

## Fatalities

### Allegheny County

1. A 1-month-old female child died on June 18, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) indicated the case on August 5 naming the child's father as the perpetrator. The father was bathing the child in the bathroom sink on June 15 while the mother and the older sibling were downstairs. The child cried throughout the five minute bath and according to the father when he began to dry the child off she began to wheeze and went limp. He placed the child on the bed. When the child's mother went upstairs she saw the child gasping for air. The mother had the father call 911 for assistance. The father began CPR, which he continued until the ambulance arrived. The child was transported via ambulance to a local hospital. The physicians determined that the child should be transferred to the local pediatric hospital for further treatment. She sustained a fractured left occipital bone and a subdural hematoma. The child was placed on a ventilator and died on June 18. The child's older sibling remains in the care of the mother due to the physician's report that the child's injuries were acute and would have been inflicted immediately before the child became symptomatic. No services were provided to the family following the incident. The mother had prior involvement with ACOCYF when it was alleged the child's older sibling had ingested the mother's prescribed medication. It was determined that the child had not ingested any medication, and the agency closed the case within two months. The father has been charged with criminal homicide and endangering the welfare of a child. He remains incarcerated awaiting criminal trial.

### Beaver County

2. A 2-month-old female child died on March 9, 2015, as a result of physical neglect. Beaver County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) indicated the case on August 26 naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On March 9 the mother, the child and the child's sibling were all sleeping in the mother's bed when the mother reportedly awoke between 2:00 AM and 3:00 AM to breastfeed the child. The mother articulated that due to the child's acid reflux she sat up to nurse the child and when she burped her, the child spit up. The mother then laid the child in her left arm and fell asleep with the child remaining in her arm. At approximately 9:00 AM the mother awoke to find the child unresponsive and pale white. She immediately called 911 and was instructed by the 911 dispatcher to perform CPR on the child. When questioned, the mother alleged that there were pillows and blankets on the bed, but could not confirm if any of these items were around the child's face. An autopsy was conducted the day of the child's death and the results were inconclusive until the toxicology results were received. The child's death appeared to be accidental as no signs of trauma were evident.

On July 29 the toxicology report indicated the child died from Methadone poisoning, and the child's death was ruled a homicide. A Child Protective Services investigation began on this date. Methadone was prescribed to the mother; however, she went to a clinic to receive her prescribed dosage and was not prescribed take-home

Methadone. During the investigation, no Methadone was found in the mother's residence. The pathologist reported that the child had 83 mg of Methadone in her system at the time of her death. A normal dosage is 2 to 3 mg. The mother had threatened to kill herself, her family, and the child's father's family the weekend of the child's death. There was speculation that she may have placed the Methadone in the child's bottle.

The family was known to the BCCYS prior to this incident due to the mother's drug and alcohol usage and mental health concerns. The case was opened for services at the time of the child's death. The mother has two other children; the child's older brother was placed into the care of his birth father. His father now has full legal and physical custody of him. The child's older sister was placed into kinship care with the maternal grandparents, and remains in their care. The perpetrator remains in her home, and is only allowed supervised visitation with her children. She was receiving parenting instruction, but was removed from the program due to non-compliance. She is receiving drug and alcohol treatment. The case is under criminal investigation.

#### Crawford County

3. A 2-year-old female child died on May 20, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Crawford County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) indicated the case on July 17 naming the child's father as a perpetrator by commission and the child's mother as a perpetrator by omission. The father reported that he was the sole caretaker for the child when he placed her into the bathtub. He claimed that he left her in the bathtub unsupervised while he went into the kitchen for coffee and to have a cigarette. He admitted to smoking marijuana during the day of the incident; however, he never clarified when he smoked the marijuana during that day. The father explained that he left the child unsupervised anywhere from 15 minutes up to one hour. When he checked on the child she was unconscious in the bathtub. He claimed he picked up the child and attempted to scoop out the water in the child's mouth. Instead of dialing 911, he explained that he attempted to call the child's mother on three separate occasions around 6:00 PM; however, she did not answer due to being at work. He placed the child on the bed and waited for the child's mother to return to the home.

Once the child's mother returned home from work approximately at 7:50 PM she saw her child on the bed and screamed. The neighbors heard the mother and ran to the house to assist, began CPR, and called 911. The child was transported via ambulance to Meadville Medical Center, and was dead on arrival. The child had petechial bruising around the eyes, scratches inside her mouth and on her neck. The coroner stated that the marks on the child are consistent with her being suffocated.

The mother claimed that she knew the father had mental health issues. He had stopped taking his prescribed medication approximately one to two years prior to the date of incident and had experienced paranoid and delusional thoughts. She also commented that the father would lose track of time and would have moments

where he appeared to black out. The mother had provided the father with a list of mental health treatment service providers for him to obtain treatment prior to this incident. She admits that she left the children alone with the father even though he would have moments that he blacked out, and he needed to seek mental health treatment.

The child's older sibling was placed into the care of the maternal aunt and uncle. Visitation between the sibling and the parents is supervised by Children and Youth service providers. Both parents are receiving drug and alcohol treatment and parenting instruction. The mother had tested positive for Methadone, but did not have a prescription for this medication. All family members are receiving trauma therapy. The family was not known to the county agency prior to this incident. The case remains under criminal investigation.

#### Dauphin County

4. A 5-month-old female child died on May 8, 2015, as a result of physical neglect. On July 7 Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth (DCSSCY) indicated the case naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators.

