



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 05/16/2017
Date of Incident: 06/22/2018
Date of Report to ChildLine: 06/22/2018
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 Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

01/24/2019

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.

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 06/27/2018 and a follow up meeting was held on 07/18/2018.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	05/16/2017
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED] 1995
[REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED] 1994

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CROCYF) reviewed case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. CROCYF representative engaged the Lancaster County Children and Youth Services (LCCCYS) Intake Director and Supervisor to discuss the incident. CROCYF Human Services Program Representative attended and participated in the Act 33 meetings that occurred on 06/27/2018 and 07/18/2018.

Summary of circumstances prior to Incident:

The family was not known to the agency prior to the incident.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 6/22/2018, the child was with his mother, in a local thrift store when he fell approximately 2 feet from a bench and bumped his head on the floor. The mother reported that the child was knocking hangars on the floor to watch them fall. The child leaned forward to watch the hangars and fell forward, hitting his head on the floor. She reported that he was inconsolable and his legs stiffened. The mother contacted emergency services and the child was transferred via ambulance to [REDACTED] Hospital [REDACTED] determined that the child sustained a subdural hematoma and sent the child via ambulance to [REDACTED]. A Child Protective Service (CPS) referral for Lancaster County Children and Youth Services and Near Fatality report were generated as the injuries did not appear to be consistent with the history provided.

The child was assessed at [REDACTED] and it was determined that the child was macrocephalic with easy bleeding due to a benign enlargement of the subarachnoid space. This is a condition that predisposes the child to brain bleeding from minor trauma. The condition is congenital, and the injuries were determined not to be related to child abuse. [REDACTED] also found that the child had congenital spinal abnormalities and recommended further follow up for that issue.

The report was unfounded on 07/18/2018 and no criminal charges were filed. The family returned to their home in Alabama and LCCYS has made a referral to the corresponding agency to assure that follow up medical care is obtained by the family.

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;

An immediate response time was assigned to the case and the Agency met with the family the same day.

The Agency completed Safety and Risk Assessments on the family to help guide their decision making.

A collaborative investigation has occurred for this case between the hospital and Children and Youth Agency.

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

None identified.

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

None identified.

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

None identified.

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

None identified.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The CROCYF received the Lancaster County CYS Child Near Fatality Child Review Team Summary on 09/19/2018. Upon review of the report, CROCYF assessed that the documentation efficiently described the incident, the actions taken by the agencies involved, and the current status of the case. There were no issues or concerns regarding the content of the report. Written feedback was provided to the agency.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:

The agency responded to the referral immediately.

Agency personnel worked closely with the medical team in order to thoroughly assess and investigate the allegations.

The agency's Act 33 meeting was well represented by county personnel, medical providers, and law enforcement.

- County Weaknesses:

None noted.

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

After review of the file, the agency was found to be in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

There are no recommendations as a result of this review.