

Fatalities

Allegheny County

1. On December 8, 2014, a 5-month-old female child died as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) indicated the report on January 5, 2015, naming the mother's paramour as the perpetrator. On December 7, 2014, the child was admitted to the intensive care unit of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) with an acute subdural hematoma, most likely caused by abusive head trauma. The mother reported that the child had been sick for the past couple of days. The mother reported that at 10:30 PM the victim was crying so the mother went to tend to her upstairs. She reported that she gave the child a teething tablet and made her a bottle, which the child did not want. The mother reported that she sat and held the child for a few minutes and then put her back down. The mother reported that the child was smiling and cooing and she sounded hoarse from crying so hard, but she thought the child was calming down and her eyes were half shut. The mother reported that the child was looking at her, but then seemed to stare off. The mother reported that she picked up the victim, who then went limp. The mother reported that she immediately started back compressions and yelled to her brother to come help while she called 911. The mother reported the child's maternal uncle came and did chest compressions while she started mouth to mouth. The mother stated that she and the maternal uncle are certified in CPR. The mother stated that her boyfriend, the paternal grandfather, the mother's 4-year-old son and the mother's two nieces were also in the home that evening. An exam of the child at CHP showed a subdural hematoma, and a brain scan showed no signs of life. The doctor found the child's injuries to be indicative of physical abuse and stated that the injuries were non-accidental. The cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head, and the manner of death was homicide. The autopsy results showed a right humerus fracture that had occurred 7-10 days prior. A relative reported witnessing the mother's paramour slam the child in her crib and throw a blanket over her. The mother's paramour was arrested and charged with criminal homicide, aggravated assault, and endangering the welfare of a child. The family was known to the county agency for parental neglect, and the mother's paramour was the perpetrator on another case in which he physically abused his then-girlfriend's child. The perpetrator is in Allegheny County jail awaiting trial.

Carbon County

2. A 1-month-old male child died on October 17, 2014, as a result of physical neglect. Carbon County Child and Youth Services (CCCYS) indicated the case on February 13, 2015, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. The child died of asphyxia due to the mother falling asleep in bed with the child. The mother admitted that she was under the influence of drugs at the time of the incident. It was determined that after the child was fed a bottle in the middle of the night he slept in the bed with the mother and father. The child was sleeping soundly in his mother's arms when the father woke up to go to the bathroom in the morning. The mother was reportedly lying on her side with the child sleeping between her arm and chest. When the parents woke up later, the child was not breathing. The father performed CPR until the police arrived. The child was taken to a hospital, but was unresponsive. Following an autopsy, the coroner's report concluded that the cause

of the child's death was asphyxia, and the manner was ruled a homicide. A blood analysis confirmed that the mother had numerous drugs in her system including: amphetamine, methamphetamine, Xanax, and methadone. She ultimately admitted to taking her prescribed methadone, as well as the other unprescribed drugs. The parents have no other children. The family was known to the county agency in 2010 when the mother was receiving services as a child due to incorrigible behaviors and drug use. The mother was charged with involuntary manslaughter and endangering the welfare of children and incarcerated on October 27, 2014. She pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter on January 16, 2015.

Chester County

3. On January 8, 2015, a 20-month-old male child died as a result of physical abuse. Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families (CCDCYF) indicated the case on March 4 with an unknown perpetrator. The child had been residing with non-familial caregivers in Pennsylvania since March 2014 while his parents resided in Florida and were working to open a business.

On January 7, 2015, the female caregiver was home with the child. She reported that she was in another room while the child was playing in the kitchen. She went to check on him and found him under a table lying on a rug. A red mark was reportedly observed on his forehead. He was able to be consoled and calmed down after approximately 15 minutes. The caregiver placed him in his highchair to eat, but he fell asleep. She said she moved him to the couch and later to his bed, where he continued to sleep. The caregiver changed the child's diaper and attempted to give him a drink of water at 11:30 PM. The next day, the child continued to sleep while the caregiver got her children ready for school. She attempted to get him to eat or drink from a spoon at around 9:00 AM, but realized there was something wrong with the child when she found that he was cold and shaking. She stated that the child did wake up, but did not seem to be acting like himself. The caregiver then awoke her husband and they drove the child to Chester County Hospital, where medical professionals pronounced the child dead. An autopsy revealed that the child had head bruises of different ages, body bruises normal for a child learning to walk, and an abnormal bleeding of his brain. Findings also included that the child may have been deceased for three to four hours before arriving at the hospital. The cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma to the head, and the manner of death was pending further autopsy examinations. The emergency room physician reported that the description of events provided by the caregiver seemed inconsistent with some of the medical findings, and the physician was also concerned that medical attention had not been sought for the child sooner. It is not certain whether earlier medical treatment would have been able to save the child's life. The child's parents were contacted regarding the child's death and neither parent expressed any fear that someone had intentionally harmed the child. At this time, CCDCYF was not able to conclude who caused the injuries to the child. An assessment was conducted by CCDCYF regarding the caregiver's two biological children in the home and no information was obtained to suggest that the children were unsafe. The children remain in the home with their parents. The family is not receiving any services from CCDCYF. The family does not have any previous

involvement with CCDCYF. There are no criminal charges pending regarding this incident.

