

## Fatalities

### Allegheny County

1. An 18-month-old female child died on June 17, 2014, as a result of serious physical neglect. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (AOCYF) received the report on June 18 and on August 15, 2014, determined the case status to be pending criminal court as the result of an ongoing criminal investigation. On January 6, 2016, AOCYF founded the report, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On the night of June 17, 2014, the mother contacted 911 after noticing the child was unresponsive and had blue colored lips. Emergency medical services took the child to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh where the child was pronounced dead. Prior to her death, the child was being cared for by multiple family members while the mother "got on her feet." On this day, the child was being cared for by a maternal aunt while the maternal grandfather was at the hospital visiting his ill son. Against the grandfather's wishes, the aunt allowed the child to go visit with the mother for a few hours. The mother took the child to her paramour's home to visit. Before arriving at the paramour's home, the mother used heroin while the child was in her care. Once at the paramour's home, the mother fell asleep allowing the child to be unsupervised. The mother was awakened a few hours later by her paramour, which is when she noticed that the child was unresponsive. The mother informed authorities that there was heroin and morphine "stashed" by the bed where the child was sleeping. The results of the child's autopsy revealed that she had tested positive for opiates; confirming that the child had ingested either heroin or morphine.

A sibling of the child currently remains in the legal custody of his maternal grandfather. The family does not allow the mother to have unsupervised contact with the child's sibling. There were no additional services provided to the family as the safety of the sibling was assured and no concerns were raised regarding the arrangement of custody. The mother of the child had a history of involvement with AOCYF. Between 2008 and 2013, AOCYF received seven general protective services referrals on the family with concerns regarding: the child's sibling being born with substances in his system; substance abuse by the mother; the child's sibling's father making threats to harm the sibling; and the child's sibling being hit on the head by an individual that the mother had angered. Prior to the child's death, AOCYF's most recent involvement with the family was at the time of the child's birth due to concerns that the child was born with substances in her system. This case was closed out in January 2013 when the child's father became her primary caregiver and agreed to supervise all her contact with her mother and the maternal grandfather took custody of the child's sibling.

On June 19, 2014, the mother was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and involuntary manslaughter. The mother was held in Allegheny County Prison. On October 5, 2015, the mother was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and endangering the welfare of a child. She was sentenced to 30 to 60 months confinement and five years of probation.

### Armstrong County

2. An 11-year-old male child died on December 18, 2015, as a result of serious physical neglect. Armstrong County Children, Youth and Family Services (ACCYFS) indicated the case on March 31, 2016, naming the mother the perpetrator for committing the abusive act and the father the perpetrator for a failure to act and protect the child. The child was found deceased in the home on December 18, 2015. When emergency services personnel arrived at the residence, the home conditions were chaotic. Drugs, which included methadone and suboxone, were reportedly found in the home. ACCYFS began to provide in-home services to address the housing conditions and the necessity to secure all medications. The parents' adult daughter moved into the home to assist with the care of the other two younger children. ACCYFS received a referral on the date of the child's death; however, the report was not certified as a child fatality until February 19, 2016, when the toxicology results indicated the child died due to an overdose of methadone. The mother was prescribed methadone as part of a maintenance program. She admitted to storing excess prescribed methadone throughout the residence in unsecured bottles. On February 18, 2016, the mother was arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter, reckless endangerment, and endangering the welfare of a child. She is still awaiting trial. On March 21, 2016, the 10-year-old and 5-year-old siblings were adjudicated dependent and placed under protective supervision while they remained in their parents' care. The family remains cooperative with the county agency and all medications are secured and kept out of the reach of the children. The county agency did have a prior history with this family dating back to 2005 due to concerns for lack of supervision and housing conditions. The family's case was not active with the county agency at the time of the child's death.

### Berks County

3. A 4-month-old male infant died on January 13, 2016, due to serious physical neglect. Berks County Children & Youth Services (Berks CYS) indicated the report on March 10, 2016, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On January 11, 2016, the mother took the child to St. Joe's Emergency Room as he was experiencing diarrhea and vomiting; however, the mother expressed that the hospital sent them home stating that there was nothing wrong with the child. The mother reported on January 12, 2016, starting around noon time, that the child began to display the same symptoms of illness so she gave him Pedialyte. Approximately one hour later, the child became increasingly lethargic and the mother noticed that his heart rate, which had been fast all day, was slow. That evening, the mother and child fell asleep on the mother's bed with the child lying on the right side of the mother. The mother reported that she awoke around midnight on January 13 and called 911 due to the child being pale with purple lips and feeling clammy. The mother performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the child until emergency medical personnel arrived and transported the child to the Reading Hospital Memorial Center Emergency Room. The child passed away at the hospital. During the investigation, information was received that the mother had taken the child to St. Joe's Emergency Room earlier on January 12, 2016, and left

against medical advice. The final cause of death in the coroner's report was ruled as Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy Associated with Co-Sleeping.

The child had three siblings, one of which was in the custody of his maternal grandmother. The safety of the other two siblings was assessed and they went to stay with a family friend. The family currently receives weekly supervised visits. This family was previously known to Berks CYS. Between September 2006 and May 2015, nine general protective services reports were received for this family that were either screened out by Berks CYS without investigation or were investigated and closed at the intake level. The reports regarded various concerns including: the mother's ability to parent the children; the children being exposed to inappropriate adult activities; the children not being supervised appropriately; the children were being disciplined inappropriately; the conditions of the home were unhealthy and unsafe; the children were not getting needed medical care; and there was domestic violence in the home. On two separate occasions the family received ongoing general protective services from Berks CYS. The first occasion was in August 2011 due to concerns for inappropriate supervision and lack of supports for the family. The second occasion occurred in October 2015 with concerns related to: the children's development; the children's hygiene; lack of appropriate medical care; and domestic violence in the home. While this report was being investigated, another report was received in November with concerns that the victim child in this fatality report had been dropped by his older siblings and the mother. The family was still receiving services from Berks CYS when the fatality report was received. No criminal charges were filed regarding this incident and there is no current criminal investigation.