On the day of the incident, the child was taken to PinnacleHealth Harrisburg Hospital due to respiratory distress. The mother reported that prior to the child being in distress she had fed the child, changed her diaper and put her in her crib on her side. Sometime later, the mother heard a strange noise coming from the child. When she picked the child up, the child was limp, grayish-colored, and had difficulty breathing. The mother called 911 and when emergency medical services arrived, they found the child emaciated and in a dirty diaper. Upon examination at the hospital, the child weighed 4.4 pounds. She was intubated to help with respiratory issues but coded and was unable to be resuscitated. Per the autopsy findings, the cause of death was complications of child maltreatment syndrome which included malnourishment, starvation, and dehydration. It was also noted that the child's stomach was empty at the time of death and the death was ruled a homicide.

Eight siblings who were also living with the mother and father were placed into foster care due to deplorable housing conditions and the inability of the parents to ensure the safety of the children. The siblings all received medical evaluations and multiple other assessments. Services being provided to the siblings include early intervention, case management, and counseling services. The family had an extensive history with DCSSCY dating back to 2002. A GPS report was received on April 24, 2014, regarding the 11-year-old sibling not being enrolled in school. At that time, the family was not able to be located and the case was closed in July 2014. The most recent involvement with DCSSCY included an April 17, 2015, Child Protective Services (CPS) report alleging sexual abuse involving the 14-year-old sibling and an adult household member. DCSSCY was not able to substantiate the allegation. DCSSCY also received a law enforcement referral on March 12 regarding nude pictures of the 14-year-old sibling being sent out on Facebook. The family was unable to be located due to the child not being in school and the home address was

listed incorrectly. The family was located on April 21. After the events of April 17 the CPS referral was received.

The mother and the father were arrested on June 8 on charges of criminal homicide and endangering the welfare of a child. Both are incarcerated and the criminal investigation is ongoing.

#### Fulton County

5. A 2-year-old female child died on July 12, 2015, due to physical neglect which resulted in the child drowning. Fulton County Services for Children (FCSC) indicated the case on August 13 naming the child's father as the perpetrator. The child was found, unresponsive, in the family's above-ground pool by an uncle who had been visiting the home. On July 11 the father and uncle had been playing on-line video games and were wearing headphones. Evidently, the child walked out the back door of the home, crossed the yard, and climbed a ladder into the pool. The father stated that the child could not have been alone for more than 10 minutes. The family said that they always remove the ladder from the pool, but had not done so after swimming at night on July 10. The volunteer fire department and emergency medical services were the first responders and conducted CPR on the child until the medical crew arrived. The child was flown via medical helicopter to University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Altoona and from there transferred to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. The child had no pulse and was pronounced dead just after midnight on July 12. Due to her level of mobility, the amount of water in her lungs, and her body temperature, it was determined that the child was most likely unsupervised for at least 30 minutes. Two other children residing in the home remain with the parents, and have been determined to be safe due to their ages and cognitive functioning. The agency has opened the family for monitoring services. FCSC will ensure that the parents receive appropriate parenting instruction, and that the family receives supportive counseling services. The family was not known to the county agency prior to this incident. The case is under criminal investigation. No charges have been filed at this time.

#### Lehigh County

6. A 6-month-old female child died on May 30, 2015, as a result of physical neglect. Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services (LCOCYS) initially named both parents as perpetrators of abuse. The parents called 911 stating that upon attempting to wake their infant she was non-responsive. The child was transported to a local medical facility where she was pronounced dead. Allegations were received that the mother was intoxicated when she arrived at the medical facility. LCOCYS and local law enforcement conducted multiple interviews with both parents. It was determined that the child was "co-sleeping" with both parents at the time of the incident and that the mother had taken a sedative and consumed alcohol prior to going to sleep. The father said he made the decision to sleep opposite the child in order to keep her safe and placed a pillow between his legs so he wouldn't kick her. When he woke up at approximately 7:00 AM, the child was pressed against her mother's arm and wasn't breathing. The child lived with her

mother, father, and 9-year-old sibling. LCOCYS determined that there was no need for ongoing protective services at this time. The family was referred to grief counseling. The family was known to LCOCYS for four separate General Protective Services referrals received from 2009 to 2011. All of the referrals were related to the mother's alleged drug use. No services were provided.

#### Luzerne County

7. On January 7, 2013, a 7-month-old female child died as a result of physical abuse. Luzerne County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS) submitted the status of pending criminal court on February 22, 2013, and indicated the mother and her paramour as perpetrators of abuse on July 30, 2015. The child was taken to Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center by her mother presenting concerns that she was lethargic and unresponsive. Upon examination, the child was found to have a skull fracture and was transferred to Geisinger Danville Medical Center. Further evaluation by that facility revealed eight healing rib fractures. Additionally, it was determined that she had a right side displaced occipital skull fracture, diffuse cerebral edema, bilateral retinal hemorrhages, and retinoschisis. The injuries were determined to be consistent with recurrent trauma and diagnostic of child physical abuse. The child was determined to be brain dead on January 7, 2013.

The mother and her paramour provided various explanations for the child's injuries, which included that she had recently fallen off the couch several times, may have hit her head on a marble table, had fallen out of her bassinet, would try to pull herself up to walk and would fall, and that her sister would jump into the "pack and play" and may have stepped on her. At the time of the incident the child was living with her mother, her mother's paramour, and her half sibling. Another half sibling lived with the maternal grandmother. The evening of the incident, the maternal grandmother arranged for that sibling to stay in the care of a neighbor. LCCYS was granted an emergency shelter care order for the child and her half sibling living in the home. The half sibling was placed in foster care. The maternal grandmother died on January 5 and the half sibling who had lived with her was placed with his sister in foster care.

The family had been involved with the agency at the intake level on several occasions. Four GPS referrals were received from January 2005 to September 2008. The reports involved alleged parent /child conflict, possible mental health issues with the victim child's mother as a child, and reports of her not following the rules at home while becoming violent and destructive. The family received supportive services. There were three additional referrals when the victim child's mother gave birth to her first child. The referrals were regarding the mother's age, possible drug use and the maternal grandmother's concerns with the mother's behavior. All referrals were closed at intake. The older half sibling was receiving trauma counseling. No criminal charges have been filed in this case.

