

Clearfield

1. A 2-year-old female child died on Nov. 17, 2013, from injuries due to physical abuse. Clearfield County Children, Youth and Family Services (CCCYFS) indicated the father and the father's paramour as perpetrators of abuse on Jan. 13, 2104. On the morning of Nov. 15, 2013, the child's father left for work at approximately 5:30 am and checked on the child before leaving. She was sleeping at that time. The father's paramour stated that the child was up walking and talking at 7:30 am but then fainted. At the request of the father's paramour the child was taken, via ambulance, to the Clearfield Hospital emergency room. The child was examined and Clearfield Hospital medical staff determined she was in critical condition but expected to survive. Several hours later hospital staff transferred the child to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHOP), via medical helicopter, where she was declared brain dead and died of abusive head trauma. The child suffered bilateral subdural hematomas and retinal hemorrhaging. Physicians at CHOP diagnosed the injuries to be a result of Shaken Baby Syndrome and stated the child's condition was impacted by the delay in medical treatment. During the CCCYFS investigation it was discovered that the father had taken the child to the Dubois Medical Center emergency room the evening of Nov. 14, 2013, due to the child vomiting and bruising under her eyes that he described as "raccoon eyes". The child was also experiencing hair loss. She was examined that evening and sent home. No blood work or imaging had been done during that examination. Additionally, on Oct. 8, 2013, the child had seen her primary care physician due to showing slight bruising around her eyes in what looked similar to "raccoon eyes". The child was given facial, chest, and abdominal X-Rays at that appointment but there were no concerns reported at that time. The child had a follow-up appointment several days later where she appeared to be doing fine. A second follow-up was scheduled for Oct. 28, 2013, but was rescheduled for Nov. 6, 2013. It was reported to the physician during her follow up appointment that the bruising was coming back, the child was often hungry and was noticeably losing hair. The child was referred to an immunologist for a consult but had not been seen prior to the events of Nov. 15, 2013. The father obtained legal custody of the child in Feb. 2013. The mother has had no contact with the child since that time. During the investigation, the father was given and passed a polygraph test. The father's paramour refused the polygraph. There are no other children in the home. This family was not known to CCCYFS. The criminal investigation continues as autopsy and toxicology results are still being processed.

Note: this summary was added on June 5, 2015.

Dauphin County

2. A 2-month-old female child passed away on Feb. 4, 2014. Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth substantiated the case in March 2014, naming the child's mother as the perpetrator of physical abuse. The mother brought the child to the hospital on Jan. 30, 2014, after she had found the child not breathing. The mother also reported that the child's legs were cold and the child's back was turning blue. At the hospital the child was revived and intubated, and transferred to a children's hospital. The child was diagnosed with having several inter-cerebral hemorrhages, inter-retinal hemorrhages and a bruised heart and liver. The child also had fractures to her ribs. During the course of the investigation, the child was pronounced brain dead and

removed from life support. The mother admitted in a police interview that she would forcefully push on the child's chest and stomach when the child would cry. She also admitted that, on at least two occasions, she forcefully slammed the child down when the child was crying. The child resided in the home with her mother, father, and 2 year old brother. The brother is currently residing with the father. The family has been accepted for services and they are assisting the father, who is currently living with the paternal grandparents, with obtaining child care services, employment, WIC, and public assistance benefits. The county will also be assuring that the father continues to address and follow through with medication management for his own mental health needs. The family was not known to the county agency prior to this incident. On Feb. 12, 2014, the mother was arrested and charged with criminal homicide, recklessly endangering another person, and endangering the welfare of children. She is currently incarcerated and awaiting trial.

