



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 08/22/2013
Date of Incident: 03/13/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 03/13/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Lycoming County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
01/11/2018

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.

Lycoming County did not convene a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report as this report was unfounded on April 04, 2017, which was within 30 days of the oral report.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1980
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	08/22/2013
[REDACTED]	Half-Sister	[REDACTED] 2014
[REDACTED]	Half-Sister	[REDACTED] 2015
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	[REDACTED] 1967

*The maternal grandmother is not a member of the child’s household but is relevant to the report as she is the alleged perpetrator.

Summary of OCYF Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CROCYF) obtained and reviewed the Lycoming County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS) child protective services investigation file. The file was inclusive of medical reports, agency safety and risk assessment records and dictation. The CROCYF conducted interviews with the Lycoming County Caseworker and Support Services Director in March and April 2017.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

LCCYS and Union County Children and Youth Services were previously involved with the family prior to receiving the Child Protective Services Report on 03/13/2017.

02/18/2016 – An indicated report of bodily injury of the victim’s youngest half sibling was submitted by Union County Children and Youth Services on 02/18/2016. The perpetrator was a caregiver not associated with this case. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The investigation determined that the injuries to the child occurred while he was in the care of the alleged perpetrator. The alleged perpetrator could offer no explanation for the injuries. The case was indicated. The alleged perpetrator left the home and has had no contact with the family. The family declined supportive services from Union County Children and Youth Services and the case was closed.

03/20/2016 to 04/03/2016 – LCCYS conducted a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation in which the current alleged perpetrator and her husband were named as perpetrators for causing bodily injury. The child involved in this case was not a family member of the child’s. The allegations involved the alleged perpetrators’ use of inappropriate discipline of the child. The investigation was unfounded. No ongoing services were provided.

03/25/2016 to 04/20/2016 – LCCYS conducted a General Protective Services (GPS) assessment for a report of lack of supervision resulting in the child’s broken arm. The alleged perpetrators were the maternal grandparents. The assessment was unable to validate the allegations and the case was unfounded. The agency determined that the incident appeared to be an accident and did not occur as a result of the alleged perpetrators lack of supervision. This GPS assessment was not validated. No ongoing services were provided.

06/25/2016 to 07/13/2016 – LCCYS conducted a GPS assessment for inappropriate discipline of a child not associated with this case. The alleged perpetrator in this case was the maternal grandmother. The alleged perpetrator admitted to posting a picture to Facebook of the child in a diaper to shame him as a form of discipline because he had urinated in his pants. This assessment was validated. The child left the alleged perpetrator’s care/home and moved to his mother’s home. Services were offered but declined by the family.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

LCCYS received this Child Protective Services report from ChildLine on 03/13/2017. Emergency medical responders were dispatched to the home of the alleged perpetrator to respond to a call that the child had overdosed. The child was

transported to UPMC Susquehanna hospital in Williamsport and then life-flighted to the hospital.

The alleged perpetrator reported that the child accidentally overdosed on [REDACTED] the hospital informed LCCYS that the case was certified as a near fatality. The child was in the care of her maternal grandmother, the alleged perpetrator, at the time of the incident. The agency ensured the safety of the child with her parents who agreed that the alleged perpetrator would not be a caregiver for the child pending the outcome of the investigation. The alleged perpetrator has two other grandchildren residing in her home along with their parents. The parents of those children agreed to a safety plan which provided that the parents would supervise the children at all times and they would not allow the alleged perpetrator to be a caregiver of the children. The alleged perpetrator also agreed to not be a caregiver for any children pending the outcome of the investigation.

LCCYS notified the [REDACTED] Police of this report verbally on 03/13/2017. The CY-104 was sent to the [REDACTED] Police on 03/14/2017. The alleged perpetrator was interviewed by LCCYS and the [REDACTED] Police on 03/20/2017. The alleged perpetrator stated that she was watching television with the child at her home in her bedroom in the mid-morning. The alleged perpetrator stated there was nobody else in the bedroom with her and the child. The alleged perpetrator stated the only other person in the home at the time of the incident was a family friend who was in the living room asleep on the couch. The alleged perpetrator stated she left the bedroom for about five minutes to use the bathroom, which is directly across the hall from the alleged perpetrator's bedroom, and when she returned to the bedroom the child was sitting on the bed with the pill bottle open and she was very drowsy. The alleged perpetrator stated that the pill bottle did not have a safety cap on it.

The alleged perpetrator stated she then called 911 because she was unsure how many pills were in the bottle and there were only two left on the bed. The alleged perpetrator stated that prior to her leaving the bedroom to use the bathroom the medication was on a shelf located on a wall in her bedroom and was out of reach of the child. The alleged perpetrator stated that they are in the process of moving and that boxes which normally wouldn't have been there were stacked below the shelf. The alleged perpetrator stated that the child is very active and that she is always getting into things [REDACTED]. The alleged perpetrator stated that she believes that the child climbed on to the boxes to obtain the medication. The alleged perpetrator denied utilizing or being under the influence of any substances at the time of the incident. The alleged perpetrator also denied leaving the home for any period of time around the time of the incident. The LCCYS caseworker and the investigating police officer noted that the alleged perpetrator's explanation was credible and consistent.

On 03/22/2017, the LCCYS caseworker visited the alleged perpetrator's home and observed the alleged perpetrator's bedroom area. The caseworker noted the small

trailer home to be very cluttered and disorganized but free of any observable safety threats. The caseworker observed the shelving and the boxes stacked below it noting that it was feasible that the child climbed on to the boxes to obtain the medication. After consultation with the police, the determination of the agency and of the police was that the incident was an unfortunate accident and was not committed knowingly, recklessly or intentionally. LCCYS unfounded this case on 04/07/2017, and submitted the CY-48 on the same date. Following the investigation LCCYS provided the alleged perpetrator with a locked medication box and ensured she knew how to utilize it.

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

* Lycoming County did not convene a review team related to this report as this report was unfounded on April 04, 2017, which was within 30 days of the oral report. Cases that are unfounded and the status determination is made within 30 days do not require a fatality or near fatality review.

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

An Act 33 Child Fatality Review Team Meeting was not held as this report was unfounded on April 04, 2017, which was within 30 days of the oral report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:
LCCYS conducted the investigation in cooperation with law enforcement and medical services/providers. The record was comprehensive; including medical reports, interviews, risk and safety assessments, and case dictation. LCCYS

also provided the AP with a locked medication box and related educational information to prevent any future accidents.

- County Weaknesses:

There were no weaknesses noted.

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

There were no statutory and/or regulatory areas of non-compliance noted.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

LCCYS should continue to conduct thorough and timely investigations in collaboration with law enforcement, the court and medical and service providers.