## Philadelphia County

8. A male newborn was pronounced dead on May 29, 2015, by a physician at the Hospital of the University of Penn. The mother delivered the baby boy at home on May 28 and placed the newborn in a duffel bag. On July 6 the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Protective Services investigation indicated the mother as a perpetrator of physical abuse. The mother evidently injured herself while giving birth, hitting her head and causing facial lacerations. Not knowing that she had given birth, family members took her to the hospital where she was admitted for treatment of her injuries. The next day family members were in the mother's room and discovered the child in the duffel bag and took the child to the hospital for medical attention. The mother was subsequently interviewed by the social worker where she did not admit to being pregnant and denies memory of the incident causing the infant's death. Preliminary autopsy findings reveal that the child was determined to be full term at the time of delivery and weighed 6.6 pounds. The report also states that there were "no signs of trauma or congenital malformations", and that there appeared to be air in the baby's lungs which could have occurred while the child was being resuscitated. A final determination has not been made as to whether the child was alive at the time of birth. Further toxicology screens and other tests are pending. There are three male siblings in the home. They were removed from the home on June 2 by an Order of Protective Custody, and were initially placed with a maternal aunt. She was not able to maintain stable housing so the children were placed in foster care. The mother was known to the agency as a child, but was not known as a parent. She is currently receiving agency services. She has no visitation with her children at this time, as per order of the court. No criminal charges have been filed in this case.

9. A 4-month-old female child died on July 11, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) indicated the case on August 24 naming the father as the perpetrator. Emergency services were called to the home on July 9 for a "code blue." When they arrived, the child had a pulse but was cool to the touch. The child was transported to St. Christopher's Hospital. She had internal bleeding and was certified to be in critical condition. She succumbed to her injuries two days later. The cause of death was blunt force trauma. The father stated that he and a 3-year-old sibling were taking a nap in the same bed as the victim child. The child cried so the father changed her diaper and they all went back to sleep. The father also said the 3 year old may have dropped or stepped on the child while getting out of the bed. The victim child was allegedly asleep in a car seat on the bed, per the father's account. Medical personnel noted blood coming out of the child's nose and mouth which is inconsistent with the father's account of what happened. The mother was not in the home at the time of the incident. The family also has a 3-year-old male child and a 5-year-old female child. DHS was concerned with the mother's ability to care for the children since she did not believe that the father had harmed the victim child. Initially, both children were placed informally with a family friend to ensure their safety. However, the friend could not continue to care for the children. DHS obtained an Order for Protective Custody and placed the children in foster care. The family was not known to DHS prior to this incident.

The father was arrested and incarcerated. He was charged with homicide. The father remains incarcerated while the criminal investigation continues.

10. On April 12, 2015, a 12-year-old female child died due to physical neglect. The initial determination was that the child died of natural causes due to Group A Streptococcal Sepsis (Strep throat), Left Otitis Media and Mastoiditis (inflammation of the inner ear), and Nephrotic Syndrome (a type of kidney disease). The report came in as a GPS report to Philadelphia County Department of Human Services (DHS) on April 14. The report stated the child had died, but it was not as a result of abuse or neglect. The mother gave the child over-the-counter medication on April 11 then transported the child to Jeanes Hospital emergency room later in the day. The child was transferred to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children for further treatment, but died soon after arrival. On May 5 DHS received a Child Protective Services (CPS) report alleging the child's death was the result of a severe ear infection caused by Streptococcal Sepsis and the mother failed to seek medical attention for a treatable condition.

At the time of the report the family did not have an open case with DHS. However, the family was known to DHS for a CPS referral which was indicated on April 15, 1997, naming the mother as perpetrator. The mother admitted to causing physical injuries to the older siblings of the victim child. Four invalid GPS reports were received between 2006 and 2009. The allegations were concerning neglect and inappropriate discipline. There are two other school aged children in the home, ages 15 and 9. There is a female sibling, age 25, who also lives in the home. A safety plan was put into place on May 27, 2015, and case management and home safety services were provided to the family via Catholic Community Supports, Community Umbrella Agency. On June 6 the DHS social worker supervisor and staff from the Child Advocacy Unit agreed that the two children could not safely remain in the home. The mother is a hoarder which creates significant safety risks in the home. The two school age children were adjudicated dependent on June 18 and placed in kinship care close to their home. The mother has supervised visits two times a week. On July 3 DHS indicated the case naming the mother as the perpetrator. Services have been provided to the mother to complete a parenting capacity assessment and treatment alternatives. A referral has also been made for her to receive a mental health evaluation. DHS petitioned the support of family to ensure that the mother completes both evaluations. No criminal charges will be filed in this case.

## Near Fatalities

### Allegheny County

1. An 8-week-old female child nearly died on February 27, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. On March 27 Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) initially submitted the Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation finding as "pending criminal court." On August 7 ACOCYF founded the case naming the child's father as the perpetrator. The child experienced seizure-like symptoms and appeared to be fussier than normal the day prior to the incident.

She had vomited throughout the night and presented as “twitching” in the morning. The parents transported the child to a local community hospital. Initial testing revealed that the child had a serious brain injury. She was transported via ambulance to the local pediatric hospital for further assessment.

Upon further examination and testing, it was determined that the child had six acute posterior rib fractures and five healing posterior rib fractures. The child had also sustained bilateral acute subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhages.

The mother moved with the child to a surrounding county to have the support of her extended family. The child is receiving early intervention services. There are no other children in the home. The family had no prior history with ACOCYF.

The father admitted to shaking the child on one occasion. He was arrested and charged with two counts of aggravated assault, recklessly endangering another person, and endangering the welfare of a child. The father pled guilty to all of the charges on June 25. He was sentenced to six to 12 months of incarceration and five years of probation, to run consecutively. He is also to complete parenting classes.

