



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 10/05/2016
Date of Incident: 03/15/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 03/15/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Philadelphia Department of Human Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
12/26/2017

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.

Philadelphia County has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report, as the allegations were unfounded within 30 days of the date of the report.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	10/05/2016
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED] 1984
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2007
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2010
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2015
[REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	unknown

Summary of OCYF Child Near-Fatality Review Activities:

Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families staff contacted investigation staff, and reviewed records.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family did not have children and youth involvement prior to the incident.

Circumstances of Child Near-Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 03/15/2017, the Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a call stating that the 4-month-old victim child was brought to St. Christopher’s Hospital from Boxborough Memorial Hospital. The referral source stated that the child had swelling to her right scalp area [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The parents offered no explanation how the child was injured. The mother reported that the child was somewhat fussy, and then showed some signs of an altered mental status. The mother took the child to Boxborough Memorial Hospital.

On 03/15/2017, Philadelphia DHS staff met with hospital staff, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] No other injuries were found on the child. The child was determined to be in serious, but stable condition.

On that same date, the other children living in the home (ages 10, 7 and 2) were brought to the hospital for evaluation. The victim child's siblings were found to have no apparent injuries. Philadelphia DHS staff met with the victim child's siblings at the hospital. The 6-year-old sibling stated that she had heard that the victim child fell off the bed. The 10-year-old child was watching the baby when they were in the maternal grandmother's room. The 10-year-old child said that she was watching the victim child, who was squirming. The victim child was placed on the bed, and then rolled off the bed and fell on the floor. The grandmother came in and took the victim child and was able to calm the victim child.

Philadelphia DHS staff then met separately with the victim child's parents. The mother stated that she had taken the children to her brother's house, as it was going to snow, and the father was working. The mother stated that the baby woke up at 7:00 or 8:00 in the morning, babbling and not especially fussy. The child sat up that day for a short time. The mother did not see anything out of the ordinary, and they returned home around 7:00 pm. The mother stated that the baby was trying to crawl, and that she was able to scoot. The worker also met with the father, who was noted to be "very resistant," stating that he was not even home and could not say what had happened. He stated that he did not go to the uncle's house in [REDACTED], because the father had to work. He came home from work at 9:30 in the evening, ate something, and went upstairs. The mother was trying to comfort the victim child and feed her, but she was not drinking. The parents took turns trying to comfort the victim child. The child then vomited and went limp. The father drove the child to the hospital, because it was faster than the ambulance.

On 03/20/2017, Philadelphia DHS staff met with the victim child's siblings in the home of their maternal uncle, as well as the victim child's mother, maternal grandmother, paternal grandmother, and paternal uncle. No concerns were found from the interviews, and no additional information was found related to the cause of the injury.

On 3/20/2017, Philadelphia DHS staff met with [REDACTED] staff from St. Christopher's Hospital for Children [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the explanation that was given later, that the victim child fell off a bed of standard height, was consistent with the child's injury. The 10-year-old sibling made similar statements to law enforcement and to Philadelphia DHS on that date.

On 03/27/2017, the Philadelphia Children's Alliance reported that they were declining to interview the victim child's siblings, as they had already been interviewed by law enforcement. As reported in supervision, the worker consulted with [REDACTED], whose findings were also that the child's injury was consistent with a fall from a standard-height bed. DHS attorneys were also consulted, [REDACTED]

Philadelphia DHS staff made a determination on 03/29/2017, that the case was unfounded. A referral was made for voluntary [REDACTED] Services [REDACTED] to monitor the child's transition home and [REDACTED]. On 4/3/17, the Philadelphia DHS worker completed a joint visit to the family home with the [REDACTED] worker. The DHS case was closed on 4/25/17.

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

The county was not required to conduct a review because the allegations were unfounded within 30 days of the date of the referral.

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families: N/A
- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families: N/A
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse: N/A
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies: N/A
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse. N/A

Department Review of County Internal Report: N/A

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths: Philadelphia DHS staff coordinated well with law enforcement and medical professionals.
- County Weaknesses: None identified
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency. None identified

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

None identified