



**REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth:** 09/10/2008  
**Date of Incident:** 08/13/2017  
**Date of Report to ChildLine:** 08/13/2017  
**CWIS Referral ID:** [REDACTED]

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

Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**

01/25/2018

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.

Lancaster County completed their investigation and filed the report with ChildLine as Unfounded on 08/19/2017 which is before the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the investigation. A review team did not need to be convened.

**Family Constellation:**

First and Last Name:

[REDACTED]  
\*

Relationship:

Victim Child  
Mother  
Father  
Half-Sibling

Date of Birth:

09/10/2008  
[REDACTED] 1981  
[REDACTED] 1966  
[REDACTED] 2000

\*This child remained in New Hampshire and was not with the family in Pennsylvania at the time of children and youth involvement.

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

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CERO) obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the family. CERO staff reviewed various reports, assessments, and case documentation provided by Lancaster County. CERO staff discussed the case with the county on 08/18/2017 and 08/25/2017.

**Summary of circumstances prior to Incident:**

Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency (LCCYA) has not experienced prior involvement with the victim child or her family.

The family had prior involvement with New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families. The agency obtained records from the State of New Hampshire during the course of the investigation. There were general neglect reports in 2012 and 2013 that were closed without further services.

On 06/13/2017, New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families received a report that the victim child was observed to have bruising on her body that was

unexplained. An investigation occurred with the father being questioned regarding discipline practices. The child denied physical discipline and offered other explanations for the bruising. The case was not substantiated and closed.

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

On 08/13/2017, the child was brought into the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon as she had been complaining of head pain and headaches. The family was from New Hampshire and was staying at the [REDACTED] Campground in [REDACTED], Lancaster County. Upon arrival at the emergency room, the child was screaming in pain. Bruising was observed on both of her legs from hip to ankle, as well as petechia on her face, jaw, neck, and rib cage. The child's knees were also bleeding. The mother stated that the child had woken in the middle of the night complaining of a headache. She also said the child was confused and not making sense when she woke up. The mother offered several explanations for the bruising and bleeding knees which included the child bumping her head in bed, tripping, and playing outside. There were concerns that the stories were changing. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] physician certified the child to be in critical condition [REDACTED] Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency (CYA) as a child abuse investigation and near fatality. [REDACTED] the child was being transferred to Hershey Medical Center by ambulance.

The agency and law enforcement immediately met with the child and the parents to discuss the investigation. The parents explained that they were in Pennsylvania to renew their vows at the Renaissance Faire. They stated that the child had been acting strangely this morning which included holding her arm limp, eyes rolling back, and stumbling around. The child could not explain the origin of some of her bruising. Hershey Medical Center [REDACTED] believed this to be more of a [REDACTED] issue and not abuse. [REDACTED] The agency was also in contact with social workers in New Hampshire to gather history on the family. The caseworker remained in contact with New Hampshire throughout the case as they would be following up with the family when they returned to the state.

On 08/17/2017, Hershey Medical Center had completed all tests on the child. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The child [REDACTED] on this date and permitted to return to New Hampshire by train.

Lancaster County CYA filed their investigation report with ChildLine on 08/18/2017 with a status of Unfounded. The injuries were determined to be as a result of the child's medical condition. No inappropriate actions were suspected. The case was closed with no additional services. No charges were filed as a result of the

investigation. The family returned to New Hampshire when the child [REDACTED] the hospital.

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

Lancaster County CYA did not convene a review team as the report was unfounded before the 30<sup>th</sup> day. As such, a County Child Near-Fatality report was not completed.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

Lancaster County did not provide a County Internal Report due to the case being unfounded before the 30<sup>th</sup> day.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

County Strengths:

The agency responded immediately and worked closely with law enforcement and medical personnel to gather information.

The agency contacted the New Hampshire Department for Children, Youth and Families to obtain history on the family and remained in contact with them, providing a referral for the family at the close of the case.

The caseworker appeared to act as a coordinator, assuring that communication was occurring between all parties, and that all were kept informed of any new developments on the case.

County Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

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

No areas of non-compliance noted.

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

No recommendations are being offered as a result of this report.