#### Bradford County

4. An 18-month-old female child died on March 23, 2015, as a result of serious physical neglect. Bradford County Children and Youth Services (Bradford CYS) received the report on March 24, and on May 21, 2015, determined the case status to be pending criminal court as the result of an ongoing Pennsylvania State Police investigation. On February 23, 2016, Bradford CYS indicated the report, naming the child's mother and father as perpetrators of child abuse.

The child was transported to the Towanda Memorial Hospital on March 23 by the parents where she was pronounced dead following an attempt by emergency room staff to resuscitate. It was determined that the child suffered from streptococcus pneumoniae meningitis. The etiology of this derived from an untreated ear infection of the left ear that migrated to the cerebral area. The parents acknowledged that the onset of the child's ear infection occurred approximately three weeks prior. The parents indicated that they espoused a strong belief in homeopathic medicine and were treating their daughter with garlic and echinacea. They did not believe that the use of antibiotics was necessary.

During the course of the investigation, the child's two older siblings were physically examined by licensed medical professionals and determined to be healthy. A safety plan was developed with the family which included assurances from the parents and

the local minister assisting the family that any future medical needs for the siblings would be attended to by conventional medical practices. The agency has maintained an ongoing general protective services case with this family to ensure that the overall health of the siblings is maintained. This family was not known to the agency prior to this incident.

Both parents have been criminally charged for the death of the child and plead guilty to involuntary manslaughter on April 15. Sentencing was scheduled for June 27, 2016.

#### Cumberland County

5. A 1-month-old male child died on November 12, 2015, as a result of physical abuse and serious physical neglect. Cumberland County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) indicated the case on January 7, 2016, naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators. On November 10, 2015, the mother reported that she fed the child and put him down for a nap around 4:00 PM. She heard a gurgle and went to check on the child. Upon finding the child unresponsive, the mother called 911 and began CPR. When emergency medical services personnel arrived, the child was in cardiac arrest. The child was transported to Carlisle Regional Medical Center at 5:00 PM, and then later transferred to Penn State Hershey Medical Center. The child appeared to be in ill health and emaciated. The results of his nutritional screening showed that he was dehydrated and malnourished. Upon exam, the child had bruising covering his entire body and a probable left femur fracture. The child was intubated and on a respirator, but was still non-responsive. He remained in the hospital until he succumbed to his injuries and died on November 12. At the time of the autopsy, the child was found to have more than 30 fractures including multiple fractures to his skull. The child's father was incarcerated in the Cumberland County Prison after he admitted to shaking the child, pressing his thumbs into the child's eye, squeezing the child and slamming the child's head into a door frame. The police have charged the father with homicide, simple assault, and endangering the welfare of a child.

The biological mother has two additional children that reside with their biological father and grandparents. The siblings' father will supervise all of their contact with their mother. The family was not known to CCCYS prior to the incident.

#### Elk County

6. A 5-year-old male child died on February 3, 2016, as a result of physical abuse. Elk County Children and Youth Services (ECCYS) indicated the case on March 21, 2016, naming the child's paternal aunt and uncle as perpetrators. The child was found deceased in the home of his paternal aunt and uncle. According to the coroner's office, the child had been deceased and lying on the floor for approximately eight hours prior to emergency medical services personnel being called to the residence by the aunt and uncle who claimed to have awoken and found the child unresponsive. The child's autopsy concluded that the child died from blunt force trauma. The child sustained over twenty points of impact to his head.

He had two large bite marks on his arms, open lacerations behind both of his ears and petechial markings around his belly button. He was also severely dehydrated. The child's aunt and uncle both denied harming the child, but confirmed that they were the only two individuals caring for the child at the time of his death. Crawford County Children and Youth (Crawford CY) was active with the child's father at the time of the child's death due to truancy concerns for the child's older sibling. The father agreed to brief services, but was not cooperative with the truancy prevention program. The 7-year-old older sibling had remained in Crawford County with his father when the father had voluntarily placed the child and his 3-year-old sibling at the paternal uncle's home on December 3, 2015, in Elk County. On December 31, 2015, Crawford CY requested that ECCYS conduct a courtesy visit to the paternal aunt and uncle's home to assure the children's safety. However, the father was not willing to provide the specific address for the home, and ECCYS did not conduct the courtesy visit due to insufficient information.

The child's 3-year-old brother was placed into the custody of ECCYS on February 3, 2016, and had a forensic interview and examination the following day. He did not witness what happened to the child. The sibling was dehydrated but medically cleared. He remained in the county agency's custody until February 11, 2016, when he was transferred to the custody of Crawford CY and placed into the kinship foster home of another paternal aunt. The 7-year-old sibling was also placed in the home of this paternal aunt, where he has been doing well and is no longer truant from school.