Erie County

3. A 2-month-old female child died on March 10, 2014, due to physical abuse. Erie County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in April 2014 naming both parents as the perpetrators. On the day of the incident, the child was taken to the hospital via ambulance in cardiac and respiratory arrest. The mother reported that while she was outside the family's apartment having a cigarette, she heard a thud. When she came back inside, the father was performing CPR on the child. The father claimed that he slipped while bathing the child, causing her to hit the side of the bathtub. The father said that when he pulled her out of the water, she was unresponsive. The mother said that the father was able to get the child to breathe again by performing CPR, and then they gave the child a bottle and put her in bed, face-down. When the father was interviewed, he stated that the child began to vomit after being given the formula and that the father put her face-down in her pack-and-play (stating she preferred to sleep that way) and left her alone. There is a discrepancy in the parents' version of the incident regarding whether the child was placed in her bed or in her pack-and-play. When the parents checked on the child a few minutes later she was unresponsive. At that point, the father stated he performed CPR on the child for approximately 20 minutes before 911 was called. An ambulance arrived to transport the child to the hospital. The child was certified to be in critical condition and was life-flighted to another hospital. She died during the flight. Upon examination, the child was found to have bruising on the eyes, chest, and back, strangulation marks on the left side of her neck, a distended stomach, a subdural hematoma, bi-lateral retinal hemorrhages, extensive cerebral and cerebellar edema, five healing rib fractures, bilateral fractured tibias and femurs, and a suspected spinal cord injury. The parents did not want to accompany the child to the second hospital, stating that the father had to work the next day and that they would not have the gas money to drive back and forth to see the child. There were no other children in the home. The family was not known to Erie County Children and Youth Services prior to this incident. The Corry City Police Department is still investigating the child's death.

Fayette County

4. A 3-month-old male child died on March 6, 2014, due to injuries sustained as a result of physical neglect. Fayette County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in May 2013 for lack of supervision naming the mother as the perpetrator. On the child's date of death, the child was taken to a hospital and was in full rigor mortis. The mother reported putting the child down for a nap on the floor and checking on the child one and one half hours later. The mother stated she then fell asleep in the same room and woke up three and a half hours later finding the child face down on the floor. The child had been napping on the floor wrapped in a heavy blanket. The mother was unable to wake the child. The doctor at the hospital felt that mother's rendition of what happened was inconsistent with the child's condition. Due to the child's condition, medical professionals estimated the child had been deceased for twelve to eighteen hours prior to arriving at the hospital. The incident happened at the home of the mother's paramour. The mother had fresh "track marks" and has a long history of heroin addiction. The mother was prescribed Subutex and the child tested positive for this at birth. The manner of child's death was determined to be natural due to Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome. The child has no other siblings. The family was not known to children and youth services. Pennsylvania State Police are involved in the case. There are currently no pending criminal charges.

5. A 1-year-old female child died on Nov. 15, 2013, as a result of physical abuse. Fayette County Children and Youth Services (FCCYS) indicated the report on Jan. 18, 2014, naming both parents as perpetrators of abuse. The child was taken to the Uniontown Hospital on the morning of Nov. 15, 2013, because the mother said she wasn't "acting right" and had been vomiting since the previous day. Upon examination the child was found to have multiple bruises to the center of her abdomen and left side and her stomach was distended. The parents denied any knowledge of how the injuries occurred claiming the child woke up in that condition. She was intubated and transferred to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHOP) by medical helicopter where an examination found the child's liver and spleen were both lacerated. Emergency surgery was performed but could not save the child's life at which time a report was made to ChildLine. FCCYS immediately conducted a safety assessment where it was determined the three siblings were not safe in the home and were placed in foster care. On Dec. 4, 2013, the children were transferred to the care of their maternal great grandparents who were assessed and approved as appropriate caregivers by FCCYS. Prior to this incident, FCCYS had received five reports involving this family. A report was made in Jan. 2013 alleging that one of the children had informed the caller of a thumb sized bruise received when the mother hit the child on the arm. This report was screened out. A report was made in Feb. 2013 alleging the mother left her 9-month-old child unattended in a shopping cart for approximately 10 minutes. A wide burn was also observed on the child's hand. The report was screened out. On May 10, 2013, a Child Protective Services report (CPS) was received alleging the 4-year-old was on the porch roof grabbing onto power lines while the mother was inside the house and the father was outside working on his car. FCCYS and a Luzerne Township police officer immediately responded to the home. There were no potential safety threats identified and the children were deemed safe. On May 14, 2013, while working on the previous CPS report from May 10, 2013, another CPS report was made alleging the parents are