Lackawanna County

4. On January 22, 2015, a 7-week-old male infant died from physical neglect. Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services (LCOYFS) indicated both parents as perpetrators of abuse on March 17. The victim was found unresponsive on the morning of January 22 by the parents, and his cause of death was sudden, unexplained death in infancy. The father called 911, but was vague in his description of the circumstances. The parents were asked to submit to a drug screen at the hospital as requested by the police, who were already on scene. The father stated he saw the baby at around 6 AM and again at noon. The mother stated she saw the baby at around 8 AM or 9 AM and then again at noon. It was noted that the baby's diaper was saturated with urine. The couple's 3-year-old daughter was interviewed at the Child Advocacy Center on January 29 when she stated she saw her mother hitting her baby brother to wake him up. Multiple drug screens were requested of both parents, however the father did not immediately comply. He admitted to using several drugs that were not prescribed to him. Both parents ultimately complied. The mother tested positive for prescribed Percocet, while the father was positive for illegal and prescribed drugs. For several days during the course of the investigation the parents had an ongoing altercation that resulted in the mother filing for a Protection from Abuse order against the father. The father was arrested, and during the ensuing investigation admitted he had seen the baby the night before at 10:30 PM, but did not check on him again until noon on the day he died. The parents have since resumed their relationship. The victim child's sibling is in kinship foster care and receiving counseling at Friendship House. She does not respond well after visits from her parents. Both parents have been discharged unsuccessfully from drug treatment and are not engaged in the family service plan. This family was known to LCOYFS from a referral in December 2014 regarding the victim child being born drug addicted. Drug screenings were occurring for the mother and scheduled for the father, but he did not comply. A risk assessment was completed, and the case was to have been closed January 21, 2015. Law enforcement charged both parents with endangering the welfare of children and reckless endangerment. The hearing is scheduled for October 2015.

Lancaster County

5. A 1-year-old female child died in early January 2015 as a result of physical abuse. Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Services Agency (LCCYSSA) indicated the case and named the child's mother as the perpetrator on March 9. The child was last seen on January 2 bleeding from her nose and mouth. A witness reported that the mother had beaten the child with a plastic cord resembling a jump rope. LCCYSSA made numerous unsuccessful attempts to locate the child and the family. The mother was evasive and provided multiple false reports regarding the whereabouts of the child. The child's father was not living in the home with the mother and children at the time of the incident. The father was unable to provide any information regarding the whereabouts of the mother and children. Lancaster

City Police Department tracked down the child's mother in another county on January 23 at which time she admitted to killing the child and throwing her body in the garbage. The child's body has never been found. The exact date of death is not certain, however the mother admitted to beating the child to death on either January 3 or January 4. The child's father was not in a position to provide a stable home environment so the child's two siblings, ages 3 years and 2 months, were placed in foster care. Therapy services were provided to the child's older sibling, who experienced measurable trauma from the ordeal. LCCYSSA had received two separate GPS reports on the family in late summer and early fall 2014. The first report claimed that drugs were being sold in the family's residence. A law enforcement investigation resulted in the arrest of two individuals in the home. The mother was to be charged with a summons for possession, but was not detained. LCCYSSA was unable to locate the family as their reported residence had a condemned notice and the door was padlocked. After several failed attempts to locate the family, this case was closed. The second report was regarding concerns that the father had passed out at a table inside a restaurant and the child was present with him. The father was arrested for public drunkenness and endangering the welfare of a child. Police released the child to her paternal grandparents. The mother is incarcerated without bail awaiting criminal trial. She is charged with criminal homicide, abuse of a corpse, intimidation, retaliation or obstruction in a child abuse case, simple assault, and endangering the welfare of a child.