The child's biological parents were previously known to Crawford CY. A total of five intake investigations occurred between March 2010 and December 2015 when the case was opened for ongoing services. All of the referrals alleged concerns for lack of supervision, unexplained bruises and eviction/homelessness issues. On one occasion the 3-year-old sibling received a bruise to his forehead, and in another incident, the child's 7-year-old sibling sustained two black eyes. Neither of these two incidents were substantiated. On May 5, 2016, the paternal aunt and uncle were charged with criminal homicide and aggravated assault. The child's mother and father were charged with involuntary manslaughter and endangering the welfare of children for not assuring their children's safety in the paternal aunt and uncle's home. All were incarcerated and are awaiting trial.

## Lebanon County

7. On January 12, 2016, a 4-month-old male child died as a result of serious physical neglect. Lebanon County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS) indicated the report on March 9, 2016, naming the child's father as a perpetrator for committing the abusive act and the child's mother as a perpetrator for failing to act.

Emergency medical personnel were dispatched to the child's home on January 12, 2016, after the parents contacted 911 with concerns that the child was unresponsive. The child was pronounced dead at the scene and transported to Penn State Hershey Medical Center. The preliminary medical report stated that the child died from asphyxiation. On the day of the child's passing, the father was the sole

caretaker for both the child and his siblings while the mother was at work from 3:00 PM until 9:30 PM. At approximately 6:15 PM, the father fed both the child and his twin sibling. The child was fussy after the feeding, so the father swaddled the child in a heavy blanket and placed the child on his stomach against the back of his swing with his head turned to his left. At 8:00 PM, the father left the home to go to a bar while the child and his twin brother remained in the home with only their six and nine year old siblings to supervise them. The father returned about 20 minutes later but did not check on the twins. At 9:30 PM, the mother came home from work, saw the child in the swing lying in the position the father had left him, but did not move the child. She went upstairs to watch a television show until she returned around an hour later to feed the infants and found the child unresponsive. The hospital believed that the asphyxiation was the result of the child's head being too close to the back of the swing. He was unable to move as a result of being swaddled and suffocated. It was also noted that he had left side rib fractures that were believed to be six to eight weeks old, a possible acute right side rib fracture and a compression fracture on the left side from severe trauma with no time frame established for when these injuries would have occurred. The parents did not provide any explanation for the child's injuries.

Upon completing a safety assessment of the child's siblings, LCCYS placed all of the siblings in foster care. The two older female siblings were placed together in a foster home, and the child's twin brother was placed in a different foster home. To date, the children have remained in the same foster homes and the parents are having supervised visitation with all three children. The family was previously known to LCCYS between April 2013 and November 2015. During this time period, LCCYS received four reports with concerns that included: inappropriate discipline being used on the children, the child's half-sibling was being physically abused, and there was domestic violence in the home. None of these concerns were able to be substantiated and all of the referrals were closed out without services being provided or recommended to the family. No criminal charges have been filed at this time. The criminal investigation is pending until the receipt of the final autopsy report.

### Montgomery County

8. A 2-year-old female child died on July 30, 2015, as a result of serious physical neglect. Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (MCOCY) indicated the case on February 25, 2016, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On July 30, 2015, the Upper Merion Township Police responded to a 911 call to a Motel 6. The child was pronounced dead at the scene. A report was not made to ChildLine however, until January 27, 2016, when MCOCY became aware of the incident following a television news report regarding the arrest of the child's mother. At the time of the child's death, the mother and child were living in the hotel. On July 29, the mother and child were in their hotel room and the mother dumped out her prescriptions for two controlled substances. The mother reported that she observed the child ingesting one of the pills and attempted to remove the pill from the child's mouth. She did not seek medical treatment for the child, but instead stayed up and observed the child for forty-five minutes. The mother then fell asleep next to her

daughter on the bed. When she awoke, she found the child unresponsive. On July 31, an autopsy was performed and the cause of death was ruled as combined drug intoxication. On August 11, 2015, a toxicology report identified that the child had both of the mother's prescription medications in her blood at the time of death. It was further determined that the child would not have died if her mother had sought medical treatment in a timely manner. The child did not have any siblings.

This family was previously known by MCOCY. A general protective services referral was received at the time of the child's birth due to the child testing positive for substances. MCOCY provided the mother and child in-home services to address the mother's addiction and to ensure the safety of the child. The case was closed in December 2012. On January 20, 2016, the mother was charged with involuntary manslaughter, endangering the welfare of the child, possession of controlled substances with the intent to deliver, recklessly endangering another person, and unsworn falsification to authorities. She is currently incarcerated.

### Schuylkill County

9. A 14-month-old female child died on January 10, 2016, due to serious physical neglect. Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services (SCCYS) indicated the case on February 26, 2016, naming the child's caretaker as the perpetrator. At the time of the child's birth, the mother pretended to be another individual. The birth mother then gave the child to the person whose identity she had used. This individual, the presumed mother, was raising the child as her own and claiming to be the mother of the child. On January 6, 2016, the presumed mother left the child in the care of the caretaker, who remained the caretaker for the child until the child's death. The caretaker reported that the child had been vomiting a day after her arrival and was seen at urgent care on January 8, 2016. On the evening of January 9, 2016, the child's 3-year-old female sibling, who was also being passed off as the child of the presumed mother, was also dropped off at the caretaker's home. On this night, both the child and her sibling were put to sleep in the living room between 9:00 PM and 9:30 PM. The caretaker stated that she had numerous medical issues and had taken various medications that left her incapacitated to the point that she was unaware of what occurred in her home between the hours of 9:30 PM on January 9, 2016, and 2:00 PM on January 10, 2016, when she woke up and found the child deceased. When emergency medical services personnel, police, and SCCYS arrived at the caretaker's home, there were coffee grounds, plant leaves, prescription pill bottles, dirty clothing, diapers and garbage scattered throughout the home. The caretaker reiterated that she had no idea what happened to the child but told the caseworker that she thought she may have fallen on the child as her knee was hurting and had some visible scratches.