physically and verbally abusive toward the children and that the children are always unsupervised. The caller stated that a few weeks prior to making this report, the 1-year-old fell down six or seven steps outside when the mother wasn't watching her and had "bruises and knots" on her head. The mother stated to the caller that she didn't want to take her child to the doctor. The caller also referred to allegations in the May 10, 2013, CPS report and added that the children go near a busy road, that the 3-year-old nearly "went under" a running lawn mower after the father walked away, claimed the father buys and sells pills, that the home has no running water and no food. This report was immediately responded to by FCCYS and a Luzerne Township Police officer where all children were seen and no threats were identified. Both reports were unfounded on June 4, 2013. A report made on Oct. 30, 2013, alleged the family moved "constantly" and the parents were blowing the children's SSI money on drugs. An immediate response was made but the home was empty as the family had moved. An additional attempt was made to locate the family on Nov. 5, 2013, including a visit to the oldest sibling at school. A new address for the family was given to FCCYS during that visit. FCCYS went to the new address leaving a note on the door for the family to call the caseworker. A neighbor contacted FCCYS saying they believed the family had moved from that home to another home nearby. On Nov. 14, 2013, after repeated attempts, FCCYS was unable to locate the new residence. FCCYS was contacted on Nov. 15, 2013, by the school to express concerns regarding the oldest sibling's attendance and late arrivals and a new address for the family was obtained. Later that morning, FCCYS was informed that the victim child was in the emergency room at Uniontown Hospital. The father was arrested and charged with criminal homicide and endangering the welfare of children. He is currently incarcerated. The mother was charged with one count of endangering the welfare of children, pled guilty, then withdrew her plea and is awaiting trial. The mother is allowed unsupervised visitation with the children twice per week.

Note: this summary was added on June 5, 2015.

Lackawanna County

6. A 10-month-old male child passed away on March 28, 2014, two days after suffering injuries as a result of physical abuse. Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services substantiated the report in May 2014 naming the mother's paramour as the perpetrator of physical abuse and the mother as a perpetrator by omission for failing to protect the child. The police responded to the home after 911 received a call for an unresponsive child. The child was transported to the hospital and then airlifted to a trauma hospital. The victim child was diagnosed with having over 60 different injuries in various stages of healing. At that time the police also noticed bruising to the other children in the home and they were also examined at the hospital. As a result of these examinations and the ensuing investigation, two of the victim child's siblings were also determined to be victims of abuse. The victim child's 3 year old brother sustained extensive bruising to his body and the 10 month old sister suffered a broken arm and bruising. The mother and her paramour were substantiated as perpetrators of these two children. The child, his four siblings and the paramour's child were home alone with the mother's paramour at the time of the incident while the mother was at the hospital with the child's oldest paternal half-sister, age 5, who was receiving treatment for a possible broken leg. This child's injury was determined to be an accident and not a result of

abuse or neglect. The family was active with Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services intake at the time of the child's death. Numerous reports had been made to the agency since Aug. 2013 for concerns about home conditions, unstable housing, and inconsistent medical care for all of the children. The victim child and his twin sister were to be on apnea monitors but the mother was inconsistent with their use. At the time of the child's death the family had not been accepted for services. After the incident, all of the children were removed from the home. Three of the children were placed in the care of their father and are currently receiving services.. The two other siblings of the victim child and the paramour's daughter are currently in foster care. The county is looking for possible kinship resources for these children. The family is scheduled for a Family Group Decision Making conference. The child's mother is receiving individual parenting classes. The mother's paramour has been arrested and is currently charged with three counts of aggravated assault. He is incarcerated and is awaiting trial. The mother has not been criminally charged at this time.

