



REPORT ON THE FATALITY

Joaquim Staats

Date of Birth: 05/19/2011

Date of Incident: 01/06/2019

Date of Report to ChildLine: 01/06/2019

CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Dauphin County Children and Youth

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

7/25/2019

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.

Dauphin County has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on January 25, 2019.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Joaquim Staats	Victim child	05/19/2011
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED]/1974
[REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED]/1970

Summary of OCYF Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CRO) obtained and reviewed all case records pertaining to the family. A discussion occurred with the Assistant Administrator on 01/07/2018. The CRO did attend the Act 33 meeting on 01/25/2019.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

Dauphin County Children and Youth Services (DCCYS) prior involvement started on 10/29/18 with receipt of a [REDACTED] referral regarding concerns of domestic violence. Dauphin County requested that referral be re-evaluated to York County Children and Youth because the address provided to them was in York County. York County learned that the family resided in Dauphin County and provided Dauphin County with an accurate address and a new referral was created on 11/2/18 alleging potential domestic violence and violence against the child. Agency personnel made an unannounced home visit and spoke [REDACTED]. Agency personnel talked with the [REDACTED] about [REDACTED] likes, dislikes, school and social activities. The [REDACTED] did not make any disclosures of domestic violence, besides yelling sometimes, or physical discipline aside from [REDACTED] grabbing [REDACTED] arm; but [REDACTED] denied any pain or impairment. The [REDACTED] was very talkative and showed [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] and denied any domestic violence and said arguments are verbal only. The agency confirmed that the child was cyber schooled and was getting routine medical care. The [REDACTED] denied allegations other than verbal altercations between [REDACTED]. The agency contacted the local police who denied

domestic violence reports on the family. The [REDACTED] was provided with resources for [REDACTED] and shelter and the case was closed on 11/29/2018.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

Dauphin County Children and Youth Services (DCCYS) received a call from the District Attorney's office on 01/06/2019 indicating there was a murder suicide earlier that morning. According to the referral information, the victim child's [REDACTED] went into the child's room and shot him. The victim child's [REDACTED] then shot the victim child's [REDACTED]. The victim child's [REDACTED] then shot [REDACTED]. All three parties were deceased. It is believed that the actual incident may have occurred on 01/02/2019. No other children living in the home.

Dauphin County Children and Youth Services were in contact with law enforcement that same day. Due to all the parties being deceased; no interviews were conducted. Dauphin County provided law enforcement with their prior involvement information. Law enforcement asked Dauphin County if they can contact other counties to see if any other counties have any information on this family. Dauphin County contacted the following counties: York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, Philadelphia, Northumberland, Snyder, Juniata, Adams, and Schuylkill County. None of the counties contacted had any involvement with this family.

On 01/07/2019, the agency received a supplemental referral stating the victim child was seen for a visit and [REDACTED] reported child has never been enrolled in school. Social worker followed up with [REDACTED] and gave him information to enroll the child. Social worker attempted to follow up on 01/07/2019 due to schools being closed over the holiday and the phone was not working. It is unknown if the child is enrolled. The [REDACTED] reported he was unemployed and looking for work. The [REDACTED]

Dauphin County obtained medical and educational records regarding the victim child. The agency confirmed the child was enrolled in cyber school since 09/22/2017. It was also confirmed that the victim child [REDACTED]. It was reported that the [REDACTED]. It was reported that the victim child's [REDACTED] left the home and the victim child stayed with [REDACTED].

Law enforcement shared with agency personnel that the victim child's [REDACTED]. Law enforcement also shared that the [REDACTED] reported that the family cut contact with the [REDACTED] last Thanksgiving.

Law enforcement also shared that the victim child's [REDACTED] had an extensive criminal history from 1992 and 1993 when [REDACTED] was found guilty of Robbery, Theft by receiving stolen property, aggravated assault, simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, terroristic threats, possessing instruments of crime,

possessing instruments of crime weapon, criminal conspiracy and possession of a controlled substance.

Dauphin County Children and Youth Services (DCCYS) [REDACTED] the case on January 29, 2019, naming the victim child's [REDACTED] as the perpetrator for causing the death of child through any act/failure to act.

Summary of 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:

Joint Investigation Team immediately began to work together.

CYS Caseworker and law enforcement communicated openly with investigation.

CYS Caseworker obtained medical and education records of victim child.

CYS Caseworker explored if the family had been receiving services, or involvement with other CYS counties.

There was initial difficulty finding family members and CYS caseworker and law enforcement worked closely together on finding family members.

Through finding [REDACTED], law enforcement was able to learn of [REDACTED] childhood background, [REDACTED] and criminal history in Philadelphia. Law enforcement communicated all his findings to the CYS caseworker.

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

Taking [REDACTED] own educational attainments into account whenever children are enrolled in Cyber School. The victim child's program was an integrative program where the completion of his class work was monitored by his [REDACTED]

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

Regarding Cyber Schools: Should there be standards and requirements regarding [REDACTED] with limited education to have a child attend a Cyber School? [REDACTED] own education limitations prevent them from fully meeting the needs of helping child with assignments and to stay on task with logging in and meeting class requirements.

Awareness of Cyber schools working with [REDACTED] and resources when children are failing and having truancy issues. May help to see if the cause is due to unstable family situations.

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

No recommendations identified.

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

Contact Children and Youth as soon as they discover that children are experiencing truancy issues.

How to deal with [REDACTED] unwilling to obtain [REDACTED]

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Dauphin County Child Death Review Team held an Act 33 meeting on 01/25/2019 where case information was presented. The county report of the Act 33 meeting was received by the CRO on April 8, 2019. On April 15, 2019, the CRO sent correspondence to DCCYS Administrator, via letter that the report was reviewed and the regional office accepted the county report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:

The agency collaborated with Law Enforcement and communicated well with each other.

The agency's Act 33 meeting was well represented by county personnel, medical providers, and law enforcement. The meeting was very thorough, and the agency implemented their Act 33 policies and procedures.

The agency contacted ten county children and youth agencies to inquire involvement with this family.

The agency obtained medical and educational records of the victim child.

The agency worked with law enforcement to locate family.

- County Weaknesses:

None identified.

- 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:

The department does not have any recommendations at this time.