The child's sibling was removed from the home and transported to the local hospital due to concerns for lethargy and possible ingestion of a foreign substance as a result of the conditions of the home and lack of supervision for hours. Her urine showed signs of high ketones, indicating early signs of starvation. She was placed into the protective custody of SCCYS and placed in a foster home. SCCYS is currently providing services to the children's birth mother in order to work towards

reunifying her with her surviving daughter. The birth mother also has two older biological children. These children have resided in Florida with a family member for the past five years. The birth mother also gave birth to another child in March 2016. This newborn child remains in the care of the birth mother and biological father. The family is currently receiving intensive services through a contracted provider to assess parenting, bonding and the safety of the child. The presumed mother continues to receive services through SCCYS as well, and the safety of her children has been ensured by the agency.

The birth family and the presumed family were both known to several county child welfare agencies including Schuylkill, Luzerne, Adams and Cambria. The presumed family's involvement with child welfare dates back to 2001 and includes: two separate occasions of accidental deaths of infant children due to co-sleeping; concerns with parenting skills; unsafe living conditions; drug abuse; inappropriate discipline; and truancy concerns. At the time of the child's death the presumed mother was receiving services from SCCYS due to concerns for the truancy of one of her older children. In 2012, SCCYS received concerns for the birth mother as she had just given birth to the child's sibling and was reported to be homeless. The birth mother moved in with the presumed mother and this case was closed out.

The results of the forensic autopsy determined the child's cause of death as homicide and the manner of death as asphyxia by smothering. On February 25, 2016, the child's caretaker was arrested and charged with criminal homicide, aggravated assault, two counts of endangering the welfare of children, two counts of recklessly endangering another person, use/possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of firearm prohibited. A preliminary hearing was held on February 25, 2016 and all charges were bound over for trial.

#### York County

10. A 10-month-old male child died on August 3, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. York County Children and Youth (YCCY) investigated the case and submitted the initial status as pending criminal court on October 1, 2015, as the result of an ongoing criminal investigation. On March 11, 2016, the agency indicated the case naming the child's father as the perpetrator.

On July 31, 2015, the child was transported by the family to York Hospital. He was then transferred to Penn State Hershey Medical Center where he remained until he was taken off of life support on August 3, 2015 and passed away. A preliminary autopsy report showed that the child had a skull fracture to the back of his head. There was internal bleeding at the injury site, but no external bleeding. It was determined that it would take 40 pounds of force to create this injury. The parents were unable to provide an explanation for the child's injuries. The father reported that he was the primary caregiver for the child on July 30, 2015, after the mother left for work at 3:00 PM. He reported that the child had a typical day and had slept and ate normally with no noted changes in behavior. The father last fed the child at 7:30 PM and put him to bed in his crib an hour later. The mother reported that on the morning of July 31, she woke up at 3:00 AM when she heard the child whining

in his crib. She checked on him and noticed he had vomited, so she brought him into her room and placed him in the pack-and-play. The child continued to vomit for the next several hours before falling asleep for two hours. The mother then proceeded to check the child's temperature and administer a regular dose of Tylenol that the child was not able to keep down. The mother reported that every time she picked the child up, he would whine and when the father picked him up, his arms and legs would stiffen. She tried to give the child a bottle, but when she looked into his eyes, he was observed to have a blank stare. The mother said she contacted the family doctor who advised the parents to take the child to the hospital. Both parents had initially agreed to submit to polygraphs, but later refused under the advice of an attorney. During the course of the investigation, the agency was informed that the father had anger issues. He has been known to punch things when angry and, in fact, injured his hand while the child was in the hospital by punching a trash can. The child's death is currently still under criminal investigation.

YCCY conducted a safety assessment on the child's older sibling on August 4, 2015, when they received notification of the sibling's death being ruled a homicide. This resulted in the sibling being placed in the custody of YCCY. Both parents have supervised visits with the sibling.

The family was previously known to the agency. YCCY received two GPS referrals involving the mother as a child. The referrals were received in 2003 and 2005 and involved concerns for supervision and truancy. YCCY also had a previous GPS on the father as a child from September 2000, but there is no current record on what occurred with this referral.

## Near Fatalities

### Allegheny County

11. A 2-year-old male child nearly died on January 27, 2016, as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (AOCYF) indicated the case on March 31, 2016, naming the child's maternal uncle as the perpetrator. Prior to the date of the incident, the child and his sibling were in the custody of Beaver County Children and Youth Services (Beaver CYS). The children were initially placed in a foster home, but were later moved into a kinship foster home with their maternal aunt and uncle. This incident occurred in the kinship foster home. The maternal aunt had left her 16-year-old female daughter in charge of six children while she went to her son's basketball game around 4:15 PM. When the maternal uncle returned home from work around 5:30 PM, he found the child going through the garbage. The 16-year-old daughter was downstairs doing the laundry. The maternal uncle yelled at the child and told him to go upstairs. He denied shaking the child. The maternal uncle followed the child half-way up the stairs and came back downstairs. While yelling at the other children for not watching the child, the uncle and the 16-year-old child heard a "thud." The maternal uncle found the child lying on the first floor landing. The child's arm was stiff and when he picked up the child, he vomited. The maternal uncle called the maternal aunt and when she

arrived home, they took the child to Sewickley Valley Hospital around 6:30 PM. The child was in an altered mental status and was found to have sustained an acute intracranial subdural hemorrhage. The child was then transferred via ambulance to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP). Upon arrival, the child was placed into the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. This incident was not registered as a near fatality until February 5, 2016. The treating physicians at CHP determined the child's injury was the result of being shaken. The treating physician believes the child had bleeding on the brain which resulted in a seizure causing the child to fall down the stairs. On February 4, 2016, to ensure the safety of the child's 9-year-old sibling, he was moved out of the kinship home and into the foster home where he resided prior to his placement in the kinship home. The child's sibling participated in a forensic interview, but did not disclose witnessing any abuse. The child was released from the hospital and placed into the same foster home as his sibling. He is receiving early intervention services and occupational therapy on a weekly basis.

