

## **Fatalities**

### Berks County

1. A 5-month-old female child died on May 21, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. On July 7, 2017, Berks County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) indicated the case, naming the mother's paramour as the perpetrator. On May 18, 2017, the paramour was home alone with the child while the mother and her 3-year-old daughter were running an errand. The mother was going to take both children, but the paramour insisted that she leave the baby home. The paramour reported he put the baby down for a nap at noon. When he checked on her later that afternoon, she was purple and unresponsive. He did not call 9-1-1. When the mother returned home, the child was taken to the local hospital and then transferred to a specialty hospital. She was found to have a splenic laceration and bilateral subdural hematomas, injuries that were not consistent with an accident. The child was pronounced brain dead on May 21, 2017. An autopsy determined the cause of death to be subdural hematoma with severe swelling caused by impact trauma to the back of the head. The paramour committed suicide on May 24, 2017. Both the mother and the biological father have since moved to another state where there is both maternal and paternal family support. The family was referred for services in the state where they reside. The family was not known to BCCYS.
2. A 4-month-old male child died on June 19, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Berks County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) indicated the case on August 11, 2017, naming the child's father as the perpetrator. On June 16, 2017, the father found the child unresponsive and called 9-1-1. The father attempted to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation until emergency medical services arrived. The victim child was transported via ambulance to a local hospital. The father reported to medical personnel the child appeared to be having a seizure and was exhibiting respiratory issues. The victim child was subsequently transported to a regional medical center where a computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan revealed a subdural hematoma. There were bruises on the victim child's back that were discovered upon admission to the hospital. Both parents reported the victim child bruised easily. The bruises were reported to be the result of the victim child being lifted in and out of the child's car seat. This explanation was deemed inconsistent with the injuries sustained by the child. The injuries were determined to be caused by non-accidental trauma. The child died on June 19, 2017. Criminal charges are pending as the investigation is ongoing. There are no other children in the home. BCCYS had no prior involvement with this family.

### Clinton County

3. A 2-year-old male child died on May 29, 2017, as a result of serious physical neglect. Clinton County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) indicated the case on July 14, 2017, naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators. On May 29, 2017, the father went to check on the victim child in the morning and found the child with a bag over his head and unresponsive. A half hour later, the parents called 9-1-1. The child was transported by ambulance to a local hospital and was pronounced dead. The parents stated the father took the child to bed with a zip lock bag of cereal the previous night. The parents reported the child would typically play, eat his cereal, and then go to bed. When interviewed, the father stated he forgot to get the bag from the child before he went to bed.

An autopsy determined there was evidence of asphyxiation and suffocation. There were two other children in the home with the parents when this incident occurred. A 5-year-old sibling and 15-year-old half-sibling were placed into foster care. CCCYS opened the family for services; both children remain in foster care with the goal of reunification and a concurrent goal of adoption. A criminal investigation is pending. The family did have prior involvement with CCCYS as a result of two general protective services referrals. In July 2016, the parents were alleged to have been verbally aggressive towards the victim child's sibling. The family was provided community supports, and the case was closed in September 2016, with the allegations determined to be invalid. In April 2017, the victim child's sibling was alleged to be the victim of corporal punishment by her parents. The parents were offered parenting education, and the case was determined invalid and closed in May 2017.

#### Cumberland County

4. A 4-month-old male child died on July 6, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Cumberland County Children and Youth Services (CCCYS) indicated the case on August 22, 2017, naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators. On July 6, 2017, the child's father found the child face down and unresponsive and called 9-1-1. The father attempted to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation until emergency medical services arrived. The child presented at the hospital with signs of non-accidental trauma, projectile vomiting prior to becoming unresponsive, fixed and dilated pupils, and dynamic instability. The child passed away at the hospital on July 6, 2017. Although the investigation is ongoing, the child's death was determined to be a homicide after the findings indicated that the child had multiple impact injuries to his skull, pattern marks on his skull, and damage to his spine. The child had a 16-month-old sibling who also resided in the home. The mother and the child's sibling moved into the child's maternal grandfather's home with a safety plan that neither parent would have unsupervised contact with the sibling. Ongoing services are being provided to the family to help them improve their parenting skills, locate stable housing, address behavioral health concerns, and address substance use concerns. The family was not previously known to CCCYS; however, in-home general protective services were provided to the mother as a child.

#### Delaware County

5. A 3-year-old male child died on June 3, 2017, due to serious physical neglect. Delaware County Children & Youth Services (DCCYS) indicated the case on August 2, 2017, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On June 3, 2017, the victim child and his 5-year-old male sibling were playing in the mother's bedroom where a gun was normally kept in a locked box in a dresser drawer. The victim child located the loaded gun, which was not properly stored. The child is alleged to have shot himself in the chest. The mother was the sole caretaker of the child at the time of the incident. The male sibling was not injured. The victim child's two female siblings were playing in the living room where the mother was sleeping on the couch. The child's mother reported she had failed to unload the gun and secure it in the locked box. The mother reported she was aware the children knew of the location of the weapon. The father, who was not home at the time of the incident and is prohibited from being around firearms, was aware of the location of the gun. The death has been determined to be accidental and no charges were filed in regard to the child's death. The parents and three siblings relocated to the home of the maternal great grandmother.