Lancaster County

7. A 2-month-old female child died on December 24, 2013. The victim child was accidentally shot in the abdomen by her father while he was handling a loaded gun. Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Services Agency substantiated the case in March 2014 naming the father the perpetrator due to physical abuse. The child's father had recently purchased the gun and was handling it in the house and not realizing the gun had a bullet in the chamber, he pulled the trigger. He states that after the gun was shot he looked for any damage to the house and saw his daughter, who was across the room in her glider swing, bleeding from her stomach. The father immediately called emergency services but the child died shortly after arriving at the hospital. No evidence was found to indicate that drugs and/or alcohol played a role in the shooting. The family had no history with children and youth services prior to this incident. The victim was the only child residing in the home. When interviewed by police, the victim's father admitted he pulled the trigger but thought the gun was empty. He has since been charged with involuntary manslaughter, recklessly endangering another person, and endangering the welfare of a child. The father was released on bail while he awaits his trial.

Lehigh County

8. A 2-month-old female child died on Nov. 18, 2013, as a result of physical abuse. Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services (LCOCYS) indicated both parents as perpetrators of abuse on Jan. 10, 2014. The child was taken to the emergency room at St Luke's Hospital on Nov. 11, 2013, by her father. He stated the child became lethargic and began vomiting. The child was examined and found to have several healing fractures and an acute skull fracture. She was transferred to Saint Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia where the child was diagnosed with a skull fracture, multiple retinal hemorrhages, left orbit swelling, bruising to the neck, multiple healing rib fractures, a healing clavicle fracture and acute ulnar and tibial fractures. Her condition was listed as critical. She was placed on life support and died of traumatic brain injury. LCOCYS was prevented from extensive contact with the parents as they retained legal counsel within days of the onset of the investigation. Prior to retaining legal counsel the father stated he did "this" but would not say what "this" was and the mother stated she

was frustrated with the child's fussiness and crying. There are no other children in the home and the family was not known to LCOCYS. No arrests have been made.

Note: this summary was added on June 5, 2015.

Luzerne County

9. A 3-month-old male child passed away on Feb. 14, 2014, as a result of physical injuries. Luzerne County Children and Youth Services (CYS) substantiated the case in March 2014 naming the child's mother and father as perpetrators. CYS had been involved with the family since Nov. 2013 when the mother tested positive for cocaine and marijuana at the time of the child's birth. Previously, a court order had been put into place that prevented the mother from having unsupervised contact with her children. This plan was still in place at the time of the child's death. The night of the child's death, the father brought both the child and his older maternal half-brother to the mother's home, along with the mother's friend and some beer. The father then left the home, leaving the friend to supervise the children with the mother. The father then returned to the home later in the evening but left again to take the friend home leaving both children with the mother unattended. Upon returning to the home, he went to bed and left the children with the mother as he had to work in the morning. The mother subsequently fell asleep in the recliner with the child. At some point in the night the mother got off the recliner and went to bed. The mother did not realize that the child had fallen from her arms while she slept on the recliner. The child fell into the cushion of the recliner and suffocated. When the mother left the recliner, she folded it up and it crushed the child's head. The child's half-brother was removed from the father's care and placed into a kinship home with his paternal grandparents in Cameron County. The mother is not allowed to have contact with her surviving child during the criminal investigation. The child had two older paternal half-sisters, one who is away at college, and the other who resides with her mother. At the time of the incident, neither of the girls resided in the child's mother's home. The police are continuing their investigation and charges are pending. Prior to the incident CYS had made referrals for services for the family for drug and alcohol, mental health, and early intervention.

Perry County

10. A 3-month-old female child died on Jan. 22, 2014, as a result of head trauma. In Feb. 2014 Perry County Children and Youth Services substantiated the case naming the father as a perpetrator of physical abuse. The child was transported to the hospital via ambulance after the father called emergency services. The mother was not present during the incident as she was working. The child's siblings were at home sleeping during the incident. The child was transferred to another hospital where it was determined she sustained extensive brain trauma and subsequently went into cardiac arrest. The child also had retinal hemorrhaging, subdural bleeds and a healing rib fracture. It is suspected that the child was shaken. The father initially stated that the child had fallen off the bed and that he had rolled on top of her many times when sleeping. The father's rendition of what occurred changed multiple times. The siblings were removed from the home and placed with relatives. The father was incarcerated as a result of the incident. Pennsylvania State Police are involved in the case. The father is facing charges of aggravated assault, simple assault, endangering the welfare of

children, criminal homicide and recklessly endangering another person. The family was not known to children and youth services prior to the incident. The mother and siblings are receiving counseling services.