Both the biological family and the kinship family had prior involvement with AOCYF. The biological family has a history of supervision concerns and the child's half-sister disclosed sexual abuse by the mother's paramour who was convicted for these sexual offenses. The half-sister now lives with her father. Beaver CYS had prior involvement with the family. There were referrals regarding the mother's mental stability and concerns for inappropriate physical discipline. The mother was indicated for physical abuse on one child. In addition, she was indicated for sexual abuse by omission when the child's older half-brothers disclosed sexual abuse by the mother's friend. The kinship family had prior involvement with AOCYF in 2009 when allegations were made that the second oldest child had sustained a black eye and the four eldest children were sexually acting out. There was no evidence to substantiate these allegations. In 2012 a referral alleged there was no food in the home and the children were sleeping on the floor. In addition, it was alleged that the aunt had mental health issues and the uncle was an alcoholic. The county agency could not find any safety issues to substantiate this report, and this report was unfounded. The criminal investigation is still ongoing regarding the near fatality report.

12. A 2-month-old female child nearly died on January 21, 2016, as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (AOCYF) indicated the case on February 19, 2016, naming the mother's paramour as the perpetrator. The child was in the care of the mother's paramour, whom she had only been dating for approximately two weeks, and a babysitter while the mother was at work. The babysitter had left the child and the mother's paramour alone to put away groceries and to feed her own child. The paramour admitted to throwing the child approximately four to five feet into the air and catching her for approximately ten minutes. According to the mother's paramour, during the last toss in the air the child's head snapped forward resulting in her screaming and crying. He claimed he gave the child a bottle and she ate a few ounces and then threw up. He placed the child back into her car seat. A few hours later the child awoke screaming. When he went to pick up the child, she went limp and her eyes rolled to the back of her head. He called for the babysitter and called 911; however, the babysitter relayed the information to the 911 operator. When the emergency

medical services arrived at the residence they reported the child had experienced a pediatric seizure. The child was transported via ambulance to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP), and admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Upon examination, it was determined that the child had subdural hematomas, three acute rib fractures, a left cheek bruise and a bruise to the buttock. The child had been seen earlier in the day by her pediatrician who stated she was acting normal, gaining weight and did not have any bruising to her cheek. A physician at CHP determined the child's injuries were the result of Shaken Baby Syndrome. The child was placed into agency custody on February 4, 2016. The child's maternal grandparents are providing kinship care for the child. The mother does not have any other children. Services are being provided to the mother to work towards safely reunifying her with the child. The mother's paramour was arrested and charged with two counts of aggravated assault to a person under 6 years old, simple assault, reckless endangerment of another person and endangering the welfare of a child. He is incarcerated and is awaiting trial. The family was previously known to the county agency. Services were provided to the family when the mother was a minor due to substantiated concerns that the mother was abused by a friend of her father.

#### Blair County

13. A 23-month-old male child nearly died on January 25, 2016, due to physical abuse. Blair County Children, Youth and Family Services (BCCYFS) indicated the case on February 25, 2016, naming the child's mother and her paramour as the perpetrators. On January 25, the child was transported to Life Point's Nason Hospital by his mother and her paramour. Upon arrival, the child was found to be unresponsive and was immediately intubated by medical personnel. The Computerized Tomography (CT) scan showed an acute and chronic subdural hemorrhage with an 11 millimeter midline shift of the brain. The child also had a left blown pupil, multiple bruises on his lower extremities and lower back, an abrasion to his nose/face, and symptoms of hypothermia. He was flown to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) where, after being stabilized, he underwent a surgical procedure to relieve pressure in his brain. The physicians opined that the injuries were a result of physical abuse using extreme violence or shaking. The child's mother offered different versions of how the child was injured all of which were inconsistent with one another and with the injuries sustained by the child. The mother's paramour refused to be interviewed.

The child has one sibling who also resided in the home at the time of the incident. BCCYFS took emergency custody of the sibling and she was placed in foster care. She was also examined at the hospital and was found to have bruising to her face, head and buttocks. Information was received that these injuries were caused by the mother's paramour. Upon discharge, the child was also placed in foster care to assure his safety. Initially, the child was unable to be placed in the same foster home as his sibling due to his extensive medical needs and appointments. The child and his sibling currently have weekly visits with one another and BCCYFS plans to transition the child to the same foster home as his sibling in June 2016. The mother is currently permitted supervised visitation with her children, but her paramour is

not permitted any contact with the child and his sibling. The mother's paramour also has two biological children from a previous relationship. These children remain in the custody of their biological mother and are now only permitted supervised contact with their father.

BCCYFS reported that the family was not previously known to the agency, but the mother's paramour was known to the agency. A general protective services report was received by the agency in November 2012, noting concerns that the mother's paramour had anger issues and was hitting and kicking his children from a previous relationship. Due to there being no identified concerns for the safety of the children, no services were recommended and this case was closed out in January 2013. No criminal charges have been filed as the investigation is ongoing.

