



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 04/04/2018
Date of Incident: 09/05/2019
Date of Report to ChildLine: 09/05/2019
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:

04/26/2020

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 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 has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The review team meeting was convened on 09/25/2019.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	04/04/2018
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	Unknown
[REDACTED]	Biological Father	Unknown
[REDACTED]	Full Sibling	[REDACTED] 2014

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CERO) obtained and reviewed all case records pertaining to the family. CERO staff attended the Act 33 meeting held by Lancaster County and spoke with Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency (LCCYA) staff involved with this case.

Summary of circumstances prior to Incident:

The family was not previously known to LCCYA. received.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

The child was taken to the local hospital on 09/05/2019 after she was seriously injured in an incident on the family’s farm. The child was then transferred to a specialty hospital where she was treated for a collapsed lung, rib fracture and numerous pulmonary injuries. She was released from the hospital on 09/11/2019 to the care of her parents and is expected to make a full recovery.

On the day of the incident, the child was in the family’s barn with her mother and sibling, where her mother was milking cows. Her father was also working on the farm and was driving a self-propelled feeder. It was reported to be very loud in the barn. The mother had just turned to answer the child’s sibling, who had asked a question, and the child wandered off. The father was backing the self-propelled feeder into the barn, at this time, and was unable to see the child. The child was hit by the 1,000-pound piece of equipment and pinned under the tire. The father did

not see the child but felt a bump and immediately stopped the machine. Emergency medical attention was immediately sought for the child.

LCCYA responded to the hospital on the date of the incident to ensure the safety of the child. However, the child's sibling was not seen and assessed by the LCCYA staff until 09/16/2019. LCCYA worked with the family to make recommendations to help improve safety features around the farm which the family complied with. This included adding blind spot mirrors to identified areas in the barn where the incident had occurred.

This case was determined by LCCYA to be unfounded on 10/04/2019. Local law enforcement also completed their investigation and no charges are being filed.

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 appropriate response time was assigned, and the Agency met with the family and children within 24 hours.
 - The Agency completed Safety and Risk Assessments on the family to help guide their practice.
 - A collaborative investigation has occurred for this case between the hospital, police and Children and Youth Agency.
 - Caseworker visited the child's home on at least 2 occasions.
 - The Agency provided the family with information regarding [REDACTED] [REDACTED] resources.
 - The Agency recommended that the parents install blind spot mirrors in areas of the barn that create visual challenges. The parents did comply and have installed blind spot mirrors.
 - The Agency caseworker reviewed with the parents the layout of the farm including the milking room and the visual challenges the layout of the barn presents and how loud it is in the barn area during certain times of the day. The caseworker reviewed the importance of providing proper supervision of their children and the importance of proper use of farming equipment.
- 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:
 - The Act 33 committee discussed the realization that the Agency continues to receive reports of children being injured in farming accidents. While much work has been done in the Amish community, providing education and increasing safety awareness, the Agency will continue to bring attention to the safety concerns on farms and

provide opportunities to have ongoing discussions on ways to increase overall safety.

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and
 - None identified
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.
 - Farm and Home Safety Committee can be contacted to look at the farm set up and offer suggestions to increase overall safety.
 - The Agency could explore with the Farm and Home Safety Committee the possibility of reaching out to families in the Amish community that have had a child injured as a result of farming accident. Perhaps they could provide testimonials during farm safety training that is arranged annually by the Farm and Home Safety Committee, to stress the importance of farm safety and how imperative it is to provide adequate supervision of their children.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

Lancaster County submitted their report in a timely manner within the required 90-day timeframe. The county report was reviewed, and the Department is in agreement with their findings.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:
 - LCCYA immediately began the investigation and worked cooperatively with local law enforcement to ensure a thorough investigation was completed.
 - LCCYA consulted with medical professionals.
 - LCCYA made recommendations to help improve safety features around the farm which the family complied with.
 - Educations was provided to the parents on proper supervision and use of farming equipment.
 - LCCYA has a respectful and professional working relationship with the local Amish Community.
- County Weaknesses:
 - LCCYA did not see the other child in the home until 11 days after the original report came in.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.
 - §6368 (a) The incident occurred on 09/05/2019. LCCYA responded to the hospital and physically saw the child and her parents on 09/05/2019. No attempts were made to physically see and ensure the safety of the child's sibling until 09/16/2019.

A Licensing Inspection Summary will be issued to LCCYA regarding this identified area of non-compliance.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The Department concurs with the County Team's recommendation to provide further education and increase safety awareness within the Amish and other farming communities.