The parents participated in a safety plan in which all contact with the children would be supervised by the maternal great grandparents. The family is receiving counseling services. DCCYS first became aware of the family in January 2017, when a child protective services referral was received when the 8-year-old sibling alleged physical abuse by her mother. The case was investigated and determined to be unfounded.

### Lancaster County

6. A 4-year-old male child died on June 6, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Services (LCCYSS) indicated the case on July 31, 2017, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On June 6, 2017, the mother of the child legally purchased a gun. Evidence indicated the mother shot the child's 10-year-old sibling, the victim child, and then herself. It is believed that the mother shot the children, then set multiple fires in the home and on the property, prior to shooting herself. The father was not home at the time of the incident and there were no other children. The criminal investigation has been completed and no charges were filed. The family was previously known to LCCYSS. In February 2017, a child protective services report was received regarding sexual abuse of the victim child. The allegations were not substantiated, and the case was closed. In February 2017, a general protective services report was received regarding alleged domestic violence; it was investigated and determined to be invalid. In April 2017, a general protective services report was received regarding the victim child displaying inappropriate sexual behaviors. The case was determined to be invalid and closed.
7. A 10-year-old female child died on June 6, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Services (LCCYSS) indicated the case on July 31, 2017, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On June 6, 2017, the mother of the child legally purchased a gun. Evidence indicated the mother shot the victim child, the child's 4-year-old sibling, and then herself. It is believed that the mother shot the children, then set multiple fires in the home and on the property, prior to shooting herself. The father was not home at the time of the incident and there were no other children. The criminal investigation has been completed and no charges were filed. The family was previously known to LCCYSS. In February 2017, a child protective services report was received regarding sexual abuse of the victim child's sibling. The allegations were not substantiated, and the case was closed. In February 2017, a general protective services report was received regarding alleged domestic violence; it was investigated and determined to be invalid. In April 2017, a general protective services report was received regarding the victim child's sibling displaying inappropriate sexual behaviors. The case was determined to be invalid and closed.
8. A 2-year-old female child died on May 20, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Services (LCCYSS) indicated the case on July 14, 2017, naming the child's guardian as the perpetrator. On May 16, 2017, the child appeared to be having a seizure and was vomiting. The child became unresponsive and the caregiver called 9-1-1. The caregiver performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation until emergency medical services arrived and transported the child to the hospital. The child was determined to be in critical condition with multiple bruises to her back, buttocks, and shoulders in various stages of healing. She was airlifted to a local trauma center where a computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan and additional medical testing were completed. The child was

found to have a bi-lateral subdural hemorrhage, retinal hemorrhaging in both eyes, and possible swelling of the brain, in addition to the extensive bruising. When questioned regarding the injuries, the guardian reported that the child had fallen off the bed earlier that day and had also been hit by a swinging door the previous weekend. Hospital staff indicated the child's injuries were not consistent with a fall or the door incident. The guardian was the sole caretaker of the child at the time of the incident, as her husband was out of town. The child remained at the local trauma center until her death. The child and her 18-month-old sibling had been residing with the guardian and her family since January 2017, while their parents were residing in another state. The child's sibling was evaluated, found to have no concerns, and was placed in foster care. The sibling was returned to the custody of her mother on May 30, 2017. Two biological children also resided in the home of the caregivers, a nine-year-old and a 15-year-old. A safety plan was enacted in which the caregivers would have no unsupervised contact with their children. The family is receiving general protective services to assure ongoing safety of the children. The criminal investigation is ongoing. The family was not previously known to LCCYSS.

### Northampton County

9. A 3-month-old female child died on April 1, 2016, as a result of serious physical neglect. Department of Human Services' Office of Children, Youth, and Families Northeast Regional Office (NERO) indicated the case on July 6, 2017, naming the owner of a daycare as the perpetrator. On April 1, 2016, the victim child was found to be unresponsive when emergency medical services personnel responded to a licensed daycare in Northampton County. The daycare was in the owner's home. The victim child was transported to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. It was subsequently determined that the victim child was left unsupervised for an extended period of time in a crib in the bedroom area of the perpetrator's home which was also an unlicensed space. On May 18, 2016, NERO submitted a status of pending criminal court. Criminal charges were filed in April 2017. The perpetrator was charged with reckless endangerment and endangering the welfare of a child. On September 15, 2017, the perpetrator entered a guilty plea on one count of endangering the welfare of a child and one count of reckless endangerment. As a result of the plea agreement, the perpetrator was sentenced to seven years of probation and a \$5,000 fine. As a result of the criminal conviction, the status was changed to founded. Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services had prior involvement with the victim child's family. In December 2015, a general protective services referral was received due to the mother's possible substance use and the victim child's exposure at the time of delivery. This was closed at the intake level with no recommended services following a home visit and consultation with the family's medical provider. The perpetrator had no known prior involvement with the child welfare system.
10. An 11-month-old female child died on July 28, 2017, as a result of serious physical neglect. Northampton County Children, Youth and Families Division (NCCYFD) indicated the case on August 24, 2017, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On July 27, 2017, the mother reportedly placed the victim child and the child's 23-month-old sibling together in the bathtub. The mother had been drinking alcohol and taking other medication and left the bathroom for about five minutes to text her paramour. When the child's sibling called her name, she entered the bathroom and found the child face down in the water and unresponsive. The mother took the child out of the bathtub and made three phone calls prior to dialing 9-1-1. The child was transported to the hospital and was