#### Chester County

14. A 16-year-old male child nearly died on February 6, 2016, due to physical abuse. Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families (CDCYF) indicated the case on March 7, 2016, naming the child's father as the perpetrator. The child was injured during an altercation with his father on February 5, 2016 around 11:30 PM. Prior to the physical altercation, the child and his father had heated arguments due to the child trying to rebel against his father's directive that he could not go to a friend's house and also the father confronting the child about chewing tobacco that had been found in his car. Both the father and child had drunk alcohol earlier that evening. The child had obtained the alcohol while at a friend's home. The arguments between the father and son escalated into a physical altercation when the father tackled the child to the pavement, causing the child to hit his head. The child was also punched in the stomach, was pinned to a sliding door in the home, and had his head hit on a wall in the family home. The mother intervened once she became aware of the altercation in the family home and the father then left the home. Shortly thereafter, the child went to sit in a chair and slumped to the floor, hitting his head. He was unconscious, foaming at the mouth and convulsing when his mother contacted 911. The child was transported to Chester County Hospital and was later transferred to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia via helicopter. He was treated for a subarachnoid hemorrhage and an intraventricular hemorrhage. He also experienced extensive bruising on his ears, neck, and torso. The child was released from the hospital a few days later and is expected to make a full recovery, but is required to follow-up with a neurosurgeon and a neurologist due to several long term concerns related to his injuries. The father was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, and endangering the welfare of a child. He has since been released on bail and has been residing with his parents as the conditions of his bail require that he has no contact with the child.

The child does have a younger sibling who lives in the home. He was sleeping during the altercation between the father and the child. The sibling then went to stay with his grandparents while the child was in the hospital. CDCYF met with the sibling at his grandparents' home and ensured his safety. The family was not previously known to CDCYF.

## Erie County

15. A 3-year-old male child nearly died on January 26, 2016, as a result of physical abuse. Erie County Office of Children and Youth indicated the case on March 7, 2016, naming the child's mother's ex-paramour as the perpetrator for causing the abuse, and the child's mother as the perpetrator for failing to protect the child. The mother and her ex-paramour brought the child to the local hospital due to finding him unresponsive. The child had bruises on his chest, chin, lips, arms, hands, groin, thigh and back. Based on the child's body temperature, the treating physicians believed the child had been unresponsive for some time prior to arrival at the hospital. The child was intubated and placed on a ventilator. The child was then transferred via medical helicopter to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP). Upon further examination at CHP, it was determined that the child's intestine was perforated and was bleeding into his stomach. The mother reported that the child got into a bottle of mixed alcohol in the refrigerator over the weekend. The child was "tipsy" on Saturday, but was drunk on Sunday. The mother thought the child was getting better, until she found him unresponsive on Tuesday evening. When questioned about the child's multiple bruises, the mother and her ex-paramour claimed the child was clumsy and often fell. The mother's ex-paramour explained the child had been vomiting for the past few days and they had thought it was due to the child being sick from the alcohol. The mother admitted that she and her ex-paramour poked the child in the stomach to see if his stomach was bothering him. The mother's ex-paramour admitted to punching the child in his stomach days prior to him ingesting the alcohol.

The county agency did have previous history with this family. When the mother was a minor, she and the child were placed into agency custody due to concerns for their safety. After the foster parents, who cared for the mother and the child, became the permanent legal guardians of the mother the case was closed. In October 2015 a child protective services report was received by the agency, alleging that the child was physically abused by a household member. It was determined the child's injury was the result of an accidental fall and the case was closed out.

The mother and her ex-paramour were arrested on January 27, 2016. The mother's ex-paramour was charged with felony offenses for aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a child, and a misdemeanor offense of endangering the welfare of a child. The mother was charged with felony endangering the welfare of a child. They are still awaiting trial. The child remained hospitalized at CHP until he was transferred to a facility for rehabilitation services. Upon the child's release from the rehabilitation facility, he was placed in foster care with the foster parents who had previously cared for the child and his mother. The child has no siblings.

## Fayette County

16. A 9-year-old male child and his sibling (#17) nearly died on November 18, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Fayette County Children and Youth Services indicated the case on January 15, 2016, naming the child's maternal grandmother

as the perpetrator. The child was prescribed medications. His original prescribed dosage for one of his medications was 0.3 milligrams and recently it had been increased to 1.5 milligrams. On the date of incident, the maternal grandmother gave the child three doses of the new prescribed dosage while claiming she thought she was providing the child with three doses of the old prescribed dosage. The child expressed concern to his maternal grandmother that she was giving him too much medication; however, she told the child she knew what she was doing. The child became "chaotic" and, based on his behavior, the maternal grandmother made the realization she had provided the child with too much medication. She contacted the pharmacist who told her to keep a close eye on the child and if his condition worsened to take him to the hospital. She then contacted a friend about the child's condition. The friend advised the maternal grandmother to take the child to the emergency room. A total of two to two and a half hours later the maternal grandmother's paramour took the child to Uniontown Hospital. While at the hospital, the child was lethargic, in and out of consciousness and showing declining blood pressure and respirations. The child was given medications to counteract the effects of the overdose. Due to his condition, he was transported, via medical helicopter, to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. The child stabilized and was released to his mother. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (AOCYF) conducted a courtesy assessment of the mother's home, given the children had been residing in the maternal grandmother's home at the time of the incident, and determined the mother was in need of a larger residence to care for the child and his sister. AOCYF ensured that the mother obtained new housing and enrolled the child in school. Neither county agency had prior involvement with the family. The criminal investigation is still ongoing.

