



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 01/05/2019
Date of Incident: 07/01/2019
Date of Report to ChildLine: 07/01/2019
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Cumberland County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
01/09/2020

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 Office of Children, Youth and Families, 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.

Cumberland County completed their investigation and filed the report with ChildLine as unfounded on 07/29/2019 which is before the 30th 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

Date of Birth:

01/05/2019
[REDACTED] 1996
[REDACTED] 1997

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 conferred with Cumberland County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) staff involved with this case.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

CCCYS has no history of involvement with this family prior to the report of the child's death.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On the night of 07/01/2019, the child was taken by her parents to the local emergency room after the child experienced a fall where she hit her head and began projectile vomiting. At the hospital, the child was determined to have a skull fracture, hemorrhaging, and an epidural hematoma. She was transported to [REDACTED] hospital for treatment. An emergency surgery was completed to remove the hematoma. Following the surgery, the child's eyes were opened and she was moving her arms and legs. Additional testing was completed on the child including a skeletal survey and an eye exam. There were no other injuries or concerns noted as a result of these additional tests which showed that the fracture was healing and the hemorrhaging had subsided. The child was released from the hospital on 07/03/2019 to the care of her parents and is expected to make a full recovery.

The family had no other children in the home. Following the incident, Cumberland County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) immediately assessed the safety of the child. No safety concerns were identified and the child was able to remain with her parents.

Information received during the investigation indicates that the child was placed in the middle of a queen-sized bed in the parents' bedroom. The bed is about 2 feet off the ground. The father had his back turned to the bed and was sorting laundry while the mother was quickly redoing her hair and had her head flipped upside down to gather all her hair into a ponytail. When she flipped her head back up, she witnessed the child falling off the bed onto the floor which is hardwood and only covered by a thin rug. The mother immediately picked her up and attempted to comfort her. After several minutes of comforting the child, the mother noticed a lump on the backside of the child's head on the left side. The mother also noted that the child appeared sleepy and had begun to projectile vomit. The parents then immediately took the child to [REDACTED] hospital for treatment.

The child is developmentally on target and was able to roll over prior to the incident occurring, which is why the parents made sure to place her in the middle of the bed during the brief time that the mother was fixing her hair. Evidence reviewed during the investigation shows that the parents have been consistent in meeting all the child's basic and medical needs. This case was unfounded on 07/29/2019 as the medical professionals determined that the child's injuries were consistent with a child accidentally rolling off the bed and hitting their head. Local law enforcement have also concluded their investigation and no charges are being filed.

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

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families:
 - CCCYS did not convene a review team as the report was unfounded before the 30th day. As such, a County Child Near Fatality report was not completed.
- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families:
 - CCCYS did not convene a review team as the report was unfounded before the 30th day. As such, a County Child Near Fatality report was not completed.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse:
 - CCCYS did not convene a review team as the report was unfounded before the 30th day. As such, a County Child Near Fatality report was not completed.

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and
 - CCCYS did not convene a review team as the report was unfounded before the 30th day. As such, a County Child Near Fatality report was not completed.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.
 - CCCYS did not convene a review team as the report was unfounded before the 30th day. As such, a County Child Near Fatality report was not completed.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The County was not required to provide a County Internal Report due to the case being unfounded before the 30th day.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths: (speak to working with NJ, Spanish speaking)
 - The agency immediately began the investigation, cooperating with medical personal and law enforcement.
 - The agency conducted very detailed and thorough interviews with the subjects of the report. Decisions made on the case were well-informed.
- County Weaknesses:
 - None noted.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.
 - None Identified.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The Department has no recommendations.