determined to be in critical condition. The child was then transferred to a trauma center. The cause of death was determined to be anoxic brain injury as a result of drowning. The child's sibling was placed with relatives as part of a safety plan. The criminal investigation is pending the final toxicology report for the child. The family was accepted for services on August 24, 2017. In addition to reunification services, the mother will be provided with parenting, behavioral health, and substance use services. The sibling will be provided with counseling services. The sibling was evaluated by medical professionals and further developmental tests were recommended. NCCYFD had prior involvement with the family. A child protective services referral was received in August 2015, with allegations of domestic violence. The report was investigated and unfounded. The family was accepted for services including the implementation of safety plans, in-home services, and ensuring the children receive appropriate medical care. The case was closed in May 2016, as concerns had been resolved.

### Philadelphia County

11. A 2-month-old male child died on June 2, 2017, as a result of serious physical neglect. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the case on July 11, 2017, naming both the mother and father as the perpetrators. The father reports that on May 27, 2017, he fell down a few stairs while holding the child in his arms. He had the child cradled against his arm and did not believe the child hit his head; the child did not cry. The mother and father kept an eye on the child the rest of the night and next day. On May 28, 2017, the child's face was swollen, and he was running a fever above 105 degrees. The parents did not seek medical care for the child at this time. On May 29, 2017, the child was unresponsive and emergency medical services (EMS) were called. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was performed by EMS and the child was revived. The child was transported to the hospital in critical condition, and observed to have a bruise above the left eye and a cut to the left side of the lip. Tests revealed three linear fractures at the back of the head and bruising to the child's eye, which were consistent with the father's fall. The hospital physicians determined the child had suffered cardiac arrest due to inflicted trauma. On June 2, 2017, the child was removed from life support and was pronounced dead. A criminal investigation is ongoing. This was the only child of the mother and father. The family was known to PDHS and open for services at the time of the incident. In April 2017, a child protective services report was received alleging physical abuse. The child was hospitalized for evaluation, and upon discharge, was placed in the care of a relative as a safety measure. The child was returned to the parents' care in May 2017, with services in place. The child protective services report was determined to be unfounded in June 2017, as the child's injuries appeared to be consistent with a child carrier the parents had utilized.
12. A 23-month-old male child died on June 7, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the report on July 12, 2017, naming the mother's paramour as the perpetrator. On June 7, 2017, the child was found not breathing with no pulse by emergency medical services. He was transported to a pediatric hospital via ambulance. The child was found to have bruises on his abdomen, head, back, front of the neck, and the right knee. There were scrapes on his nose, mouth, back of the neck, and on the forehead. There were adult-size human bite marks on the victim child's right arm, and several swollen bumps on his head. There were also signs of sexual assault. The mother's paramour provided several different explanations for his

actions prior to calling 9-1-1. The paramour reported he would use physical discipline with the child and that this sometimes caused bruises. He denied hitting the child on the day of the incident. He reportedly bit the child two days prior to the incident. The mother was not at home when the incident occurred, and there were no other children or adults in the home at the time of the incident. The mother denied using any type of physical discipline with the child or being aware of the sexual assault. The mother's paramour has been charged with murder, aggravated assault, rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse-forcible compulsion, unlawful contact with a minor, endangering the welfare of children, corruption of minors, simple assault, and recklessly endangering another person as a result of the victim child's death. There were no other children in the home. The family had no prior involvement with PDHS.

13. A 7-year-old female child died on June 2, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the case on July 11, 2017, naming the child's 19-year-old half-brother as the perpetrator. On May 31, 2017, law enforcement responded to a report of a stolen vehicle at the home of the victim child. When they arrived, the victim child was discovered to be missing. A search was conducted, and the child was found in the basement of the home with a plastic bag over her head. Law enforcement performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation prior to transporting the child to the hospital. The child arrived at the hospital in cardiac arrest. She presented with swelling and petechiae to the eye, abrasion to the right shoulder, and a bruise to her chin. The child was revived and transferred to a pediatric hospital, but was not expected to survive. On June 2, 2017, the victim child died. The cause of death was determined to be homicide by asphyxiation. During the investigation, the mother reported she was woken by the victim child's half-brother on the night of the incident. The child's half-brother was reported to be in a panic, telling the mother he needed her car keys. The half-brother took the car and the mother called the police. On June 1, 2017, the half-brother was charged with crimes related to the injuries of the victim child, theft, and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. On June 6, 2017, the charges were amended to include murder, and endangering the welfare of a child. On June 22, 2017, the half-brother stated that he had used marijuana laced with K2 at the time of the incident and was unable to recall the interaction with the victim child. A safety assessment was completed for the victim child's 14-year-old sibling. The sibling moved in with his father and the family is receiving supportive services. The half-brother and mother were previously known to PDHS. In November 2010, a child protective services report was received alleging physical abuse by the maternal grandfather. The report was investigated and determined to be unfounded.
14. A 2-year-old male child died on July 14, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the case on August 16, 2017, naming the child's father as the perpetrator. On July 14, 2017, the child was transported to a regional children's hospital via ambulance. The child was in the care of his father at the time of the incident. The father reported the child was in another room when he heard what sounded like the child falling down steps. The father investigated and found the child at the bottom of carpeted steps. The child was moaning but non-responsive. He attempted to revive the child by taking him in the shower and giving him juice. When the child did not respond, he called 9-1-1 and the operator instructed him on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The father performed CPR until the ambulance arrived. The child was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the hospital. Physicians determined the child's injuries were not consistent with falling down steps and the child was deceased prior to the