17. A 6-year-old female child and her sibling (#16) nearly died on November 18, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Fayette County Children and Youth Services indicated the case on January 15, 2016, naming the child's maternal grandmother as the perpetrator. The child was prescribed medications. Her original prescribed dosage for one of her medications was 0.2 milligrams, but recently it had been increased to 1.5 milligrams. On the date of incident, the maternal grandmother gave the child three doses of the new prescribed dosage while claiming she thought she was providing the child with three doses of the old prescribed dosage. The child became "chaotic" and, based on her behavior, the maternal grandmother made the realization she had provided the child with too much medication. She contacted the pharmacist who told her to keep a close eye on the child and if her condition worsened to take her to the hospital. She then contacted a friend about the child's condition. The friend advised the maternal grandmother to take the child to the emergency room. A total of two to two and a half hours later the maternal grandmother's paramour took the child to Uniontown Hospital. While at the hospital, the child became unresponsive. The child was given medications to counteract the effects of the overdose. Due to her condition, she was transported, via medical helicopter, to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. The child stabilized and was released to her mother. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (AOCYF) conducted a courtesy assessment of the mother's home, given that the children had been residing in the maternal grandmother's home at the time of the incident, and determined the mother was in need of a larger residence to

care for the child and her brother. AOCYF ensured that the mother obtained new housing and enrolled the child in school. Neither county agency had prior involvement with the family. A criminal investigation is still ongoing.

#### Greene County

18. A 2-month-old male child nearly died on November 10, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Greene County Children and Youth Services indicated the case on January 8, 2016, naming the child's father as the perpetrator. On the night of the incident, the mother made the child a bottle around 10:15 PM and gave the bottle to the father to feed the child, while she left to return movies and to drop a few items off at a local relative's home. The mother called the father at 10:33 PM and the father told the mother to return home due to something being wrong with the child. When the mother arrived home, she found the child lying on the couch unresponsive. The mother attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) while the father dialed 911. The emergency medical services (EMS) operator assisted in helping the mother perform CPR through verbal instruction until the ambulance arrived at the residence. Upon arrival, EMS determined the child was in cardiac arrest and performed CPR. They placed a breathing tube into the child and transported him to a regional hospital via ambulance. The child was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and it was determined through a computerized tomography (CT) scan that the child had a subdural hematoma, retinal hemorrhaging, brain bleeds and a left skull fracture. The father reported that he began to feed the child while he was in a bouncy chair on the couch. The child began to choke and the father admitted to shaking the child and smacking him on the back of the head a total of five times to get him to stop choking. The child actively gasped and went limp. The father placed the child on the couch as the mother was calling the father.

In early December, the child was transferred to an acute rehabilitation facility. The child was returned to his mother's care at the end of December. He receives early intervention services and has follow-up appointments with ophthalmology and neurology clinics. The parents do not have any other children. The family was known to the county due to a prior report that the mother and child both tested positive for Subutex and the mother tested positive for Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) at time of the child's birth. The agency completed an assessment regarding these concerns. It was determined that the mother had a prescription for the Subutex and there were no safety concerns for the child. This case was closed.

The father was arrested on November 16, 2015, and was charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of a child, simple assault, and recklessly endangering another person. He has since been convicted and was sentenced to 5 to 10 years of incarceration at a state correctional institution.

#### Lancaster County

19. A 4-year-old female child nearly died January 19, 2016 – January 20, 2016, as a result of serious physical neglect. Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency

(LCCYA) indicated the case on March 18, 2016, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. The child was taken to Lancaster General Hospital on the morning of January 20, 2016, for treatment regarding an accidental methadone overdose. A male household member contacted emergency management services as the child presented to be listless, non-responsive and blue in color. The child was transferred later that same day to Penn State Hershey Medical Center for further treatment and monitoring.

The child's mother reported that she was prescribed a take home dosage of methadone, which was stored in a lock box above the fridge in the family's home. On the evening of January 19, 2016, the mother had mixed a dose in a glass of orange juice and placed the mixture on the kitchen counter. She then left the room for a few minutes. Upon her return, the mother observed that the child had drank about half of the mixture but was spitting out the juice. The child's mother monitored the child for a period of time and then placed her in bed. She did not contact emergency management services nor did she contact poison control. The mother did not mention the ingestion of the substance to the male household member who would observe the child to be in an unresponsive condition on the morning of January 20, 2016. The mother was not present at the home when the initial call was made to emergency management services, but she did go to the hospital to be with the child. Upon the child's discharge from Penn State Hershey Medical Center, she was placed in the care of LCCYA. The child currently remains in kinship care with a relative and is reported to be doing fine; however, uncertainty remains regarding any long term effects from exposure. This child is the only child of the mother. She is currently permitted supervised visitation with the child. The family had been known to LCCYA prior to this incident. From May 2011 through May 2015, LCCYA received four reports on the family all of which were closed out after the initial assessment or investigation period with no further services being provided to the family. The reports that were received included concerns for substance abuse by the mother, that the mother was peddling prostitution and drugs in the presence of the child, and that the child was inappropriately touched by a male household member. LCCYA was not able to substantiate any of these concerns. The agency was able to identify that the mother had additional family support to help assist in the care of the child.

The child's mother has been criminally charged with aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a child. She is currently not incarcerated and is awaiting upcoming arraignment.

