



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 07/22/2010
Date of Incident: 04/25/2019
Date of Report to ChildLine: 04/27/2019
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

**FAMILY KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF
INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

Cambria County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

October 31, 2019

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.

Cambria County did convene a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The review team was convened on 05/23/2019.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
██████████	Victim Child	07/22/2010
██████████	Mother	██████████ 1977
██████████	Adult Sibling	██████████ 1994

* 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 Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CROCYF) reviewed case records pertaining to the ██████████ family. The CROCYF representative engaged and had conversations with the Cambria County Children and Youth Services Casework Supervisor and assigned Caseworker to discuss the incident and subsequent findings.

Summary of circumstances prior to Incident:

Representatives of Cambria County CYC informed CROCYF that the family was known to the agency.

The agency received a report on 07/23/2010 that ██████████
██████████ At the time of ██████████
██████████ Cambria County CYC verified that
the ██████████, and the report was rejected on 10/04/2010. On
12/25/2015, the CYC agency was alerted to a report, LEO, that involved ██████████
██████████
██████████ Once law enforcement
received notification, the intake was concluded.

Cambria County CYC received a report on 06/29/2016 concerning the victim child's

[REDACTED] The agency identified that an adult sibling was in the home caring for the children, and since there were no allegations of child abuse, the report was screened out. The agency screened out another report that was received on 02/23/2016 where there was concern that since [REDACTED] there was a lack a supervision. The agency ensured that there were caretakers for the children, and subsequently screened out the report.

On 03/26/2018, the CYC agency received a report focused on the victim child's poor eating habits [REDACTED] It

was noted that the lunch the child took to school [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The agency confirmed that the victim child

[REDACTED] and the CYC agency determined that the victim child and caretakers were complying with services. The agency rejected the report.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

According to information received by Cambria County CYC, the victim child, who is diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, began vomiting and experiencing diarrhea on 04/23/2019. The victim child's mother reported that on 04/24/2019, the son "could not get off the floor and was crying" and he was breathing fast. The child's symptoms continued through 04/25/2019. The victim child's mother informed the CYC agency that she was unable to check her son's glucose levels on 04/24/2019 and for the majority of the day, 04/25/2019. It was not until 04/25/2019 that the child's mother sought medical treatment. Emergency medical services transported the victim child to a local hospital where it was decided to transfer the child to an acute hospital [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Medical practitioners assessed that the victim child was in critical condition due to severe diabetic ketoacidosis, and he was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit. The victim child was discharged from the hospital on 04/28/2019, and placed in the care of his older sister. Cambria County CYC noted that the victim child received in home nursing care after his discharge, and the agency indicated that they assisted the family with gaining approval from insurance companies.

During the victim child's forensic interview on 05/14/2019, he disclosed that he was checking his own sugar level, and that he had to figure out his own insulin dosages due to the mother sleeping during the few days that he was sick. On 06/24/2019, Cambria County CYC concluded their investigation and indicated the victim child's mother as a perpetrator for causing serious physical neglect of a child; failure to provide medical treatment/care. The agency supported their outcome by stating, "The report meets the criteria for causing serious physical neglect of a child by failing to provide medical treatment/care as the mother has knowledge of the child's diagnosis in regard to monitoring, administering medication, and seeking out medical treatment if the child's sugar levels were not able to be controlled." Cambria County CYC opened the family for services on the same date.

Cambria County CYS petitioned the Court, and on 07/17/2019, it was ordered that the victim child would be placed in the custody of his adult sister, and the Court also ordered no further services be provided to the family on behalf of CYS. The victim child's older sister has met with a diabetic educator, and she has met with her brother's dietician and his endocrinologist. It is noted that [REDACTED] at the same time the CPS report was being investigated. The victim child's mother agreed with the Court that her daughter can care for her younger brother [REDACTED]. Cambria County closed the family for services on the same date. At the time of this report, the police department with jurisdiction is still investigating the incident.

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

The Act 33 Team assessed that Cambria County CYS was in regulatory compliance in relation to the agency's investigation, etc.

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

The Act 33 Team recommended that the County's Child Advocacy Center was going to be informed to also notify the CROCYF Region of date/time of forensic interviews in future Fatality/Near Fatality investigations.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The CROCYF received Cambria County CYS' Child Near Fatality Child Report on 10/04/2019. Upon review of the documentation, the CROCYF assessed that the information efficiently described the incident, the actions taken by the agencies

involved, and the status of the case. There were no issues or concerns regarding the content of the report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:

At the time of this report, the CROCYF has not identified areas of strength.

- County Weaknesses:

At the time of this report, the CROCYF has not identified areas of weakness.

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

At the time of this report, the CROCYF has not identified areas of regulatory non-compliance.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The CROCYF has no recommendations in regards to this incident and the subsequent investigation by Cambria County CYS County.