call to 9-1-1. The child was noted to have multiple bruises in different stages of healing. The child's death was ruled a homicide caused by blunt force trauma to the torso and other extremities. The child's mother's 17-year-old sister lived in the home, but was not present at the time of the incident. She was placed in a respite home for her safety during the investigation, and subsequently moved to the home of her paternal grandmother. The father was arrested and charged with murder and endangering the welfare of a child. He is currently incarcerated. A formal arraignment was scheduled to occur November 21, 2017. No services have been provided to the family. PDHS had no prior involvement with this family.

15. A 3-month-old female child died on July 3, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the case on July 26, 2017, naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators. On June 30, 2017, the child was in the care of the father. He called 9-1-1 in the evening due to the child being in an unusually deep sleep. Emergency medical services (EMS) administered oxygen to the child and the child appeared to be stable. EMS reportedly informed the father to call again should the child have a reoccurrence of symptoms. Later that night the father called 9-1-1 again due to the child vomiting and then becoming unresponsive. Two neighbors administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation until the ambulance arrived. The child was taken to a pediatric hospital in an unresponsive state. The child was resuscitated and admitted for continued care. A medical exam revealed the child to have several bruises on her head, right arm, and upper back, as well as a subdural hemorrhage, and an optic nerve hemorrhage. The child died on July 3, 2017. The mother stated that the child was up to date with her medical care and had no known medical conditions. The parents could provide no explanation as to the child's injuries. An autopsy determined the child died from blunt force trauma. On August 9, 2017, the father was arrested and charged with murder, involuntary manslaughter, and endangering the welfare of a child. He was incarcerated, and his next hearing is scheduled for January 10, 2018. There were no other children in the home. The family was not known to PDHS.
16. An 8-month-old male child died on September 7, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the case on October 4, 2017, naming the father as the perpetrator. On September 4, 2017, the child woke up during the night. When the father picked up the child, he noticed the child's feet were cold and the child was shivering. The father went to get a bottle, and when he returned, the child was unconscious. The father noticed the child's heartbeat was light and began to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the heartbeat improved. The father then called emergency medical services (EMS). The father performed CPR on the child until EMS arrived. The child was transported to a local hospital, and subsequently moved to a pediatric hospital. Hospital physicians noted the child had one enlarged pupil that was non-reactive, concerning for head injury. A computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan revealed the child had a diffused cerebral hypoxic injury and subdural hemorrhages. The child died on September 7, 2017. Hospital physicians stated that the injuries were severe and that they must have occurred within a couple hours prior to the arrival at the hospital. The father's 3-month-old daughter, the child's half-sibling, was also in the home at the time of the incident. The half-sibling was evaluated by hospital physicians and found to have no injuries, and currently resides with her mother. In December 2017, the medical examiner's office determined the cause of death to be homicide due to abusive head

trauma. The father was arrested and criminally charged on January 10, 2018. PDHS did not have prior involvement with this family.

## **Near Fatalities**

### **Allegheny County**

17. A 16-year-old male child nearly died on June 15, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) indicated the case on July 14, 2017, naming the child's sibling as the perpetrator. On June 14, 2017, the victim child and his 14-year-old sibling were arguing late at night when the sibling proceeded to stab the victim child with a kitchen knife. The victim child was transported via ambulance to the local hospital in the early morning of June 15, 2017. He had been stabbed in the neck and chest. The child sustained a collapsed lung and a liver laceration. The child did not require surgery and was discharged from the hospital on June 20, 2017. Upon discharge from the hospital, the child went to live with his father. The 14-year-old sibling, who had been staying with the father since the incident, returned to her mother's care. A second minor sibling resided in the mother's home where the incident occurred. The ACOCYF caseworker assessed the second sibling's safety, and there were no concerns. The perpetrator was initially charged with two counts of felony aggravated assault. On July 6, 2017, her charges were pled down to one misdemeanor count of simple assault. The perpetrator is currently on probation, and is required to follow all recommended behavioral health treatment, comply with medication management, abide by a 9:00 PM curfew, and participate in a victim awareness curriculum and aggression replacement therapy. In addition, the court has ordered all contact between the victim child and perpetrator be supervised. Additionally, the siblings are not able to reside in the same residence. ACOCYF closed this case at the completion of the investigation due to both the child and perpetrator receiving services from the juvenile probation office. The assigned juvenile probation officers will ensure compliance with the perpetrator's court order. ACOCYF had a prior history with the family with one referral in 2014 due to truancy concerns. The case was not opened for services.