Luzerne County

6. A 21-month-old male child died January 11, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. The Northeast Regional Office of the Office of Children, Youth and Families (NERO) indicated the case and named the child's biological maternal grandmother as the perpetrator on March 13. She had been the child's kinship foster parent. After being found unresponsive in the home of his kinship caregivers January 11 the child was taken by ambulance to Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital Emergency Room. The child had what appeared to be burn marks on his legs, different stages of bruising on his back, bruises on his head, a blown out pupil, and scratches on his face. A CAT scan performed at the hospital showed old and new brain bleeds. The child underwent surgery to remove blood clots from his brain and died in the operating room. The grandmother provided two different explanations for the child's injuries, stating that he fell off the couch and that he bangs his head when he has temper tantrums. According to the attending medical professionals, neither explanation was a plausible explanation for the injuries. There were three other children in the care of the maternal grandmother and maternal stepgrandfather at the time of the child's death. The two older half siblings were in the legal care and custody of the maternal grandmother and maternal stepgrandfather for the majority of their lives. The child's full sibling was residing with him in kinship foster care since November 2014 when both children were removed from their parents' care.

After the child's death, all three surviving children were taken into protective custody and are residing in the same foster home. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that the child's full sibling had a fractured clavicle and bruising to his lower back. This initiated a separate investigation, and neither

the maternal grandmother nor maternal stepgrandfather could provide an explanation for the sibling's injuries. Both caregivers were found to be responsible and indicated for the injuries to this sibling. The parents are involved in an intensive family reunification service and are working with Luzerne County Children and Youth Agency (LCCYA) to regain custody of the child's full sibling. Services are being provided to the maternal grandmother and maternal stepgrandfather in an effort to return the child's older siblings, whom they had custody of, to their care. The parents have also been referred for counseling services. LCCYA had received six referrals on this family between October 2010 and January 2014. The referrals were regarding the child's two half siblings, who were residing with their parents at the time; the child; and his full sibling. The allegations included: lack of supervision, inappropriate discipline, physical injuries, frequent illness, neglect, dirty and unlivable housing conditions, and developmental issues regarding all of the children. All six of the reports were closed as the allegations were unsubstantiated. However, the parents were referred to a parenting program and participated in early intervention services for the children. Another referral was received in March 2014 which led to the family remaining open for GPS with LCCYA. Concerns included: the condition of the home, inappropriate sleeping arrangements for the children, parents partying and allowing people to stay at their house, drinking and playing loud music, fighting between the mother and father, developmental delays of the children, one of the children reportedly grabbing women's crotches, inappropriate dressing of the children, and the children's frequent illness. Continued concern for the welfare of the children resulted in the November 2014 placement of the child and his full sibling with the maternal grandmother and maternal stepgrandfather. There is an ongoing criminal investigation regarding the child's death.

Montgomery County

7. On January 5, 2015, a 4-month-old female child died as a result of physical neglect. Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (MCOCY) received a report of the child's death on January 6 and on March 3 indicated two child care center employees as the perpetrators.

On January 5 at 10:51 AM, the child was found unresponsive in a crib by a staff member employed with the Wyndmoor Learning Center. The child was transported to the Chestnut Hill Hospital by ambulance and pronounced dead at 11:40 AM.

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) received a complaint on January 5 and conducted an unannounced monitoring of the child care center on the same day. A review of the child care center's on-site video footage showed the child sitting in a swing and a staff person standing behind the child and placing a sheet over the child's head. The footage further revealed the same staff person roughly lifting the child out of the swing without unfastening the swings safety straps and walking out of the view of the camera with the child's head still covered by the sheet. Based on the video footage it could not be determined if the child was responsive at that time.

MCOCY received the report regarding the child's death and worked in conjunction with the Montgomery County Detectives Bureau and Springfield Township Police Department to investigate the report. The child care center workers stated that the child was fussy that morning. Both parents dropped the child off that morning with no mention of medical concerns or changes with the child. A short while later the child was placed into the swing in an attempt to soothe her. One worker said that putting a sheet around the child's face was a way to keep her pacifier in her mouth, but both denied putting a sheet over the child's head that day. The other worker said she "might have put a blanket up to the child's chest area since it was cold in the daycare." This same worker said that after 20 minutes in the swing she removed the child and placed her into her crib, on her stomach, with her pacifier. When she went back to check on the child approximately 15 minutes later, the child was not breathing and had blood coming out of her nose. The worker ran, with the child, to the main office and was assisted by a co-worker to administer CPR until the ambulance arrived.

As a result of the OCDEL monitoring visit, the child care center's certificate of compliance was revoked due to multiple violations and was permanently closed. On February 27 the Medical Examiner's office determined the child died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Law enforcement determined that no criminal charges would be filed.

