

Fatalities:

Fayette County:

1. A one-year old female child died on Jan. 6, 2011 due to medical neglect. Fayette County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in February of 2011 and named both parents as perpetrators. The child was considered to be medically fragile since birth and needed to have a feeding tube inserted at night. The parents reported that the child's feeding tube had become dislodged during the night and were unsuccessful when trying to reinsert it. Instead of contacting medical professionals, the parents left the feeding tube dislodged. The parents checked on the child the next morning and found the child unconscious. The mother had left the home at this point to go with a friend to use crack cocaine. The father contacted emergency services and the child was found deceased at the home. The initial autopsy report determined the child died from malnutrition and dehydration. The child has seven siblings and all have been removed from the home due to the incident and due to deplorable and unsanitary housing conditions. Family and friends of the family were initially explored as placement resources, but were determined to be inappropriate to care for the siblings. All of the siblings are in formal foster care and are placed in three separate homes. The county agency continues to explore family resources for the children. The county agency had received several prior referrals due to lack of supervision and other general neglect concerns. There had been a home nursing agency providing services for the family and child. The family also resided in West Virginia and was involved with the child welfare system in that state for periods of time dating back to 1998 before moving to Pennsylvania in April of 2010. The family was involved due to general neglect concerns including unsafe housing, drug use of the mother and medical concerns of the victim child. West Virginia has been involved with the review of this case to see if anything different could have been done on their part, but findings and recommendations have not yet been developed. Both parents have been charged with criminal homicide and endangering the welfare of children and are incarcerated.

Lawrence County:

2. A twelve-year old male child died on Jan. 21, 2011 as a result of a gunshot wound. Lawrence County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in February of 2011 and named the mother as the perpetrator. Law enforcement officials were contacted as the residents of the home were not seen for a couple of days. The child was found at the home deceased from a gunshot wound. Additionally, the mother and the child's grandmother, who also lives in the home, were found deceased of gunshot wounds. It was determined the mother had shot the child and her mother and then shot herself. Family members believed that the mother was paranoid due to things she was saying, such as people being out to kill her. They also reported she recently had to quit employment due to health problems. The child has no siblings. The county agency was involved on an assessment level in November of 2009 due to the child returning from his father's home with a bloody bowel movement. The child made no statements of abuse and medical examination revealed the child was constipated.

Philadelphia County:

3. A three-year old male child died on Jan. 15, 2011 due to physical injuries. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services substantiated the report in February of 2011 and named the mother's paramour as the perpetrator. The child woke up in the middle of the night crying and was inconsolable. The mother's paramour had checked on the child when he woke-up and tried to calm him. The child's mother was asleep during this time. The mother's paramour became frustrated and started hitting the child repeatedly. The mother's paramour checked on the child about two hours later and found him unconscious. Emergency responders were contacted and the paramour's mother, who also lives in the home, began CPR. The child was pronounced dead at the hospital. The medical examiner found a laceration to the child's liver, caused by the repeated hitting. The laceration caused massive internal bleeding, which caused blood to pool in the child's stomach. Numerous other injuries were found, including contusions, abrasions and other areas of hemorrhaging. The mother's paramour has a child of his own, who is now residing with her mother as a result of the incident. This child was medically examined and no concerns were found. There are no other children in the family of the victim child. The mother's paramour was charged with murder, involuntary manslaughter and endangering the welfare of children and is currently incarcerated. This family was not known to the county agency prior to the incident.

Near Fatalities:**Allegheny County:**

1. A two-year old male child nearly died on Jan. 6, 2011 due to physical injuries. The Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families substantiated the report in March of 2011 and named the mother's paramour as the perpetrator. The mother's paramour contacted emergency responders due to finding the child unconscious. He reported the child fell out of bed. Medical examination revealed the child suffered multiple bruises, swelling of the brain and subdural hemorrhaging. The mother's paramour's account was not consistent with the extent of the injuries and the medical examination determined the injuries were intentionally inflicted. The mother was at work when the incident occurred. There are no other children residing with the family. This family was not known to the county agency prior to the incident. The mother's paramour has been charged with aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of children and is currently incarcerated.

Blair County:

2. A one-year old male child nearly died on March 5, 2011 due to physical injuries he received from a lack of supervision. Blair County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in April of 2011 and named the father as the perpetrator. The child was brought to the hospital by the father where it was determined the child had a subdural hematoma and fractured leg. The father reported the child fell out of a window from the third story of the home. The window had been left open and the child was left

alone long enough to make it from the first floor of the home up to the third floor. It was further determined the child was being supervised by a six-year old sibling when the incident occurred, as the father was in the bathroom. The mother was at work when the incident occurred. There are two older half-siblings, one of which was the six-year old, who are currently residing with their father due to the incident. The child and a sibling are currently residing with the maternal grandparents due to the incident. There is an ongoing criminal investigation. The county agency was involved in November of 2010 due to inappropriate discipline by the mother towards the oldest child. No services were provided at that time.

3. A one-year old male child nearly died on March 5, 2011 due to physical impairment he received from a lack of supervision. Blair County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in March of 2011 and named both parents as perpetrators. The child had fallen asleep in the middle of the afternoon and was checked on approximately six hours later by the parents. The parents found the child unresponsive and they contacted emergency responders. The medical examination revealed the child tested positive for opiates. The child and family were visiting the paternal grandparent's home when the incident occurred. The paternal grandmother uses opiates and the child may have taken some of her medication. Both parents admitted to abusing oxycodone earlier that day and were under the influence when the child fell asleep. The child and an older sibling are residing with their maternal grandmother due to the incident. There is an ongoing criminal investigation. There had been a prior referral to the county agency in May of 2010 regarding concerns of drug use by the parents, improper supervision of the older sibling and unsanitary housing conditions. The county agency assessed the family for services at that time and determined there was not a need for services.