### **Blair County**

18. A 1-month-old female child nearly died on June 5, 2017, as a result of physical abuse and serious physical neglect. Blair County Children, Youth and Families (BCCYF) indicated the case on July 28, 2017, naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators. On June 5, 2017, the mother reported that she had been out of the home for approximately six hours, leaving the child in the father's care. The father reported checking on the child late morning and the child was breathing abnormally; he texted the mother with the child's condition. The mother reported the text was not an emergency and she did not go home right away. The mother stated when she returned home she felt there was something wrong with the child and the parents took her to a local hospital. The child arrived in critical condition. Upon examination, the child was found to have non-reactive pupils, slow vitals, labored breathing, raised pulse, and her body was limp. A computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan revealed a brain bleed. The child was then taken by helicopter to a children's specialty hospital where it was determined that the child had been shaken. It was determined both parents had delayed seeking care for the child; furthermore, through the investigation it was found both parents had internet history of searches related to the child's condition. The child was discharged from the hospital on July 10, 2017, and placed into foster care. The mother and father were criminally charged and incarcerated on August 8, 2017. The father was charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare

of a child, simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, and harassment. The mother was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and recklessly endangering another person. The mother was released on bail on August 9, 2017, and the father remains incarcerated. There were no other children in the home. The child remains in foster care. The mother and father are not permitted visitation with the child. BCCYF had no prior involvement with this family.

### Bucks County

19. A 3-month-old male child nearly died on June 13, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. On July 18, 2017, Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services (BCCYSS) named the babysitter as the perpetrator. On June 12, 2017, the mother had left the child in the care of a babysitter. When the mother arrived home from work, she noticed the child was pale, moaning, cold, and his eyes were barely open. The babysitter, who had been employed for three days, had not notified the mother that the child was ill. The babysitter informed the mother that she had given the child Tylenol and that the child had been vomiting. The mother called the pediatrician who told her to take the child to the hospital. The victim child was taken to a local hospital. A spinal tap revealed a brain bleed. The physician stated that the child displayed signs of being shaken. The child was airlifted to a regional children's hospital where further tests indicated the child had a subdural hematoma and a retinal hemorrhage in the left eye. When interviewed, the babysitter stated that she was bouncing the child and the child hit his head on the arm of the chair. The child has been returned to the care of his parents. He is scheduled for follow up treatment with specialists, as well as physical and occupational therapy. This is the only child of the parents. BCCYF had no prior involvement with this family.

### Chester County

20. A 5-month-old female child nearly died on June 12, 2017, as a result of serious physical neglect. Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families (CCDCYF) indicated the case on July 28, 2017, naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators. The mother and father reported the child had been ill for a few weeks. The family is Amish, and the child was not immunized. The mother had taken the child to a pediatrician on June 5, 2017, where the child was diagnosed with an upper respiratory infection and prescribed medication. The mother did not follow through with the instructions from the pediatrician for follow-up care or for administering the medication, and the child's condition worsened. On June 9, 2017, the mother and father consulted with an elder in the Amish community who diagnosed the child with whooping cough and pneumonia. The elder instructed the mother to use home remedies to treat the child's condition. A follow-up visit with the elder was scheduled for July 12, 2017. When the child's condition still did not improve over the next few days, the mother and father arranged for the child to be transported to the hospital on June 12, 2017. The child presented with fever, coughing, difficulty breathing, and seizure activity. The child was transferred to a regional pediatric hospital, where the child was put on a ventilator. The child remained hospitalized from June 12, 2017, until her discharge on July 7, 2017. The mother and father were given instructions for administering the child's medication and were trained in the process by hospital staff. A safety plan was implemented by CCDCYF that required oversight of the child's care by family members and neighbors in the Amish community. The family was provided with case management services to assist with ensuring the child's healthy development. The

parents have no other children. At this time, no criminal charges have been filed. The family had no prior involvement with CCDCYF.

21. A 13-year-old male child nearly died on July 7, 2017, as a result of serious physical neglect. Chester County Department of Children, Youth, and Families (CCDCYF) indicated the report on August 29, 2017, naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators. On July 5, 2017, the child was admitted to a pediatric hospital due to malnourishment and weight loss. The child had multiple prior hospitalizations for the same condition. It was reported that the parents had a history of requesting extensive medical tests, providing unnecessary medical interventions, and interfering with the child's medical care. The child had lost 13 pounds since his last hospital discharge, in March 2017. In this July 2017 hospitalization, the parents reportedly attempted to obstruct the hospital staff from providing care. As a result, the parents were restricted from visiting and were allowed only to attend meetings regarding the child. The child was discharged from the hospital on October 10, 2017, into the care of his aunt and uncle. He is eating on his own, receiving therapy, and has gained weight. He has received case management services. The parents have visitation rights and a permanency goal of reunification. Two other children remained in the home under their parents' care. No criminal charges have been filed regarding this incident. This family was known to CCDCYF. There were two prior child protective services reports in December 2016 and February 2017 regarding this child for similar circumstances; both were unfounded. In June 2017, a general protective services report was received regarding the child's weight loss and malnutrition. The family agreed to ongoing case management services to assist with monitoring the health and well-being of the child. This report was determined to be valid in July 2017, after the near fatality incident occurred.