Philadelphia County

8. On January 31, 2015, a 2-year-old female died as a result of physical neglect. Philadelphia County Department of Human Services (DHS) indicated the case on February 26 naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. The child was transported by ambulance to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) on the night of January 28 after her mother found the child cool to the touch and not breathing in her crib around 11:30 PM. The mother took the child to her paternal aunt's bedroom for help. The paternal aunt called 911 and administered CPR until an ambulance arrived. At the hospital it was found that the child tested positive for methadone. The mother said she did not know how the child had ingested methadone. The mother was receiving prescribed methadone treatments at a local clinic. According to the mother, she kept the medication in a locked box out of the way of the children. The child reportedly went to bed at 9:00 PM and woke up crying once because she had a bad dream. The mother found her not breathing around 11:30 PM.

The mother was unable to provide an explanation of how the child ingested the methadone and suggested that the child may have gained access to it while at the on-site child care at the clinic earlier that day. DHS consulted with physicians at CHOP, who stated that if the child had accessed the methadone while at the clinic that she would have presented with symptoms earlier in the day. The toxicologist reported that based on the timeline of the events, it was likely the child ingested the methadone at home as the child would have presented as symptomatic within two to four hours after ingesting the medications.

On January 29 the child's two biological siblings were medically evaluated and cleared with no areas of medical concern. However, there were concerns for their safety, so they were placed in protective custody by DHS. They are together in a foster home and are receiving grief counseling. The mother is scheduled to have supervised weekly visits with the siblings. She was also referred by family court to have drug screening, assessment, and monitoring, as well as a parenting capacity evaluation. The family is known to DHS. The mother was previously indicated in 2007 for medical neglect of an older sibling of the child for not obtaining needed medical treatment after the child was born with a cataract on her eye. DHS provided GPS to the family intermittently throughout 2009, 2010, and 2011. The GPS reports involved concerns regarding inappropriate discipline, lack of housing, and lack of proper medical care for one of the child's siblings. These reports were all found to be invalid. In 2010, the child's siblings were in foster care for 11 months when the mother sought help for the children because she was unable to provide them with a home. The siblings were again placed in foster care for a two-month period in early 2011 when the mother sought help for the children due to not being able to protect them from their father's violence and threats of violence. The children were subsequently returned to the mother's care. The father was incarcerated and remains as such. This case is under criminal investigation.

Schuylkill County

9. A 6-day-old female child died on January 15, 2015, as a result of suffocation. Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services (SCCYS) indicated the case on February 25 naming the child's mother as the perpetrator of physical neglect. Prior to the child's death, SCCYS arranged a meeting between the mother and the private provider who supervises her visits with her children, who are in foster care, to review safe sleep guidelines. At the meeting, which occurred two days prior to this incident, the mother stated she had a portable crib that the child was sleeping in. On the day of the incident, the child woke up at approximately 3:30 AM. The mother fed the child and said she was back to sleep by 4:00 AM. The female who owned the home where the mother and child were staying woke the mother around 6:30 AM when she noticed that the child was on her back between the mother's chest and the couch where the mother normally slept. The mother realized the child was not breathing and the homeowner contacted 911.

During the investigation the mother reported that she had concerns with the child spitting up formula from her nose and mouth following feedings. She was concerned that the child would choke and because of this had been positioning the child in an upright position on her chest after feedings. The mother has five other children who have been in the custody of SCCYS since of the summer of 2014. The family has a history of involvement with SCCYS that dates back to 2009. Concerns reported include drug use, inappropriate discipline, truancy, domestic violence, and lack of follow through with medical appointments. SCCYS had been providing ongoing GPS to the family since January 2013. The mother continued to struggle with meeting the basic needs of the children, coping with their behaviors, and providing for their safety.

SCCYS filed for protective custody of the children in May 2014 and placed them in foster care. SCCYS continues to provide services to the family in order to reunite the mother and the children. The agency did receive notification of the child's birth and made numerous attempts to locate the mother and the child prior to meeting with them on January 13, but could not as the mother provided numerous fictitious addresses. No criminal charges have been filed.

Near Fatalities

Allegheny County

1. An 18-month-old female child nearly died on September 14, 2012, as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Office of Children Youth and Families (ACOCYF) submitted the status as pending criminal court on October 15, 2012, and subsequently founded the case on January 21, 2015, naming the child's mother and father as perpetrators. The mother and father explained the injuries by suggesting that the 6-year-old sibling had dropped toys on the victim child's foot and that she had inflicted injuries to herself by banging her head on hard surfaces. However, the treating physicians reported that the explanations were not supported by the medical evidence, including the severity of her injuries.

Emergency medical personnel transported the female child to the regional pediatric hospital on September 14 where the medical evaluation noted that the child was unresponsive and actively seizing. Upon admission, the child was evaluated with: chronic and acute subdural hemorrhages; multiple healing fractures to one leg and toes; significant bilateral retinal hemorrhages; and bruising to the forehead and buttock. The mother was the sole caregiver at the time of the incident. The father had taken the 6-year-old sibling to the doctor. The mother reported hearing the child, who was in her crib in another room, banging her head in her crib. The mother reports removing the child from her crib, leaving her unsupervised in another room while she prepared a bottle and then heard the child cry out. The mother said the child was limp and unresponsive so she called 911 to request emergency medical assistance.