2. A 7-week-old female child nearly died on June 20, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) received the referral on June 21 and indicated the case on August 19 naming the child's father and mother as perpetrators. The mother and the child resided with the mother's parents and the father resided with his grandparents. However, the parents would spend some nights of the week at the mother's residence and the other nights of the week were spent at the father's residence. On the date of incident, the mother and child were staying at the father's grandparent's home. The father reported that the child had vomited on two separate occasions that day. The child appeared to be agitated and was not easily comforted. The father walked down the hallway with the child when she stopped breathing. The father took the child back to his bedroom and the mother began CPR while the father called 911. The child was transported via ambulance to a local hospital. She was presented with bruising to her face. The child was transported to a local pediatric hospital for further assessment. Upon examination, it was determined that the child had sustained a bruise on her left cheek and shoulder, as well as bilateral subarachnoid and right subdural hemorrhages. She was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit for further assessment. The child was placed into kinship care with a family friend after being discharged from the hospital, and followed routine medical care to ensure proper healing. The child's twin sibling was initially hospitalized to receive a full medical assessment. The sibling did not have any signs of injury or trauma, but was placed into kinship care with her sister. The family had no prior involvement with ACOCYF. The parents received psychological evaluations to determine their level of understanding of the events surrounding this incident and to explore their continual denial of injuring their child. The parents are receiving parenting instruction and have routine visitation with their children. The case remains under criminal investigation.

3. An 8-month-old male child nearly died on May 31, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) indicated the case on July 24 naming the child's mother and her paramour as the perpetrators. The mother reported that while she was putting on her make-up, the child was sitting on a blanket on the linoleum floor. She said he lost his balance and fell back onto the hard floor. The child began to cry, but stopped crying once she comforted him. The mother thought he was startled and not injured. Later that day, the mother attempted to feed the child and he responded by projectile vomiting. The mother's paramour proceeded to lay the child down, but the child was unable to focus and went limp. The paramour contacted 911 for assistance. The child was non-responsive when emergency medical services arrived and was transported via ambulance to a local pediatric hospital. The child sustained significant bruising to his left outer part of the ear. Medical tests were performed and revealed that the child had acute bilateral subdural bleeding and bilateral retinal hemorrhages which the child's physician stated is indicative of a child being shaken. The mother advised that the child had been eating and drinking normally all day long prior to the episode. However, the medical examination found the child to be dehydrated with high levels of ketones in his urine. He was admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit for further observation. The child's treating physician stated that the mother and paramour's account of events did not match up with the child's injuries. The child was discharged from the hospital on June 5 to the care of his biological father. The father had little contact with the child prior to this incident and only saw the child when he would pick up the child's sibling at the mother's house for visitation. The father exhibited the necessary skills to care for both children, and ensured that the child attended his follow-up routine medical appointments.

The child has a 4-year-old female sibling who did not provide any type of disclosure of maltreatment or abuse in the mother's home. The mother continues to have supervised visitation with the children. No other services were rendered. The family had no previous history with ACOCYF. The case remains under criminal investigation.

#### Berks County

4. A 1-year-old female child nearly died on July 30, 2015, due to physical abuse. Berks County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) and Berks County Detectives (BCD) investigated the case. On August 24 BCCYS indicated the report and named the child's father as the perpetrator. The father was left alone with the child after the mother left the home to go to work. She received a call from the father 10 minutes after she arrived at work who told her the child had stopped breathing and that he was on the way to the emergency room. She was taken to Reading Hospital where the child was determined to have a blood alcohol content of 0.06, chest bruising and lesions. The child was transferred to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where further testing revealed internal bleeding due to a lacerated liver, a bruised spleen, torn ligaments in her neck, and bruising in the spine and kidney areas. The father reported that while the mother was getting ready for work, he took the child from the crib and placed her on the couch. He also said that after he had walked the mother out to her car, he came back into the house to find the child on the

couch, limp and not breathing. The father said he attempted to revive the child before calling 911. After an interview with BCD on August 3 the father disclosed a different story explaining that when the mother left for work, he went to a neighbor's house, with the child, for five minutes before returning home. The father reported that once back home, he "tapped" the child three times on her hands, which were touching her abdomen, and after the third tap the child stopped breathing. The family was known to BCCYS in May 2015 due to a report of a lack of supervision and allegations of drug abuse. The case was closed at the intake level. After this incident the parents separated and the mother moved to be closer to family. A referral has been made to Delaware County Children and Youth Services to provide services to the mother and child. The father was arrested in August. He is currently incarcerated at Berks County Prison.

#### Bucks County

5. A 16-month-old male child nearly died on July 25, 2015, as a result of physical neglect. Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency (BCCYSSA) indicated the case on August 31 naming the child's maternal grandparents as the perpetrators. The child's grandparents took him to a local hospital because he was difficult to arouse, lethargic, and barely breathing. After it was determined that the child could have ingested medication, the attending medical staff administered Narcan. The child responded to the Narcan and immediately woke up. His urine tested positive for opiates. The child was transferred to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for further treatment. The grandmother reported that she was shampooing the carpets and cleaning up. She said that while cleaning, some of the pain medication that she took for fibromyalgia could have fallen out of her locked box where she keeps her medications. She later admitted to hiding her medications in her underwear drawer. She stated that her son had some drug and alcohol issues, and that he visited the home periodically. There were no other children in the grandparent's home, and the child's parents did not have any other children. The child was removed from the grandparents' care and placed with relatives, where he is doing well. The family was known to BCCYSSA for a similar incident in March 2015 which was deemed accidental. There were no criminal charges filed for either incident.