#### Fayette County

22. A 4-month-old male child nearly died on July 27, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Fayette County Children and Youth Services (FCCYS) indicated the case on September 25, 2017, naming the father and mother as the perpetrators. On July 27, 2017, the child was taken to a local hospital via ambulance after the father called 9-1-1 due to the child's excessive vomiting. The child was lethargic and clammy. Upon arrival, it was noticed that the child had bruising above his left eye, the underside of his chin, and on his tailbone. The victim child also presented with extremely high glucose levels and was transferred to a children's hospital where he was further evaluated and found to have injuries consistent with abusive head trauma, specifically retinal and cranial hemorrhaging. Physicians diagnosed the child with shaken baby syndrome. While the father was determined to be the primary caregiver for the child, the mother also cared for the child during the period that the injuries occurred. Neither parent could provide an explanation for the child's injuries. On August 1, 2017, upon discharge from the hospital, the child was placed into kinship care with a maternal great aunt. The child has two older half-siblings who were voluntarily placed with their paternal relatives. The criminal investigation is ongoing. Both parents are receiving parenting instruction and behavioral health evaluations, and have supervised visits with all three of their children. The victim child is currently participating in occupational and physical therapy along with attending hematology and neurology appointments. The family was previously known to FCCYS. There were three general protective services referrals alleging suspicious injuries to the children. In March 2015, a half-sibling had a suspicious fracture and bruising. The treating physician could not

confirm the injuries were due to abuse and the family was opened for services. In March 2017, a general protective services referral was received alleging substance use by the mother that was screened out. In April 2017, another general protective services referral was received alleging that the half-siblings were being allowed contact with the ex-paramour of the mother and that the children had bruises. The case was assessed and closed, as there was no evidence that the children were at risk. In June 2015, a child protective services referral was received and substantiated against both the mother and her then paramour for child abuse. The half-siblings went to live with their father, allowing the mother supervised visits, and the case was closed.

### Lancaster County

23. A 5-month-old male child nearly died on June 1, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Services (LCCYSS) indicated the case on July 25, 2017, naming the child's step-father as the perpetrator. On June 1, 2017, the victim child was in the care of his step-father. When the mother left the home, she reported the child was fine; upon her return, the child was lethargic and unresponsive. The mother called emergency medical services (EMS). EMS transported the child to a local hospital; the child was then transferred to a medical center. A computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan revealed multiple head injuries: skull fractures, a subdural hematoma, retinal hemorrhaging, and significant swelling of his brain. The step-father had no reasonable explanation to account for how the injuries occurred. Medical evidence indicated the symptoms would have begun immediately after an impact and were highly suspicious of non-accidental injury. Five other children who were half-siblings to the victim child were residing in the home at the time of the incident. The mother would not comply with a safety plan that prohibited contact between the step-father and the children. The five half-siblings were placed in temporary foster care on June 2, 2017. On July 17, 2017, two of the children were released to the care and custody of their biological father. The other three children remain together in a foster family home and kinship placement is being explored. On August 11, 2017, the step-father was charged with two counts of aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of children, and recklessly endangering another person in connection to the incident. He was released on bail. Early intervention services have begun for several children and the mother was referred for behavioral health services. On July 3, 2017, the victim child was transferred to a rehabilitation hospital where he received occupational, speech, and physical therapy. On July 30, 2017, the victim child moved to the home of his biological father where he will continue to receive therapy. This family was known to LCCYSS. In December 2016, a child protective services report was received due to allegations of physical abuse of two of the half-siblings by the step-father. The allegations were not substantiated, and the case was closed after the initial assessment period.

### Lebanon County

24. A 10-month-old female child nearly died on July 14, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Lebanon County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS) indicated the case on August 24, 2017, naming the child's uncle and maternal grandmother as the perpetrators. The child had been informally placed in the custody of the maternal grandparents in March 2017. The child's maternal uncle, who is under the age of 18, also lives in the home. On July 14, 2017, the maternal grandmother called the victim child's caseworker to inform her that she

was taking the child to the emergency room due to the child having difficulty breathing. The child was transported to a local hospital by ambulance. The child's blood sugar level was elevated, and significant physical injuries were noted. The child was transferred to a pediatric specialty hospital in critical condition. She was found to have a moderate sized left pneumothorax, liver lacerations, spleen lacerations, a right adrenal hematoma, patchy areas of hypoattenuation in her right kidney (suspicious for solid organ injury), and moderate volume complex hemorrhagic ascites. She was found to have three large subdural brain hemorrhages, bilateral retinal hemorrhaging, bruises to the face and head, and an injury to the cervical area of the spine. All injuries were believed to be due to non-accidental trauma. During the investigation, the maternal grandmother noted that the victim child had been lethargic for several days prior to being taken to the hospital. The maternal grandmother had left the child in the care of the child's uncle on the day of the incident. When interviewed, the uncle admitted to vigorously shaking and squeezing the child to make her stop crying. The maternal grandmother was aware that the uncle had anger issues but still allowed him to babysit the child daily. The child has been placed in foster care. The uncle was arrested and incarcerated in a detention center. The maternal grandmother was arrested August 7, 2017, and charged with endangering the welfare of a child. This family was known to LCCYS prior to the incident. In December 2016, a child protective services (CPS) report was received resulting in both of the victim child's parents being indicated for creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury. The case was accepted for services in February 2017 due to the mother's instability and actions. Two separate CPS cases were reported in March 2017 with concerns for safety and lack of supervision. These cases were unfounded.