Philadelphia County

11. A 3-year-old male child died on Dec. 15, 2013, resulting from injuries sustained due to a lack of supervision. Philadelphia Department of Human Services indicated the report on Jan. 8, 2014, naming the child's aunt as a perpetrator of abuse for lack of supervision. On the day of the incident the child's mother was in New York for the day leaving the maternal aunt responsible for the child's care. The aunt was not feeling well that day and remained in bed with the children until sometime that afternoon. When she woke up she went to the neighbor's apartment to prepare a meal. She did not want to cook in her apartment because of an infestation of cockroaches. She said she was gone for approximately ten minutes when she heard her daughter yelling that the child had fallen out of the window. She ran down to where he had fallen but couldn't reach him because the gate behind the apartment building was locked. EMT responders were able to reach the child and transported him to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children for treatment. The child had a fractured skull, a fractured pelvis and several fractured ribs. He died from his injuries that evening. The child lived with his mother, a maternal aunt and cousin, the mother's friend and friend's child and had no siblings. After the incident the maternal aunt and cousin and the mother's friend and daughter moved in with a relative in New York. The aunt was arrested on Dec. 20, 2013, and charged with endangering the welfare of children while the prosecutor nolle prossed the charge of involuntary manslaughter. She received five years of probation.

Note: this summary was added on June 5, 2015.

Near Fatalities

Allegheny County

1. On Feb. 28, 2014, a 4-month-old male child nearly died due to sustained and serious physical injuries. Allegheny County Department of Human Services named the father as the perpetrator of physical abuse against the child. The child was taken, by both parents, to a local hospital due to fever, fussiness and poor feeding. The child underwent a head CT scan which indicated bleeding around the brain. The parents do not live together but have shared custody and the child spends time at both parents' home. Neither parent could articulate what may have transpired to cause the child's injuries. The child is currently in the care of the mother. The child has an 18 month old half-sibling who is also in the mother's care. The mother obtained a protection from abuse against the father on behalf of the half-sibling and the father has had no contact with him. The family was not known to children and youth services prior to this incident. The mother was not physically present in the home during the time of the incident. The mother reported that she is no longer in a relationship with the father and she moved to another county where she has family supports. The mother created her own safety plan to not allow the father unsupervised contact with the child. Counseling services have been provided to the family in the new county of residence. The child's progress is being followed by a hospital. The mother reported that she would return to the hospital

for all follow-up appointments for the child. Allegheny County Police are investigating. The father has been arrested and is awaiting trial on charges of aggravated assault.

2. A 1-month-old male child nearly died on Feb. 22 2014, due to physical abuse. Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) substantiated the report in April 2014 naming the pre-adoptive parents as perpetrators. On February 22, 2014, the victim child was brought to the emergency room by his pre-adoptive parents due to vomiting. Upon examination, the child was determined to have multiple skull fractures in various stages of healing and required emergency surgery. The child's injuries included bilateral parietal skull fractures, brain injury, sub-acute subdural hemorrhage, fractures of the posterior ribs, a right metaphyseal fracture, bruising to the left eyelid, and a tear to the lower frenulum. Medical professionals stated that the child's injuries are the result of non-accidental trauma and could not have occurred accidentally. Although neither of the perpetrators admitted to causing the child's injuries, they confirmed that they were the sole caretakers for the child during the time the child sustained the injuries. Allegheny County Police are still investigating. No charges have been filed at this time. The perpetrators did not have any other children. The perpetrators were informed they could no longer have contact with the child on Feb. 26, 2014. The child was placed in this pre-adoptive home by his birth mother. The victim child was discharged from the hospital to a foster home and is receiving Early Intervention Services.