#### Cambria County

6. A 2-month-old male child nearly died on June 17, 2015, due to physical abuse. Cambria County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) investigated the case and on August 14 indicated both parents as perpetrators of abuse. The parents were concerned about swelling in the child's left thigh and transported him to Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center emergency room. The attending medical personnel discovered numerous fractures, and transferred the child to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. A skeletal survey revealed multiple healing fractures. The child's injuries included a posterior rib fracture, a distal radius fracture of the left arm, a bucket handle fracture of the left femur, and periosteal reaction to both femurs and both tibia. Medical testing determined the child has no medical condition that would cause him to have fractured bones. It was noted that since the

injuries were in various stages of healing, and that some were more recent, the injuries did not occur at the same time. Due to his age, he could not have caused these injuries to himself. Each parent denied causing injury to the child and they did not provide a valid explanation for the child's injuries. The parents stated that there have never been any other caregivers for the child. CCCYS developed a safety plan for the victim child's sibling by placing her in kinship care with a paternal cousin in Johnstown, PA. After his discharge from the hospital on June 19 the child was placed in kinship care with his sibling. The agency arranged for supervised visitation between the children and parents, scheduled follow-up medical care for the victim child, and established Early Intervention services for both children. Independent Family Services and in-home counseling services were planned for the parents. The family was not known to the agency as parents, but they were known to the agency when they were children. The City of Johnstown Police Department continues their investigation and at this time no charges have been filed.

#### Cumberland County

7. An 11-month-old female child nearly died on June 10, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Cumberland County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) indicated the case on August 7 naming the mother's paramour as the perpetrator. The mother left for work at approximately 11:00 PM and arrived home around 3:00 AM. She checked on the baby and the baby was sleeping. The mother went to bed and slept until 3:00 PM. She went in to check on the baby, who was still sleeping, and discovered the baby was covered in bruises. The mother woke the baby and took her to the paramour's mother's house to ask if any of the marks were from bed bugs. The paramour's mother recommended that she take the baby to the emergency room. The child was taken to PinnacleHealth Harrisburg Hospital on June 10 with bruising all over her body. A computerized tomography scan showed that the child had a subdural hematoma so she was transferred to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital for treatment. In addition to the subdural hematoma and bruising the child sustained severe retinal hemorrhaging. When questioned, the paramour stated that the baby fell off the couch, but his story is not consistent with the child's injuries. The investigation determined the child sustained her injuries while under the care of the mother's paramour. He was a household member at the time of the incident. The mother was not in the home at the time the child was injured. There are no other children in the home. The family was not known to the agency prior to this incident. CCCYS was instrumental in re-uniting the mother and her estranged family thus providing assistance to the mother and her child. CCCYS will continue to monitor the case on an ongoing basis. The criminal investigation resulted in numerous criminal charges filed against the perpetrator that include aggravated assault, simple assault, reckless endangerment and endangering the welfare of a child. He is incarcerated awaiting court proceedings.

8. A 21-month-old male child nearly died on May 31, 2015, as the result of neglect. Cumberland County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) indicated the case on July 24 naming the child's father as the perpetrator of abuse. The child took three of the father's pills (Klonopin) that were either left on the table or the bottle was left open. The father did not call 911 immediately. Instead, he texted a neighbor about

what happened. That neighbor came over and while they discussed what to do, a sibling went to another neighbor's home who called 911. It is unknown how much time passed before the call was made to 911. When police arrived, the father would not let them in the home right away. The child was eventually taken to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital where he was admitted for treatment. The father intentionally caused physical neglect by failing to seek appropriate medical treatment for the child and by not allowing medical personnel access to the child. There were three other children in the home. CCCYS gave custody of the children to their paternal grandmother. Their father cannot have any unsupervised contact with them. The agency is providing support services to the family.

The family was known to Franklin County Children and Youth Services (FCCYS) where the children lived with their mother. A referral was made in the fall of 2014 regarding the children's basic needs not being met. When the mother was notified, she gave the children to their father so she would not have to deal with FCCYS. When the children came to live with the father, he had just been released from prison for domestic violence issues with the children's mother and was living with his mother and sister. In January or February 2015 CCCYS received a report that the father locked the children in a closet but this allegation could not be substantiated. Services were offered to the family as a result of the referral but were declined. The father has untreated mental health and anger issues and has not been compliant with recommended services. The case is under criminal investigation.

9. On June 25, 2015, a 15-year-old female nearly died as a result of physical neglect. Cumberland County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) indicated the case on August 21 naming the child's mother and her paramour as perpetrators of abuse. On June 25 the child was taken to PinnacleHealth Harrisburg Hospital via ambulance. She was visiting her mother at the time of the incident. The child had taken her prescription medication, of which she takes several, and was found, by her mother's paramour in the middle of the night, passed out while sitting in the bathroom. He informed the child's mother at that time. Hours later she was found by her mother, still sitting in the bathroom unresponsive. The mother took a picture of the child, sent it to the aunt and then left the home. The aunt rushed over to the home and called emergency medical services. The perpetrators failed to seek immediate medical care for the child. As a result, the child was unconscious and in critical condition upon her admission to the hospital. The mother reported that she feels the situation was the child's fault since she took the medication in an amount and manner that she should not have so she accepts no responsibility. The child resides with her aunt in Dauphin County. According to the aunt she has taken care of the child, in an informal custody arrangement, since the child was very young. No other children reside in the mother's home. The mother has a history with Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth (DCSSCY) dating back to 2001 but no recent involvement. There has been no involvement with CCCYS. The case has been transferred to DCSSCY for services. There is no police involvement in the case.

## Dauphin County

10. A 5-month-old female child almost died in May 2015 as a result of physical neglect. On July 7 Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth (DCSSCY) indicated the case naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators.

