care immediately.

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

Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families:

Lackawanna County OYFS immediately went to the home and assessed the safety of all children in the home. The staff also worked diligently to obtain all relevant medical information and made collateral contacts with responding police officers.

Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families:

Not applicable as there was no Act 33 review team meeting held in this case.

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse:

Not applicable as there was no Act 33 review team meeting held in this case.

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies:

Not applicable as there was no Act 33 review team meeting held in this case.

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse:

Not applicable as there was no Act 33 review team meeting held in this case.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

Not applicable as there was no Act 33 review team meeting held in this case so a review team report was not completed.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

County Strengths:

NERO has determined that OYFS commenced the Child Protective Services investigation of the victim child's case in a timely and thorough manner. The county agency has followed all established protocols for referral to law enforcement agencies and collaboration established by statute and DHS regulations.

County Weaknesses:

No county weaknesses noted.

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency:

No statutory or regulatory areas of non-compliance were found.

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

The Department recommends community education and awareness regarding safe medication storage and transportation.