3. A 2-month-old male child nearly died on Jan. 10, 2014, due to injuries sustained as a result of physical abuse. Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) substantiated the case in February 2014 naming the father as the perpetrator for physical abuse. The child was brought to the hospital by both parents on Jan. 10, 2014, for vomiting, lethargy, and irritability. The child was diagnosed with bilateral subdural hemorrhages of varying ages and right ear bruising. The medical review also noted concerns for possible older injuries. The father admitted that the child was in his care during the period of time that the injuries were alleged to have occurred. The father denied knowing how the child could have sustained these injuries and was unable to provide an explanation for the child's injuries. The family was not known to DHS prior to the incident. DHS obtained custody of the child and upon discharge from the hospital the child was placed into the kinship care of a family friend. The child was adjudicated dependent on April 23, 2014. The family is receiving services that include court ordered "non-offenders" counseling for the mother, as well as individual counseling for both mother and father. Additionally, the father must attend parenting classes. The mother has supervised visitation with the child at the kinship home and at the maternal grandmother's home. The father is allowed supervised visits with the child during his parenting classes. The current goal for the child is to be returned to the mother's care. The father was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of a child, and recklessly endangering another person. He was able to post bail and is currently awaiting trial.

Cambria County

4. A 17-month-old female child nearly died on January 24, 2014, from massive head trauma due to physical abuse. Cambria County Children and Youth Services (CYS) substantiated the case in February 2014 naming the child's biological father as the

perpetrator. On the date of incident, emergency services received a 911 call from the perpetrator stating that his daughter had fallen down a wooden stair case and was unresponsive. Emergency responders arrived at the home and stabilized the victim child for transport via ambulance to a local hospital. After initial testing at the hospital the victim was transported via helicopter to a children's hospital for further testing and treatment. The test results revealed that she sustained severe brain trauma with diffuse, extensive bilateral retinal hemorrhaging, a clavicle fracture, epidural hemorrhaging at the level of the cervical spine, multiple bruises all over her body, and seizures despite treatment with anti-seizure medication. When asked to explain what caused the injuries to the child the father stated she fell down a flight of wooden stairs. He stated that on the day of the incident two of his children were visiting with him at his home, which he shares with his mother. He stated that he and both children were in his attic bedroom playing when he decided to put on a movie. He then reports that he turned his back to put on a movie when he heard "thuds" from the staircase. After running towards the victim child he found her at the bottom of the steps. The perpetrator states that the child initially seemed fine, but eventually went limp and became unresponsive. He reports that he screamed for his brother, who is 10 years old and was home at the time, to come help. The younger brother brought in some water and reportedly screamed at the older brother to call 911. The doctor who treated the victim child at the children's hospital stated in the report that "these injuries are unequivocally the result of child abuse. A stair fall could not result in this constellation of injuries." The victim child's father states that he did not harm the child and the fall was an accident. After the initial report was received by Cambria County CYS a safety plan was implemented in which the perpetrator's two other children would have no contact with him during the investigation. Each sibling lives primarily with their biological mother and CYS has no safety concerns for the children while in their mothers' care. It was recommended to the mother of the perpetrator's other child, who was with him at the time of incident, that she consent to a full skeletal survey, which she has stated she will not do based on the advice of the perpetrator's attorney. The safety plan also stated that the perpetrator is to have no contact with his 10 year old brother, who lived in the same home. Police arrested the victim child's father and charged him with two counts of aggravated assault and one count of endangering the welfare of a child. He is currently incarcerated while awaiting trial. If the perpetrator is able to post bail he is required to stay with his aunt as there are no children in her home. The Cambria County District Attorney's Office placed a bail condition on the perpetrator that he is not to have contact with anyone under the age of 18. The only prior CYS involvement was when the perpetrator was a child. Those reports have all been expunged and there are no current records on file related to this family.

Centre County

5. A 3-month-old female child nearly died on March 15, 2014, due to physical abuse. Centre County Children and Youth Services substantiated the case in March 2014 naming the mother as the perpetrator. The mother told the EMS worker that the child had fallen out of her stroller. She told the police officer that she was walking down the stairs with the child while talking on her cell phone and dropped the child. The child had a large hematoma on the right side of her head. A CT Scan also showed a non-displaced right parietal fracture (right eye-socket) and an acute to sub-acute subdural