#### Luzerne County

25. A 2-month-old male child nearly died on July 24, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Luzerne County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS) indicated the case on August 22, 2017, naming the child's father as the perpetrator. On July 24, 2017, the father and a family member took the child to a local hospital with symptoms of being limp, listless, and unresponsive. The child was determined to have multiple injuries including acute and subacute subdural hematoma, bilateral retinal hemorrhages, metaphysical fracture of the right humerus, and eleven bilateral rib fractures. On July 25, 2017, the child was transferred to a regional medical center. While hospitalized, the child developed seizure activity as a result of the trauma. The child was diagnosed with abusive head trauma. The father was the only adult caregiver in the home at the time of the incident. The victim child's 22-month-old sibling was in the home at the time of the incident; she was placed in emergency foster care. On July 31, 2017, the victim child was discharged from the hospital and was placed with the emergency caregivers. The mother resides in the same home and has supervised contact with the children. The father is restricted from all contact with the children. There have been no criminal charges filed, however, the criminal investigation continues. The family had a history of involvement with LCCYS, as well as child welfare services in New York. There were two prior general protective services referrals received by LCCYS in February 2017 and June 2017 alleging the father's unstable behavioral health and parental substance use. In February, one referral was screened-out and the other was closed at the intake level. At the time of the near fatality, the June 2017 referral was active and remains open. The mother has engaged in parenting education, a behavioral health evaluation, as well as individual counseling. The father has not engaged in services.

### Mercer County

26. A 1-year-old female child nearly died on August 3, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Mercer County Children and Youth Services (MCCYS) indicated the case on August 31, 2017, naming the mother and the mother's paramour as the perpetrators. On July 30, 2017, the mother took the child to an urgent care center where the child was diagnosed with hand, foot, and mouth disease. The child was taken to the pediatrician's office on August 3, 2017, for follow up treatment. While there, medical staff observed a fresh bruise on her forehead as well as older bruising over her body. The child was referred to a local hospital for a skeletal scan and other testing. On the evening on August 3, 2017, the mother and her paramour took the child to a children's hospital in Ohio with concerns that the child was not eating and vomiting. The child continued vomiting and began having seizures while at the hospital. During the evaluation, the child was found to have a right parietal skull fracture and subdural hematomas along the brain. She had a number of bruises on her forehead, shoulders, and sacral area. There was reddened skin on her buttocks, upper thigh, and left foot that were diagnosed as healing burns. The child was admitted and continued to have seizures. Further testing determined that the child had two retinal hemorrhages in her left eye. She had a healing fracture of the left forearm. On August 17, 2017, an external ventricular drain was inserted to drain blood from her head. The injuries to the child were determined not to be accidental. Law enforcement continues to investigate. The child has been removed from the mother's care and is now in the care of her father. The mother is only permitted to have visitation while supervised by MCCYS or an assigned provider. The child's two siblings were also removed from the care of their mother. One is in the care of her biological father and the other now resides with her maternal grandmother. During the investigation, the child's mother and her paramour were also indicated for abuse against the victim child's sibling for interfering in the child's breathing. The family had no prior involvement with MCCYS.

### Montgomery County

27. An 11-month-old female child nearly died on July 3, 2017, as a result of serious physical neglect. Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (MCOCY) indicated the case on July 13, 2017, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator. On July 3, 2017, the mother drove the unconscious victim child to a local hospital after packing a diaper bag; she did not call 9-1-1. The child was in critical condition and barely breathing. Hospital staff administered two doses of Narcan and the child was revived. The victim child was airlifted to a children's specialty hospital where it was determined that she had ingested methadone. The mother reported that she was alone with the children on the day of the incident and did not know where the child obtained the medication. She stated that a friend was previously at the house and claimed to have lost two pills. The mother reportedly did not notice anything unusual with the victim child. The victim child's five-year-old sibling was watching the victim child and the victim child's twin sister, and told the mother that something was wrong with the victim child. The mother instructed the five-year-old sibling to give the victim child a bottle, and she drove the children to a fair without checking the victim child. The mother stated that she thought the child was hot and tired, but she did not think she needed to take the child to the hospital. The mother stopped to pick up a friend on the way to the fair. The mother's friend, who is a nurse, observed the victim child and directed the mother to take her to the hospital. At the time of

the incident, there were two siblings living in the home, the victim child's twin and a 5-year-old sister. Another 8-year-old sibling is in the custody of his biological father. The victim child is currently placed in a foster home. A paternal aunt has agreed to a safety plan and has moved into the family home to care for the siblings. The mother has moved into her mother's home. The mother has been referred to receive behavioral health and substance use evaluations, parenting classes, and case management services. Visits with the victim child will be supervised. All of the children are developmentally on target and up-to-date with all their medical care. MCOCY did not have prior involvement with this family.