Hospital medical personnel and ACOCYF caseworkers noted variations in the mother's account of father's whereabouts and the length of time he was present in the home between presentation of the 6 year old at the pediatric urgent care clinic and regional pediatric hospital. Upon receipt of the report and preliminary assessment, the county agency immediately took custody of all of the children. The child and her 6-year-old sibling remained in the hospital while two additional siblings were placed with the paternal grandparents. The two siblings were medically evaluated at the regional pediatric hospital on September 16. The evaluations were unremarkable.

Upon discharge from the hospital, the 6-year-old child was placed with the grandparents, who were evaluated and approved as kinship caregivers with his siblings. On October 12 the grandparents requested the 6-year-old child's removal due to their inability to care for his behavioral health needs. He was placed in a

resource foster home. The victim child was placed in the same home upon her discharge from aftercare services. Due to ongoing criminal court proceedings, a no contact order was issued for interaction between the children and their parents. Crisis in-home services were then instituted to supervise visitation between the parents and their children.

This family was not known to ACOCYF prior to this near fatality report. The parents were arrested on October 5, 2012, and charged with aggravated assault, recklessly endangering another person, simple assault, and endangering the welfare of children. Following a preliminary hearing, the parents were released on bond.

On September 14, 2014, the father pled nolo contendere to two charges of endangering the welfare of a child and was sentenced to 10 years probation. On this same date, the mother pled nolo contendere to the same charges and was sentenced to six months confinement and nine years probation.

2. On January 21, 2015, a 3-month-old male child nearly died as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) indicated the report on March 18 naming the child's father as the perpetrator. This report was subsequently founded on February 24, 2016. The child was being seen for a routine check-up at his doctor's office when it was noted that his head circumference had increased from 50 percent to greater than 99 percent for his age. The child was immediately taken to the emergency room at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP), where he was found to have large subdural hematomas that required immediate surgery to drain the bleeding. The child was then transferred to the intensive care unit for recovery. The physician at CHP notified ACOCYF on February 6 that the child was certified to be in critical condition, which initiated the near fatality investigation. The child was expected to have temporary if not permanent impairment and was deemed to be at risk for seizures, cognitive, and/or developmental delays. The mother and father both initially denied knowing how the child had received the injuries, but the father eventually confessed to causing the injuries to the child and stated he was "patting the child to get him to calm down and may have patted harder than anticipated." On January 28 the child was released from CHP to his mother's care. The family continues to receive services from ACOCYF. The mother was referred for counseling and the child was referred for early intervention services. The child also continues to receive follow-up medical care. The child has an older 5-year-old sibling who was residing with the family at the time. The child and his sibling remain in the care of their mother. The father was initially under a no-contact order, but due to his participation in parenting services and cooperation with ACOCYF, he has been permitted supervised visitation. The family was not known to ACOCYF prior to this referral. On January 24 the father was arrested and incarcerated. He was charged with aggravated assault and recklessly endangering another person and was sentenced to two years probation.

Berks County

3. On November 22, 2014, a 4-year-old male child nearly died as a result of physical abuse and physical neglect. The abuse and neglect occurred over a period of time, which resulted in certifying the child to be in a serious condition. On January 14, 2015, Berks County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) founded the mother for physical abuse and neglect. The mother brought the child to the emergency room and alleged that he had fallen on steps. The child's ear was swollen and severely infected due to a lack of medical attention. The child had various injuries with differing severity and stages of healing. Additionally, he was severely underweight. The child lived with his mother, father, and two siblings. The father denied any knowledge of injuries to the child. A safety assessment was conducted, which resulted in the siblings being placed with relatives. Upon discharge from the hospital, the victim child was also placed with relatives. The family was known to BCCYS prior to this incident. A GPS report was made in February 2011 for domestic violence and another GPS report in April 2013 regarding the victim child's weight. That case was closed in June 2014. On December 22, 2014, regarding the current incident, the court found the mother had physically abused the child. The mother was charged with attempted murder of the first degree, aggravated assault, unlawful restraint/ serious bodily injury, and endangering the welfare of children. She is incarcerated awaiting trial.