hematoma. Centre County Children and Youth Services took custody of the child on the date of the incident and she was discharged from the hospital to a foster home three days later. The child has a follow up appointment with a neurosurgeon to determine that blood is reabsorbing into the appropriate places. Her eyesight was checked and there are no problems and no signs of brain damage. The hospital discharge report states that the child's injuries were non-accidental; that there is no way that it happened as the mother described due to the nature of the injuries. Prior to this incident, the agency received a report on the victim child on Feb. 3, 2014 because the victim child had a bruise on her face which allegedly occurred while in the care of a household member. That investigation was unsubstantiated on Feb. 28, 2014, with no further services. The mother made this person move out of her home. However, based upon the current case investigation, the child was adjudicated dependent and will remain in the custody of Centre County Children and Youth Services. The Judge founded the report from the stand at the court hearing. The agency continues to provide services to the mother. The Bellefonte Police are continuing their investigation.

Cumberland County

6. A 3-month-old male child nearly died on January 3, 2014, from a skull fracture and subdural hematoma as a result of physical abuse. Cumberland County Children and Youth Services (CYS) substantiated the case in March 2014 naming the child's babysitter as the perpetrator. The victim child's mother picked him up from the babysitter on the date of incident and noticed bruising on the child's head and forehead. The mother took the victim child to a doctor's office where they were referred to a local hospital that same day. Once the victim child was admitted to the hospital and examined his test results revealed a skull fracture as well as a subdural hematoma, both of which were caused by severe head trauma. The doctor certified the case as a near fatality due to suspected abuse and alerted ChildLine immediately. The victim child has a 6 year old sibling who also resides in the home. An aunt has moved into the home since the incident to help out the family. This family is known to CYC from a referral in 2010 related to the older sibling being left outside alone for 15 minutes, as well as three referrals in 2013 related to the child's biological father who is a registered sex offender. The biological father does not reside in the home with the children and spends limited time, all of which is supervised, with the children. The perpetrator has since admitted to striking the child in the head and was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, endangering the welfare of children, and recklessly endangering another person. He is currently incarcerated while awaiting sentencing.

Dauphin County

7. A 16-day-old female child nearly died on March 7, 2014, due to ingesting cocaine. Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth substantiated the case in April 2014 naming the mother as the perpetrator. The child was brought to the hospital by the mother and her friend after the mother found the child lying in an unusual position, not breathing, and beginning to turn blue. At the hospital, the child went into cardiac arrest and started to seize. A urine screen showed the child was positive for cocaine. A joint investigative team was initiated and representatives from children and youth and the district attorney's office responded to the hospital. The mother was

interviewed and admitted to snorting cocaine to help her stay awake so she could get housework done. She also admitted to meeting a drug dealer at a fast food restaurant at 4 a.m. on March 7, 2014, and snorted the cocaine in the parking lot. The mother stated she did not breastfeed the child until 1 p.m. that day. At the time of the incident, the child resided with both parents and two older siblings, ages 10 and 2. The family was not known to children and youth prior to this incident. The father left the home shortly after the incident and his whereabouts are currently unknown. The child has two additional older maternal half-siblings that reside with their father in Detroit, Michigan. They were not living in the home at the time of the incident. After the incident took place, the 10 year old also moved to Detroit. The 10 year old was interviewed and denied knowledge of the mother's drug use. A safety plan was put into place after the incident that placed responsibility for the primary care of the child and 2 year old onto the paternal aunt who had moved into the home; however, the mother has tested negative for drugs since the incident and this plan is no longer in place. Ongoing services are being provided to the family by the county. A criminal investigation was conducted on this incident and the mother was recently charged with recklessly endangering another person, aggravated assault, and endangering the welfare of a child. She waived the right to her preliminary hearing and is awaiting trial.

8. A 4-year-old male child nearly died on March 26, 2014, due to physical abuse. Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth substantiated the report in May 2014 naming the child's babysitter as the perpetrator. The child remains in the hospital and is not conscious, but does show brain activity. The child will be moved to a rehabilitation facility in the near future. No identified resources have come forward for this child at this time. Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth is looking for foster care placement after the child's rehabilitation is completed. The mother was released from prison at the time of the incident, but was arrested for unrelated charges and is again in prison. The father's whereabouts are unknown, although police are searching for him due to several warrants out for his arrest. The child's younger sibling is in foster care, but the paternal grandmother has come forward as a potential resource for her. The criminal investigation is ongoing.

