



**REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth:** 07/21/2017  
**Date of Incident:** 12/03/2017  
**Date of Report to ChildLine:** 12/03/2017  
**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:**

6/1/2018

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 12/21/2017 which is before the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the investigation. A review team did not need to be convened.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	07/21/2017
[REDACTED]	Half-Sibling	[REDACTED] 2008
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1989
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1991
[REDACTED]	Paternal Great-Grandmother	[REDACTED] 1971

**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 [REDACTED] family. CERO staff reviewed various reports, assessments, and case documentation provided by Lancaster County. CERO staff discussed the case with the county on 12/05/2017 and 04/26/2018.

**Summary of circumstances prior to Incident:**

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

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

On 12/03/2017, Lancaster County CYA received a report of suspected physical abuse of a child after the victim child was brought to the hospital with seizure-like activity. The child received a CT Scan which showed subdural hygromas. It was reported at the hospital that the great-grandmother of the child had dropped him at 3 months. The treating physician certified the child to be in serious condition and the report was processed as a near fatality. The report also indicated that the hospital was testing for [REDACTED]. The child was being transferred [REDACTED]

The agency immediately went to the hospital to see the child and the family before the child was transferred to [REDACTED]. The mother stated that she and the father and

her other children live in the home. The paternal great-grandmother lives in the basement. The mother described that around Halloween of 2017, she asked the paternal great-grandmother to care for the victim child while the mother cleaned the home. She stated that in the afternoon she heard a loud thud and went downstairs. The paternal great-grandmother explained that she had fallen while stepping over a baby gate while she held the victim child. The child had rolled out of her arms, but she didn't see the child fall. The mother stated that the child was crying but did calm down. The next morning, he was still grumpy so she took him to the emergency room. She stated that they were sent home because nothing was wrong. The mother then reported that on the Tuesday prior to this current hospital visit, the child was screaming and really unhappy. They took him to the hospital and tests came back normal. He had a fever on Wednesday and Thursday reaching to 103 degrees. On Thursday she brought him back to the hospital and he was diagnosed with bronchitis. On Saturday he was screaming again, and then she brought him to the ER on Sunday (12/03/2017) and he was having seizures. The agency was able to confirm the ER visits. The half-sibling of the victim child was staying with his father during the investigation.

On 12/04/2017, the agency received confirmation from [REDACTED] that the child was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis and abuse was not suspected. Because of this, Lancaster City Police did not pursue the case further. The victim child was moved from intensive care to regular care and would need to be admitted for 3 to 4 weeks for medication administration. The child was discharged to the mother on 12/19/2017 with in-home nursing as needed. There would be monthly follow-up visits at [REDACTED].

Lancaster County CYA filed their investigation report with ChildLine on 12/21/2017 with a status of Unfounded. The child was determined to have bacterial meningitis which led to the medical concerns. No inappropriate actions were suspected. The case was closed with no additional services. No charges were filed as a result of the investigation.

**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.
  - All medical records were obtained by the agency.

- County Weaknesses:
  - The agency did not provide the paternal great-grandmother with the proper notifications of the report.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.
  - 3490.58(b) – The agency did not provide written notice to the paternal great-grandmother, detailing the report and her rights as an alleged perpetrator. The County was previously cited on this area and the County has submitted a plan of correction that was approved by The Department.

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

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

TBD by F/NF Team