On May 8 the child was taken into custody by DCSSCY following the suspicious death of the child's twin sister. The child was immediately given a medical examination. She was determined to be malnourished, underweight, and was at risk of death. The child remained hospitalized for six days and was put on an aggressive feeding regimen. At discharge, the child had gained close to a pound, which was considered a substantial gain in that time frame. The seven siblings living with the mother and father were placed into foster care due to deplorable housing conditions and the inability of the parents to ensure their safety. They all received medical evaluations and multiple other assessments. Services being provided to the child and siblings include early intervention, case management and counseling services.

The family had an extensive history with DCSSCY dating back to 2002. During that time multiple GPS referrals were received regarding unsuitable housing arrangements and conditions, cleanliness and medical neglect. A GPS report was received on April 24, 2014, regarding the 11-year-old sibling not being enrolled in school. At that time, the family was not able to be located and the case was closed in July 2014. The most recent involvement with DCSSCY included an April 17, 2015, Child Protective Services (CPS) report alleging sexual abuse involving the 14-year-old female sibling and an adult household member. DCSSCY was not able to substantiate the allegation. DCSSCY also received a law enforcement referral on March 12 regarding nude pictures of the 14-year-old female sibling being sent out on Facebook. The family was unable to be located due to the child not being enrolled in school and the home address was listed incorrectly. The family was eventually located on April 21 after the April 17 CPS referral was received.

The mother and the father were arrested on June 8 on charges of endangering the welfare of a child and aggravated assault of a child less than 13 years of age. Both are incarcerated and the criminal investigation is ongoing.

## Lebanon County

11. On July 14, 2015, a 16-year-old male was the subject of a near fatality due to physical neglect. Lebanon County Children and Youth Services investigated the case and on August 13 indicated the child's mother as the perpetrator. The child's stepfather and the child's home health aide brought the child to the emergency room (ER). The child was dehydrated and required emergency surgery to remove a bowel obstruction and resection of his large and small intestine. He was in critical condition upon admittance. Leading up to this, the child was reported to be sick with bilious vomiting and abdominal pain for three or four days prior to being hospitalized. The treating physician stated that the child has multiple baseline medical problems. He has cerebral palsy, he is non-verbal, unable to walk, has a

history of reflux and has a gavage tube in place. He also suffers from scoliosis, which has been "fixed", has a seizure disorder and asthma. Although the family utilizes home nursing services, the provider, frequency of service and level of care are unknown. The child's primary caregivers are his mother and stepfather.

During questioning in the ER, the stepfather and the home health aide reported that the child had no urine output for four days. Medical personnel stated that had the child not received treatment when he did, he would not have survived for more than 24 hours. On July 13 the child's home health aide called his primary care physician (PCP) and spoke to the answering service regarding the child's symptoms of vomiting, dry tongue, decreased urine output, and that he appeared to be in pain. The triage line spoke to a PCP provider who suggested that the child be taken to the ER. At approximately 10:30 AM, the mother called the PCP's office and said that she questioned the advice and felt that she could provide adequate care for the child at home. The provider recommended an "urgent evaluation." The mother's reply was that she would "think about it." At approximately 3:00 PM the PCP tried to contact the mother for a follow-up on the child. They left a message, but called again due to their concern regarding the child's condition. They were able to speak with the home health aide who said the mother was worried that the child would be admitted if taken to the hospital. She said her van needed to be fixed and she did not want the child to be transported by ambulance. The PCP told the home health aide that it was very important for the child to be seen immediately due to possible dehydration, bowel obstruction or both and advised the home health aide to speak to the mother about this. It is unknown where the stepfather was during this time. It was approximately 24 hours after that phone call that the stepfather and one of the child's nurses took him to the ER at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital.

The child lived with his mother, stepfather, and 3-year-old half sibling. During the investigation, the sibling was staying with his maternal grandmother, but has returned home. The victim child was discharged from the hospital to his home. The family was not known to the agency at the time of the referral. The perpetrator remains in the home. The family was opened for services to monitor all medical issues and ensure that all necessary medical treatment is provided in a timely manner. The case is not under criminal investigation.

#### Luzerne County

12. A 2-month-old female child nearly died on February 18, 2013, as a result of physical abuse. Luzerne County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS) submitted the status of pending criminal court on April 16, 2013, and indicated the mother and father as perpetrators of abuse on September 14, 2015. LCCYS received a Child Protective Services (CPS) report alleging suspected abuse of the victim child. The parents brought the child to the Hazleton General Hospital because she was not acting properly since being hit in the face with a "sippy" cup by her older sister. The child was found to have bilateral skull fractures and bilateral subdural hematomas. The physician determined the child to be in critical condition as a result of suspected abuse. That day she was flown to Lehigh Valley Hospital for treatment

where it was discovered that she had numerous healing fractures which included her right femur, tibia, fibula, left tibia, left humerus, multiple bilateral rib, multiple clavicle, a left parietal skull, and left occipital skull. The child was in critical condition and underwent a craniotomy to relieve the pressure on her brain and to allow her brain more room to swell. The child was transferred to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center for ongoing treatment.

The child had well visits on January 3 and February 7. The doctor reported that there were no signs of abuse at either visit and there are no birth defects or medical reasons for the child's numerous fractures. Initially, it was not known whether the child's injuries had occurred at the same time or during separate incidents. Both parents work, therefore, the victim child and her sibling were in the care of the maternal grandmother on Thursday night into Friday on a regular basis.

At the time of the incident, the child lived with her mother, father, older sibling, and maternal grandmother. The sibling was placed in formal kinship care with her great aunt and uncle. Upon discharge from rehab, the child was also placed in the care and custody of her maternal great aunt and uncle where she received in-home care. Both parents completed a family evaluation and participated in individual counseling. The mother completed a drug and alcohol evaluation; she tested positive for marijuana. She attended and was successfully discharged from drug and alcohol treatment. As a result of the family evaluation, it was recommended that both parents participate in a parenting program to accurately assess their parenting abilities, both parents continued with mental health counseling and both parents participated in couples counseling should they remain together as a couple. The parents have visitation.