Erie County:

4. A two-month old male child nearly died on Jan. 10, 2011 due to physical injuries. Erie County Office of Children and Youth substantiated the report in January of 2011 and named the father as the perpetrator. The father was physically assaulting the mother while she was holding the child. During the assault, the father stuck the child in the head resulting in bruising to his brain tissue. The mother's right eye was swollen shut and she received a facial fracture during the incident. The child has two older siblings who were initially placed with their maternal grandmother due to the incident, but were subsequently returned to their mother as it was determined they were safe as the father no longer had access to the children. The county agency has accepted the family for services. The father was criminally charged aggravated assault, unlawful restraint and making terroristic threats and is incarcerated. This family was not known to the county agency prior to the incident. However, it is reported that father has an extensive criminal history and there is a history of domestic violence towards the mother.

5. A two-year old male child nearly died on March 13, 2011 due to physical injuries. Erie County Office of Children and Youth substantiated the report in March of 2011 and named the mother's paramour as the perpetrator. The mother was asleep and was awoken by her paramour due to finding the child unresponsive. Emergency responders

were contacted and the child was transported to the hospital. Medical examination revealed the child had significant bruising to the head, arms and legs that was not recently caused, a skull fracture, subdural hemorrhaging and a lacerated liver. Initially, it was reported the child's four-year old sibling pushed the child off the top of a bunk bed. However, the injuries did not match this account and eventually the mother's paramour admitted to throwing the child onto the bed, causing the child to strike his head on the metal bed frame. He also admitted punching the child to the lower back. There is no account given as to how the older bruising occurred, but medical evidence concluded the bruising is consistent with abuse. The child and the four-year old sibling are currently residing with their father due to the incident. There is an older half-sibling who is currently residing with a family friend due to the incident. The mother's paramour has been charged with aggravated assault, endangerment of a child and reckless endangerment of another person and is currently incarcerated. This family was not known to the county agency prior to the incident.

Luzerne County:

6. A five-month old male child nearly died on Feb. 4, 2011 due to physical injuries. Luzerne County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in March of 2011 and named both parents as the perpetrators. The father found the child unresponsive and the mother contacted emergency responders. Emergency responders found the child unresponsive, not breathing and having a weak pulse. Upon medical examination at the hospital, it was found that the child had a severe blunt head injury with bilateral subdural hemorrhages, loss of gray-white differentiation in both cerebral hemispheres, bilateral skull fractures, healing bilateral femur fractures, rib fractures, tibia fractures and arm fractures. The mother admitted to shaking the child before he lost consciousness. However, no accounts were given to the other injuries. Medical evidence determined the additional injuries were caused by non-accidental trauma. Since both parents were responsible for the care of the child, both parents were held responsible by the county agency for the injuries. The child has been discharged from the hospital, but is currently in a long-term care facility with a poor prognosis. The child has two half-siblings who initially entered formal foster care due to the incident, but are now living with their biological father in another state. This family was not known to the county agency prior to the incident and had recently relocated from Florida. The county agency contacted the child welfare agency in Florida and found the family was assessed in 2008 after the birth of the oldest sibling due to possible depression of the mother. No services were provided to the family at that time. The mother has been charged with aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of children and is currently incarcerated. There is an ongoing criminal investigation regarding the father.

Philadelphia County:

7. A one-year old male child nearly died on Feb. 9, 2011 due to physical impairment he received from a lack of supervision. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services substantiated the report in February of 2011 and named the mother as the perpetrator. The child was found by the mother to be lethargic and emergency responders were

contacted. The medical examination revealed the child ingested morphine. The investigation determined the mother participates in a methadone maintenance program and had left the morphine out, which the child ingested. The mother normally keeps the methadone in a lock-box, but had the methadone out and had not put it back in the lock box. The child has been discharged from the hospital and is residing with a maternal cousin. There is also an older sibling who is residing with the same cousin due to the incident. There is an ongoing criminal investigation regarding this incident. There had been a prior referral on the family in 2002 regarding improper supervision and mother's drug use. The family was assessed for services as a result of the referral and no services were provided.

8. A fifteen-year old male child nearly died on Feb. 17, 2011 due to serious physical neglect. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services substantiated the report in March of 2011 and named the mother as the perpetrator. The child is wheelchair-bound due to a spinal cord injury from a gunshot. The child developed an infection and blood clots and had to be admitted to the hospital. This infection and blood clots were the result of the child missing medical appointments and not having a filter removed from his inferior vena cava. The child has since been discharged from the hospital and is residing in a medical facility that will assure his medical needs are met. The child has expressed a desire to not return home. There are siblings in the family who remain in the home. The county agency determined these children were safe to remain in the home as they do not have medical needs that necessitated county agency involvement. The county agency continues to monitor the siblings in the home to assure their safety. There had been a prior referral on the mother for not assuring that the child attended rehabilitation. It was determined the county agency did not take appropriate actions assessing this referral and were cited for regulatory non-compliance by the Department. The criminal investigation has concluded and no criminal charges have been filed.