#### Montgomery County

20. A 2-year-old male child nearly died on January 3, 2016, as a result of serious physical neglect. Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth indicated the case on February 16, 2016, naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators. On January 3, the parents drove the child to Lansdale Hospital to be treated for a gunshot wound to the head. When they arrived at the hospital the child was still moving but unresponsive. The child was transferred to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he immediately had surgery. Following the surgery,

the child was placed on life support. Several weeks later the child's condition improved and he was discharged to a rehabilitation facility. The child has paralysis on the left side and is not walking. He has some sight issues that are still being evaluated. The child lost one-third of his brain matter. It is unknown what long term effects the gunshot wound will have on the child.

The incident occurred in the parents' bedroom where the father left a loaded gun within the reach of the child. The child obtained the gun and shot himself in the head. The gunshot wound that the child sustained was consistent with the direction of a self-inflicted wound. The mother's first account of the incident was that she and the father were in another room and they heard a "pop." Later, the mother reported that she was in the bed and turned her back and the child grabbed the gun. During numerous interviews with the mother and father it was determined that the child was unsupervised at the time of the incident. The family relocated to Philadelphia County and this case was transferred to the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS). The family is currently receiving in-home services to monitor the child's medical issues. The father was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and arrested. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for July 2016. The family was not previously known to Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth.

#### Philadelphia County

21. A 2-month-old male child nearly died on February 25, 2016, due to physical neglect. Philadelphia County Department of Human Services (DHS) indicated the report on March 28, 2016, naming the child's mother as a perpetrator for a failure to act and the child's father as a perpetrator for committing the abusive act. The father reported that the child fell off a changing table in a restaurant bathroom and became unresponsive. The father then rushed the child to the closest hospital on foot. The child required cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Further examination revealed that the child had a right subdural hematoma, two fractured femurs, a fractured tibia, and numerous retinal hemorrhages. It was determined that these injuries were not consistent with the father's statements. However, there is no further information at this time as to what caused the injuries. The child has a twin female sibling who was also examined at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and found to have several injuries including a right femur fracture, and bruising below the left eye, jawline and upper lip. There is a separate child protective services investigation regarding the sibling's injuries. The sibling remained hospitalized for three days and upon discharge was placed in a foster home. There were also two older female maternal half-siblings residing in the home. Both of these female siblings were medically assessed and found to have no injuries. They were moved to their paternal grandmother's home with in-home safety services and their biological father has initiated custody proceedings. The child was discharged from the hospital on March 11, 2016, and placed in a rehabilitation facility. When he is stable enough to move from there, he will also be placed in foster care. Case management services are being provided to the family. The family was not known to the county agency prior to this incident. A criminal investigation is ongoing.

## Pike County

22. On February 4, 2016, a 2-year-old male child nearly died as a result of physical abuse. Pike County Children and Youth Services (PCCYS) indicated the case on March 23, 2016, naming the child's babysitter as the perpetrator. On February 4, 2016, the mother left the child in the care of a babysitter at 8:15 AM. The mother then went to work and reported that the babysitter contacted her at 3:15 PM stating that after the child had eaten a little rice, the color flushed out of him, his lips turned blue, and he immediately had diarrhea in his diaper. The mother reportedly told the babysitter to take the child to the emergency room and the mother would meet her there. The child was intubated and found to have a perforated duodenum, serious pancreatic injury, injury to the superior mesenteric artery which supplies the right colon, and a laceration of the omentum. It was unknown if the child would survive the injuries. The child protective services (CPS) investigation revealed that the child suffered blunt force abdominal trauma which was reported to be non-accidental and indicative of abuse. The babysitter was arrested and is unable to have contact with children at this time. The preliminary hearing was scheduled but has been continued.

The babysitter had two biological children of her own who were later placed in the custody of the county agency and are currently in foster care. The children are being provided with counseling services. The victim child is currently in his home, but has been in and out of the hospital. The family of the victim child is receiving services in the home to assist the family with securing appropriate supportive community and medical services. Both families were known to the county agency prior to this incident. The county agency investigated a report in December 2015. At that time, the child had sustained a fracture to the arm while in the care of the babysitter. That incident was determined to be accidental and was subsequently unfounded.

## Washington County

23. A 1-month-old male child nearly died between November 17, 2015, and November 24, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Washington County Children and Youth Services indicated the case on January 22, 2016, naming an unknown perpetrator. The child was transported by the mother and the maternal grandmother to Washington Hospital due to the maternal grandmother noticing the child's temples flaring and being puffy when he cried. The physicians at Washington Hospital conducted testing and determined the child had bi-lateral parietal skull fractures and a sub-arachnoid hemorrhage. Given his injuries, the child was transferred, via medical helicopter, to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP). Upon arrival, the child was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit where it was determined that the child also had a lingual frenulum tear. The CHP treating physicians estimated the date of injury would have been three to seven days before he presented to the hospital. In the course of the investigation, it was confirmed that the child had been in the care of multiple caregivers. The mother's paramour, his two teenage daughters, and the maternal grandmother all provided care for the child while the mother, who was the primary caretaker, ran errands. All of these

individuals provided care to the child during the time frame the CHP physicians estimated the injuries were inflicted. The mother had reported the child had been inconsolable for a few weeks prior to his hospitalization. None of the caretakers made an admission nor did they implicate anyone else. The child and his 6-year-old half-sibling were placed into agency custody on November 25, 2015. The half-sibling had a forensic interview and made no disclosure of abuse pertaining to her or the child. The half-sibling was released from foster care and placed with her biological father. The child remains in foster care and is receiving early intervention services along with follow-up appointments with the neurology clinic. The mother is having supervised visitation with the child and the half-sibling. The family had no prior involvement with the county agency prior to this incident. This case is still under criminal investigation.