Delaware County

4. A 10-year-old male child nearly died on November 15, 2014, after accidentally shooting himself in the head with his father's gun. The incident occurred in Delaware County, but the family resided in Philadelphia County. As such, Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) conducted the investigation, and on January 13, 2015, indicated the child's father as the perpetrator of physical neglect. On the date of incident, the victim and his sister were left alone in the car while their father went into a friend's automobile shop. During that time the child found his father's unsecured gun in the center console and, while playing with it, shot himself in the head. He was taken to Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital and stabilized before being transferred to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). The bullet went through the left mandible, causing an intracranial hemorrhage, brain swelling, phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of the intracranial venous sinuses, and acute venous embolism and thrombosis of internal jugular veins. On December 9, 2014, the child was transferred to CHOP's Seashore House for ongoing treatment. While in rehabilitation he received speech, occupational and physical therapy sessions. He has had multiple surgeries to reconstruct his cheek, increase nerve functioning in his cheek, and to remove material from his left eye. The child still requires assistance with bathing, dressing, eating, and walking. Doctors working with the child during his rehabilitation stated that his prognosis of returning back to pre-injury levels of functioning is fair. The father voluntarily surrendered his other firearm and the mother no longer wants firearms in the home. DHS assessed the safety of the victim child's sibling and found there to be no safety concerns. The family was known to DHS from a GPS report received a year prior to this incident,

which was unfounded and not opened for any services. No criminal charges have been filed.

Mercer County

5. A 2-year-old female child nearly died on January 3, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Mercer County Children and Youth Services (MCCYS) indicated the child's father and stepmother as perpetrators on March 4. On January 3 the child was admitted to a local emergency room by the stepmother due to being unresponsive. The stepmother reported upon waking the child that morning that the child was unresponsive. The initial exam found bruises on her arms, legs, and face. She also had a subdural hematoma that appeared to be more than 24 hours old. The emergency room physician certified the child to be in critical condition from suspected child abuse. She was transferred to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh (CHP) for treatment. She was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit and placed on a ventilator. A head scan indicated both a chronic and an acute subdural hemorrhage. She also had exceptionally high levels of sodium in her blood and was malnourished. The physical exam noted further injuries including a swollen nose, broken and scabbed skin over her wrist, and what appeared to be a human bite mark on her calf. The father and stepmother reported that they had custody of the child since August 2014 when the biological mother moved out of state due to losing her housing. The father and stepmother claimed that the child was sick with what resembled the flu in November 2014 and refused to eat or walk during the illness. The stepmother reported that January 2, 2015, the child had fallen off a booster seat while sitting at the dining room table eating her lunch. The stepmother said she was out of the room attending to her children and went back into the room when she heard the child fall and start crying. The stepmother reportedly noticed some swelling on the child's forehead and applied ice to the injury. She denied that the child lost consciousness or vomited, saying the child took a nap and woke up acting normal that day. The stepmother also said the child showed no ill effects of the incident until the next morning, when she was unresponsive though still breathing. Medical staff stated that the subdural hemorrhage could not be explained by a minor impact (the alleged fall from the seat) and that the injury was diagnostic for physical abuse. It was also noted that the child's loss of four pounds since November 2014 suggested possible food restriction and the highly elevated sodium level suggested that the child was restricted fluids or was given inappropriate salt-containing fluids over a long period.

The child's biological mother arrived from South Carolina and reported the child to be a normally well developed child who was able to run, walk and speak when she left her in the father's care in August 2014. The biological mother immediately filed for a Protection from Abuse order on behalf of the child and began procedures to secure custody. The child was released to the care of her mother, who returned to South Carolina with the child January 30, 2015. Her medical follow-up care was transferred to Medical University of South Carolina. The child had two stepsiblings who were also living in the home at the time of the incident. The step siblings' biological father, after hearing the details of the victim child's injuries, picked them up at the hospital January 3, 2015. The father resided in Venango County, so

MCCYS worked with local children and youth services in that county to ensure the stepsiblings' safety while at the father's home. He sought custody of the children, and they remain in his care. Prior to this incident, the family had no involvement with MCCYS. Both the child's father and stepmother were charged with one count of aggravated assault-victim less than 13 years old, two counts of aggravated assault-victim less than 6 years old, and three counts of endangering the welfare of children. Both were released on bond and charges were held over for court.