The agency had one prior GPS referral in September 2011 regarding the mother and her first child because the mother had tested positive for marijuana at child birth. Nurse Family Partnership and drug and alcohol services were provided. The case was closed on November 16, 2011. The mother has an extensive history with LCCYS as a child. She and her siblings were removed from their mother's care as a result of numerous GPS reports regarding the mother's significant mental health and drug issues. There was also an indicated CPS case of physical abuse regarding the mother as a child in September 1990 in which both of her parents were intoxicated, engaged in a physical altercation where they dropped her and she sustained a head injury. Both parents were indicated for physical abuse in October 1990. The mother (as a child) was placed with her maternal aunt until she turned 18.

The mother, father, and maternal grandmother all deny causing the child's injuries but based on the time line established through medical evidence, the maternal grandmother was ruled out as a perpetrator. The law enforcement investigation is ongoing.

## Northampton County

13. A 23-month-old female child nearly died on May 7, 2015, as a result of physical neglect. Northampton County Children, Youth and Families Division (NCCYFD) indicated the case on July 6 naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On May 7 the child's mother took her to St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem at approximately 5:00 PM. The child presented with an altered mental status and the mother was concerned that the child may have ingested medication called Lisinopril, as an empty bottle was found near the child. The child was extremely lethargic and required a breathing tube, which are not classic symptoms of this medication. The child was then transferred to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. At the hospital, blood work determined the child had ingested tricyclic anti-depressants. During the evaluation, further testing revealed the child had the following items in her digestive system: a nail, screw, button-battery, glass, earring stem, and wire. There are five other children in the home. The mother made arrangements for her cousin to care for her children while she was at the hospital with the victim child. The cousin and a friend of the mother's agreed to provide supervision between the mother and the children until the investigation was completed. The investigation revealed that the maternal grandmother had moved into the home within the past few months, after having a stroke, for care and assistance. She is bedridden and needs complete assistance with her daily needs. The mother's sister was cleaning out the maternal grandmother's residence and had recently brought belongings over to the home, including medication. All of the maternal grandmother's belongings were placed under the bed including the medication which did not have safety caps. Apparently this is the medication that was ingested by the child, although which one of the medications was not clear until the testing came back. At the time of the incident, mother was upstairs bathing the youngest child. A 5-year-old sibling and the victim child were finished with their baths and were being supervised by their oldest half sibling. It was the oldest sibling that first noticed and told mother that the victim child was not acting right.

Prior to the incident the family was not known to NCCYFD. After the incident the agency put the following services into place to assist the mother while also alleviating the safety risks: Lehigh Valley Families together provided parenting skills/training and also helped to coordinate with community services, counseling, dental, and drug screens. The Visiting Nurses Association provided for the medical needs and training to mother to provide for the weight management and supervision of the victim child. A referral for Early Intervention was made for the victim child and her 1-year-old sibling. Child care was offered for all of the children not currently attending school to allow the mother time to attend to her own support services and to seek employment. The Act 33 team meeting was held on June 4 at which time the Bethlehem Police Department stated that since this was a one-time incident and the mother is cooperative and open to receiving services, no criminal charges will be filed.

#### Northumberland County

14. A 9-month-old male child nearly died on July 24, 2015, due to physical abuse. Northumberland County Children and Youth Services (NCCYS) investigated the case and indicated the child's father as the perpetrator on September 16. The mother and child were visiting overnight at the home of the child's father. The father and child were in a bedroom all night and the father would not allow the mother to enter the bedroom. When the father eventually opened the bedroom door, the mother observed numerous injuries to the child and that the child was in respiratory distress. She transported the child to the Williamsport Regional Medical Center emergency room. Upon arrival, the child was having difficulty breathing. Medical personnel reported that if the child's injuries were left untreated, he would have died. The child sustained bruising on his forehead and right temple, there were finger marks on his chin, bruising on both sides of his rib cage, bruising above on his abdomen, bruising on his right shoulder blade, multiple rib fractures of varying stages, liver lacerations, spleen lacerations and kidney lacerations. The child is in the care of maternal grandparents and NCCYS implemented a Safety Plan to ensure the child is safe. The mother has agreed to supervised contact with the child with the maternal grandparents supervising her visits. The father has agreed to have no contact with the child at this time. Another child resides in the home of the mother in Lycoming County. Lycoming County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS) had visited with that minor child on July 24 at the maternal grandparent's home and ensured the safety of that child. The father is currently residing with relatives. There are three children in this home and a Safety Plan has been put into place that he will not have any unsupervised contact with those children. Prior to this incident, LCCYS had been involved with this family. On November 4, 2014, a GPS referral was received alleging that the victim child tested positive for opiates at birth. The mother admitted to attending a methadone clinic and being prescribed Methadone. At that time the child's parents lived with the maternal grandparents and they were supportive and cooperative with the agency. After medical follow up, there were no concerns and the case was closed on December 12. LCCYS received a second GPS referral on July 19, 2015, with allegations of substance abuse by both parents. LCCYS had contacted the mother and child two days prior to this near fatality incident on July 22. No bruises were observed on the child and he did not appear to be in any distress. The mother again admitted she was on Methadone and LCCYS spoke with the family about Family Group Decision Making and other potential services. At the time of this report, the father had moved in with relatives. NCCYS did not have any prior involvement with the family. The report is under investigation by the Pennsylvania State Police, Stonington Barracks.