#### Philadelphia County

28. A 20-month-old female child nearly died on May 24, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the case on July 17, 2017, naming the child's babysitter as the perpetrator. The child's mother reported that she left the child in the care of the babysitter for approximately two hours on May 24, 2017. The victim child was taken by the mother to a local hospital and then transferred to a pediatric specialty hospital. The child was determined to have second- and third-degree burns on her feet, and a first-degree burn to her groin area. The burns on the child's feet were described as a clear ring around the ankles and there were no splash marks on the child. It was also reported that the child had a black left eye, a mark extending from her chest area to her right shoulder that appeared to be caused by a belt or cord, and a belt mark on her left inner thigh. The babysitter reported that when the mother and child arrived at her home to stay overnight on May 23, 2017, the child already had the black eye. She gave the child a bath the next morning while the mother was away from the home. The babysitter placed the child in the bathtub and left her unsupervised for approximately fifteen minutes. She heard the child screaming and took the child out of the tub; the child's skin was bubbling and peeling. Upon discharge from the hospital, the victim child was placed in a medical foster home. She is receiving case management services, physical therapy, and is being monitored by the plastic surgery team at the children's hospital. This was the only child in the mother's custody and she denies using any type of physical discipline with the child. The mother does have a 14-year-old male child who lives with his father in another state. The babysitter was arrested on May 25, 2017, and charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, endangering the welfare of children, and recklessly endangering the welfare of another person. The babysitter is currently detained at a correctional facility and was scheduled for a pre-trial hearing on September 19, 2017. The child's family has a history of involvement with PDHS and another state ranging from 2004 to 2012. Three separate general protective services reports were received for this family during these years, with concerns that included a lack of adequate food, supervision, parental substance use, domestic violence, and inappropriate discipline being used in the home. None of these concerns were able to be validated and all three reports were closed out after the initial assessment period. As a result of the near fatality, a general protective services referral was generated for the babysitter's 9-month-old child, who was examined by medical staff and found to have no injuries. The babysitter's child was released to her father's care. PDHS had no involvement with the babysitter's family prior to the near fatality.
29. A 5-month-old male child nearly died on May 31, 2017, as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the case with an unknown perpetrator. On May 29, 2017, the victim child was left in the care of the mother's friend's

mother. The caregiver reported the child slept most of the day, which was unusual. The mother reported she returned home due to concern for the child and stated that the child was extremely irritable, vomiting, crying, and arching as if he were in pain. The mother stated she called the child's physician who reportedly stated the child probably had a stomach virus. The parents took the child to a specialized children's hospital on May 31, 2017, as the child's symptoms continued. The child's fontanel and head began to swell while the child was hospitalized. A computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan of the child's head showed a subdural hematoma that required surgery. A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test indicated possible old as well as new injuries. Tests revealed the child had retinal hemorrhages in both eyes that were concerning for non-accidental trauma. The parents could not provide an explanation for the child's injuries. They stated that they believed the child was ill due to his history of failure to thrive and reflux, which caused frequent vomiting. The parents had one other child who lived with her grandparents as a family arrangement. The victim child was placed in the home of a maternal aunt who had received training to care for his medical needs. The sibling was assessed and found to have no concerns for safety in the home of the grandparents. Investigators were unable to interview the mother's friend's mother in-person. She did confirm via a phone call that she provided care for the child prior to his hospitalization. Her whereabouts are unknown. The investigation is ongoing. PDHS had no prior involvement with this family.

30. A 10-month-old female child nearly died on July 5, 2017, as a result of serious physical neglect. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the case on August 21, 2017, naming the father as the perpetrator. The father called emergency medical services (EMS) on July 5, 2017, due to the child's alleged accidental stick with a hypodermic needle used for heroin. EMS found the child in the home blue and non-responsive. The father reported the child was placed on a bed and rolled over onto the needle. EMS administered Narcan and transported the child to a local hospital. The child was transferred to a specialized pediatric hospital for further testing. The mother was not present at the time of the incident. Upon discharge from the hospital on July 9, 2017, the victim child was placed in a kinship home. There were no other children in the home. The victim child has an older sibling who is in the custody of his biological father. The father was arrested on July 6, 2017, and charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of children, simple assault, and reckless endangerment. He was released on bail on July 7, 2017, and scheduled for formal arraignment on October 31, 2017. The child will be assessed for developmental concerns and referred for early intervention if necessary. The mother and father will be referred for parenting capacity evaluations and behavioral health evaluations, in addition to random drug screenings. This family was known to PDHS. A general protective services report was received in September 2016, alleging the child was born affected by the mother's illegal substance use. The report was determined invalid. The mother received preventative services from September 2016 to January 2017.
31. A 3-year-old female child nearly died on May 28, 2017, as a result of serious physical neglect. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (PDHS) indicated the case on July 27, 2017, naming the child's mother and father as the perpetrators. The victim child was being cared for by a maternal aunt who became concerned when the child was unable to urinate from the afternoon of May 27, 2017, to the afternoon of May 28, 2017. The maternal aunt transported the child to a local hospital. The child had a history of hypothyroidism that requires daily medication. The child was transferred to a specialized children's hospital. The child was determined to have missed all endocrinology appointments since April 2016

and was suspected to have not received thyroid medication for up to four months. The parents have three other children. At the time of the incident, the oldest sibling was residing in the home of her father. On May 31, 2017, the victim child's 2-year-old and 11-month-old siblings were placed with the maternal aunt. It was found that both siblings had also missed multiple medical checks. Medical appointments were scheduled for both children in June 2017. The victim child was discharged from the hospital on June 2, 2017, to the care of the maternal aunt. Criminal charges have not been filed against either parent. The victim child's condition stabilized and she is receiving early intervention services. The 2-year-old sibling is also receiving early intervention to address speech delays and socialization needs. The parents have not participated in visits with the children and all visits are suspended until the parents participate in drug screens. This family was known to PDHS. In May 2015, the mother tested positive for methadone when the 2-year-old sibling was born. The general protective services report was determined to be valid and in-home services were provided until September 2016. In November 2016, PDHS received a general protective services report when the 11-month-old sibling tested positive for opiates at birth. The family was accepted for services and had an open case at the time of the incident.