Montgomery County

6. On January 14, 2015, a 3-year-old male child nearly died as a result of physical abuse. On February 20 Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (MCOCY) indicated the child's mother as a perpetrator of abuse for failing to act in getting the child swift emergency care, which resulted in severe brain damage. MCOCY indicated her paramour as a perpetrator of abuse for violently shaking the child. MCOCY received notification that the child, who was hospitalized at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), had an unexplained subdural hemorrhage that required surgical intervention. At the time, there was no history of accidental trauma that would explain the child's injury. It was reported that the child had no pre-existing medical issues. The child was taken to Abington Hospital by his mother and uncle, where the child was stabilized and then transported to CHOP due to multiple bruises, contusions of the neck, and seizures. Non-accidental trauma was a concern and the emergency room physician certified the child's condition as a near fatality. Explanations from the child's mother and uncle did not explain what the medical professional was observing from the child's injuries. Both MCOCY and Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services (BCCYSS) collaborated to assess the circumstances related to the child's condition. BCCYSS has a history with this family including GPS reports for neglect in February 2014 and one Child Protective Services report in October 2014 for alleged physical abuse of the victim child's sibling. BCCYSS provided family preservation services, but the mother was a no-show for many of the meetings. During this time the mother relocated several times, was jailed briefly and then moved out of the county. BCCYSS contacted law enforcement, all known family, friends, and caregivers in an attempt to locate the family, but were unsuccessful, so they closed the case on December 16, 2014. Both the mother and paramour were arrested and incarcerated. All three children are safe and secure in foster care. The victim child has been placed in a medical treatment foster home through Silver Springs foster care agency and his siblings are placed together in a foster home through the Children's Home of Reading. The siblings are participating in regular sibling visits. The mother was participating in the visits prior to going to jail.

Philadelphia County

7. A 23-month-old female child nearly died on January 18, 2015, as a result of a physical neglect. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) indicated the case on February 26 naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. The child was transported by ambulance to the emergency room at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) on January 18 after being found unresponsive by her mother.

The child presented with shallow breathing, a decreased heart rate, and low blood pressure. There were concerns that the child may have ingested some of her older sibling's prescribed medications. The child was stabilized and in intensive care for several days. DHS received notification on January 20 that the child was in critical condition and that the child's symptoms were consistent with drug ingestion and a near fatality investigation was initiated.

The mother provided inconsistent stories regarding how the child may have accessed the medications. She said that she went to the store and found the child unresponsive upon her return home. She denied that she had left the older sibling's medications out where the child would have access to them. The investigation found that the mother failed to provide adequate supervision of the child. The child's older sibling was placed with an aunt on January 21 through a safety plan, and DHS obtained protective custody of both children the next day. The aunt was approved as a kinship foster parent, and both children remain in her care. The mother continues to receive case management services and attend a parenting class. DHS is working with the family on the goal of returning the children to the mother's care. The mother has an extensive history with DHS as a child dating back to 2005. Reports were for both GPS and Child Protective Services, and included indicated reports of physical abuse and neglect. DHS provided services to the family almost continually from 2005-2011 until the mother (as a child) was discharged from placement in December 2011. As a parent, the mother became involved with DHS in May 2014. One report alleged that the victim child's older sibling had been injured. DHS conducted an assessment and noted no concerns for the child's safety. In July 2014 a report was received regarding the condition of the family's home. After assessing the family's situation, DHS did not substantiate the report. Another referral was made in December 2014 regarding allegations that the child's older sibling was hit by the mother. DHS provided services following this referral and was still actively involved with the family when this incident occurred. Philadelphia Police Department investigated the incident and no charges were filed.

Washington County

8. A 4-month-old male infant nearly died on December 31, 2014, as a result of physical abuse. Washington County Children and Youth Services (WCCYS) indicated the case on February 19, 2015, naming the child's father as the perpetrator. The child's parents took him to Washington Hospital on December 31, 2014, after the child reportedly had a seizure while the father was trying to feed him. The child did not have any history of seizures and was transferred to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) for further evaluation. The child had two skull fractures on the right side of the back of his head and subdural hemorrhages on both sides of his brain. The child was admitted to the intensive care unit and certified to be in critical condition.

The father reported that approximately two weeks earlier he had tripped over the dog while holding the child secure to his chest. He stated that he fell to the floor, but landed on his side and back so that the child did not hit the floor. The CHP physicians reported that the fall, as described by the father, would not have caused

the injuries to the child. On the day of the incident, the mother reported that she left for work at 1:30 PM and that prior to leaving, the child was laughing and playing after waking up from his nap around 12:50 PM. During the investigation, WCCYS received information that the father had dropped the child, but was under the influence of substances and could not remember doing so. The mother was unable to explain the injuries, but said the child had a possible ear infection three days prior to the incident because he was tugging on his ear, was not eating his normal amount, and was sleepy and fussy. The mother also claimed that the father had tripped over the dog approximately two weeks ago while holding the baby. She also told the caseworker that the child had been seen by his pediatrician less than 10 days before the incident and no concerns were noted.

On January 2, 2015, WCCYS obtained protective custody of the child. On January 5 the child was placed with his maternal aunt and uncle who were acting as kinship foster parents. The parents are permitted supervised visitations, have been referred to parenting education, and scheduled for psychological evaluations. The father was also ordered to complete a drug and alcohol evaluation. The child was referred to early intervention services and received occupational therapy and physical therapy. He continues to be seen by specialists at CHP. There were no other children in either parent's care. The father had been involved with children and youth services as a child due to neglect and was in and out of foster care for several years. No criminal charges have been filed. The incident is under criminal investigation.