#### Philadelphia County

15. A 22-month-old female child nearly died on July 25, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) investigated the case and on September 28 indicated the child's father as the perpetrator. The father and mother were frequently involved in domestic violence incidents but on this occasion an altercation resulted in the stabbing of the mother and child. Both were taken to Einstein Hospital, but the child was transferred to St. Christopher's

Hospital for Children for treatment. The child suffered from liver and diaphragm lacerations which were surgically repaired. At the time of the incident, the child lived with her mother and one sibling. Both children remain with their mother. There were no safety concerns with the mother as her protective capacities are intact. This family was not known to DHS. The perpetrator is incarcerated at Curran-Fromhold Correction Facility for several charges: attempted murder, aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of children-parent/guardian/ other commits offense, reckless endangerment of another person, simple assault, and possessing possible instrument of crime with intent.

16. A 13-year-old female nearly died as result of physical neglect on July 22, 2015. Philadelphia Department of Humans Services (DHS) indicated the case on August 5 naming the child's mother as the perpetrator of abuse. On July 22 at approximately midnight, the child took 10 pills, went to sleep, and then woke up around 5:00 AM, vomiting and in severe distress. Her mother did not seek medical attention right away, but waited eight hours before transporting the teen to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. The mother did not cooperate with the hospital staff to identify the pills that the teen had taken. The mother changed her story multiple times as to how the incident occurred and which pills the child had taken. It is not known to whom the pills were prescribed or the dosage. The teen was admitted to the hospital in serious but stable condition. DHS determined the two teenage siblings in the home, a 17 year old and a 16 year old, to be safe in their home as a result of their ages and mental health evaluations. The family was not known to DHS prior to this incident. They've been referred to family counseling. The teen was transferred from St. Christopher's to Belmont Psychiatric Facility for evaluation on July 24. DHS obtained an Order of Protective Custody on August 3, 2015, and placed the child in kinship care. No charges have been filed against the perpetrator.

17. A 4-month-old male child nearly died on June 30, 2015, due to physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) indicated the case on August 4 and named the child's father as the perpetrator. The child was staying in his father's home at the time of the incident. The father stated that the child was in a bouncy seat on top of his bed sleeping. The father said that while he was in the bathroom he heard the child crying. When he returned to the room, the child had apparently fallen off the bed onto the floor. The father stated that the child looked fine so he did not seek medical attention. The child stayed the night at the father's home. When the father took the child back to his mother's home the next day, she stated that the child didn't look right. They took the child to the hospital. The child was determined to have suffered a subdural bleed and bilateral detached retinas. The child also suffered from brain dysfunction with his eyes glazing to the right. The attending physician suspected that the child's injuries were the result of abusive head trauma. The child and his sibling lived with their mother. Both children have been placed in kinship care with a maternal great aunt. The family was known to the agency in the last 16 months. On February 19, 2013, a GPS report was received alleging the mother failed to seek medical treatment for a burn on the child's brother. The report was determined to be invalid. The mother declined agency services and the case was closed. On March 3, 2015, DHS received a GPS report alleging the mother had tested positive for marijuana upon the child's birth. The

child did not test positive for marijuana so there was no medical concern for the child. This report was not accepted for assessment. The father was charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of children and recklessly endangering another person. He was incarcerated on July 31 with bail set at \$25,000. All charges have been held over awaiting a court date.

#### Washington County

18. A 7-month-old male child nearly died on June 18, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Washington County Children and Youth Services (WCCYS) indicated the case on August 13 naming the child's caregiver as the perpetrator. The caregiver reported that he was watching the child when he dropped the child on his head. The child was nonresponsive so he smacked the child's back in an attempt to get the child to respond. The caregiver then contacted 911. When local emergency medical services arrived the child was responsive, but appeared lethargic. The child was transported via ambulance to a local hospital. The attending physicians made the decision to have the child transported to the local pediatric hospital via medical helicopter. Testing determined the child to have a bilateral subdural hematoma with a non-displaced left parietal bone fracture, bilateral retinal hemorrhages and facial bruising. The caregiver admitted to using heroin the day he was caring for the child. The child was discharged from the hospital and returned to his mother's care. The family was not known to the agency prior to this report. The mother has no other children, and she is receiving parenting instruction and drug and alcohol services. The mother has a history of illegal drug usage. The child is receiving ongoing medical care since his discharge; however, long term effects cannot be determined at this time. The caregiver has been charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of a child, simple assault, and recklessly endangering another person. He is currently incarcerated and is waiting his criminal trial.

#### Westmoreland County

19. A 2-month-old female child nearly died on July 23, 2015, as a result of physical abuse. Westmoreland County Children's Bureau (WCCB) founded the case on September 18 naming the child's father a perpetrator by omission and the mother as a perpetrator by commission. During an adjudication/ dispositional hearing on August 27 the court determined that all of the child's injuries were due to child abuse. The father was caring for the child while the mother was outside cutting grass. The father reported that the child started to cry and the grandmother came downstairs to take the child back upstairs with her in an attempt to soothe the child. The child had a welt on her face. The father reported it appeared as though the child had been bitten by a bug. The child was taken to the local hospital on July 23 for the alleged bug bite. The child was inconsolable when she arrived at the hospital. The physicians determined through x-rays that the child's right femur was broken in half and she was observed to have a contusion on her right forehead. The child also had old posterior rib fractures. She was transported via medical helicopter to a local pediatric hospital for treatment. It was reported by a household member that he had witnessed the father punch the child, and the mother was provided this information. Neither parent sought medical treatment for the child until the

following day. When the child was released from the hospital she was placed into kinship foster care where she remains. She received ongoing medical treatment to ensure proper healing of her femur. WCCB was active with the family at the time of the incident due to a GPS referral regarding capable parenting concerns. The parents have no other children. The mother continues to receive parenting instruction and has supervised visitation with the child. The father was arrested on August 7 and was charged with aggravated assault for a victim less than 13 and defendant 18 or older, aggravated assault for a victim less than 6 and defendant 18 or older, and endangering welfare of children. The father remains incarcerated waiting for his criminal trial.