York County

9. On February 7, 2015, a 2-month-old male infant nearly died from physical abuse. York County Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) indicated the report on March 27 naming the child's father as the perpetrator. On the night of the incident, the mother was at work and the father was watching the child and his twin sibling. Both children were reportedly sleeping in bassinets in the living area when the child woke up and was fussy. The father stated that he carried the child upstairs in search of socks, but on the way back down he fell. The father said on the way down the steps, he was carrying the child with his head cradled in the crook of his left arm when the family dog ran into his leg causing his right knee to buckle. The father said his left arm and shoulder hit the wall and that he believed that the child's head hit the wall. He claimed that he lost his balance and fell toward the right. He felt the child moving forward so he grabbed the child and pulled the child back toward him and thought that he may have grabbed the child's neck or shoulders. The child began to cry and went limp and lifeless. The father reported trying various methods to get the child to react, including hitting the child's face a few times, holding him up in the air, and bouncing him a few times, but the child did not react. The father tried to breathe into the child's mouth a few times and pushed on his chest, and then called 911. The mother said when she returned home from work the child was lying on a chair and appeared lifeless. The child would take a big breath and then would not breathe for a while. The child was taken by ambulance to York Hospital, where he received a head Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT) scan and was observed until 9:00 PM that evening. The child was discharged and the father was told by police to expect CYF to contact him. CYF

was informed that the ambulance crew did not note any injuries on the child and there were no suspicions of abuse, so the case was not accepted for investigation. On February 8, 2015, the parents described the child as fussy, not eating, wanting to be held, and vomiting after eating. The mother reported that overnight into the next day the child's arms were having jerking movements that would not stop even when the child was touched. She also said his pupils were fixed. The child was taken back to York Hospital on February 9. Medical personnel observed seizure activity and decided to transfer him to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital (PSHCH). Testing revealed the child had bleeding behind both eyes, bleeds on the right rear and left front of the brain, and hypoxic brain injury resulting from lack of oxygen to the brain, which most likely caused the seizures. The child was able to eat and breathe on his own.

On February 10 a physician at PSHCH certified the child to be in critical condition due to suspected child abuse, which initiated the near fatality investigation. A safety plan was immediately put into place by CYF, stating all of the father's contact with the children would be supervised by the children's grandparents. The child's twin sibling had a full pediatric exam, skeletal survey, and MRI on February 13, which revealed fluid present on the child's brain as well as subdural hemorrhaging and a tibia fracture. The sibling was admitted to PSHCH and CYF obtained a verbal order of custody for both children. The children were both released from PSHCH on February 15 and were placed together in foster care. CYF worked with West Manchester Township Police Department on the investigation and were able to rule out the child's mother as a perpetrator. The children were both released to the mother's custody on March 2 and she obtained a Protection from Abuse order against the father for the children. She was able to secure her own housing and had a positive support system in place, so CYF closed the case in March 2015. The family had no involvement with CYF prior to this report. The father was charged with aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a child. He is incarcerated and awaiting trial.

10. On February 13, 2015, York County Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) received notification that a 2-month-old male infant nearly died as a result of physical abuse. CYF indicated the report on March 27 naming an unknown person as the perpetrator. CYF became involved with the family on February 10 when the child's twin sibling was certified to be in critical condition due to suspected physical abuse, and the father was named as the perpetrator. The child's sibling was admitted to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital (PSHCH) where the treating physician recommended that this child receive a full pediatric exam due to suspected child abuse. A skeletal survey and a MRI were completed on February 13 revealing blood on his brain, subdural hemorrhaging, and a tibia fracture. The medical team reported the test results to be consistent with non-accidental injury. The child was admitted to the hospital and certified to be in critical condition due to suspected child abuse, which initiated the near fatality investigation. The parents were unable to provide an explanation for these injuries. CYF obtained a verbal order of custody for both children. Upon release from PSHCH on February 15 the children were placed together in foster care. CYF worked with West Manchester Township Police Department on the investigation and were able to rule out the

child's mother as a perpetrator. It was not possible to date the injuries sustained by the child, so CYF and the police were not able to determine who was responsible for causing the injuries. The children were returned to the mother's custody on March 2 and she obtained a Protection from Abuse order against the father for the children. The mother was able to secure her own housing and has a positive support system in place, so CYF closed the case in March 2015. The family had no involvement with CYF prior to this report. No charges can be filed due to an unknown perpetrator.