Delaware County

9. A 7-month-old female child nearly died on Dec. 21, 2013 from injuries sustained due to physical abuse. Delaware County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in Feb. 2014 indicating the child's father as the perpetrator. On Dec. 21 the victim child was taken to the hospital by her father because she was lethargic and unresponsive. Initial testing showed that the child had bilateral subdural hematomas, cervical ligamentous, a spinal bone contusion, and bilateral partial thickness burns to her fingertips. The father stated the child touched a heater which caused the burns and then choked on a banana which caused her to become unresponsive. The treating physician at the hospital stated the child's injuries could only have been caused by non-accidental physical trauma. At the time the incident occurred the father was the primary caretaker for the child and the only adult present. The victim child's mother, who was not present at the time of incident, stated at the hospital that she wanted the father out of the home and that she would also press charges against him. The police investigated the incident but did not have enough evidence to press charges. There was one other

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minor child living in the home who has since been placed with his paternal grandmother. Supervised visits at the paternal grandmother's home are taking place regularly with the mother. The family was not known to children and youth prior to this incident.
Note: this summary was added on June 12, 2015.

10. A 5-month-old male child nearly died on Dec. 15, 2013 from injuries sustained due to physical abuse. Delaware County Children and Youth Services (DCCYS) substantiated the report in Jan. 2014 indicating the child's father as a perpetrator of physical abuse and the mother as a perpetrator of medical neglect. The victim child was brought to the hospital due to lethargy and vomiting that had not improved over a two day period. Testing showed that the child had intracranial bleeding, subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhages as well as bilateral retinal hemorrhages. The hospital also diagnosed the child with failure to thrive. The parents stated they had no idea how the child was injured. An MRI on the child showed that some of his brain injuries were approximately a month old and that his hand was healing from a fracture. Medical neglect was also alleged due to the child's abnormally low weight of 12 pounds and the lack of primary medical care when it was discovered that he had not been to a doctor since he was born. When the most recent incident occurred the father was the only caretaker present as the mother was at work. The child's maternal half sibling was at the home during the incident but she did not witness anything. The sibling was examined and appeared to be fine. She lives with her biological father full time and occasionally visits the mother on weekends. An interview was held with the sibling's biological father and no concerns were noted. In Jan. 2014 DCCYS took emergency custody of the child. The child was discharged from the hospital in Jan. 2014 and was placed in a rehabilitation hospital in New Jersey. Upon discharge from the rehabilitation hospital, he was placed into medical foster care where he remains. The victim child receives physical and occupational, feeding and speech therapy 4-5 days each week. The mother is currently participating in supervised visitation with the child. The father was arrested and charged with simple assault and endangering the welfare of a child. He is currently incarcerated awaiting trial. Prior to this incident the family was not known the children and youth.
Note: this summary was added on June 12, 2015.

Lackawanna County

11. On Feb. 12, 2014, a 1-month-old female child nearly died as a result of physical injuries. The report was substantiated by Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services, naming the father the perpetrator of physical abuse. Police responded to a call that the child was not breathing. The child had blood in the nasal cavity and scratches to her face. The father had been alone with the child while the mother was showering. When the mother entered the room, she noticed blood on the child and the father standing over the child on the changing table. The child was taken to the hospital where she received a scan which showed a broken blood vessel in the eye, accompanied by a head injury. The father later admitted to hitting the child and throwing her down on to a couch. The father admitted to at least five assaults on the child at different times. Law enforcement continues to be very active regarding this case. The child has two half-siblings, ages eleven and fourteen who are in the care of the paternal grandmother. Since discharge from the hospital, the child is residing with a maternal

great aunt. A referral has been made to the children and youth agency clinical unit for assessment on the mother's ability to care for and protect her children. Children and youth services are assisting with transportation to various medical appointments for the child as the family is without transportation. The family was known to children and youth services for domestic violence concerns. The father is incarcerated at Lackawanna County prison as a result of the incident.

Lebanon County

12. A 2-month-old male child nearly died due to injuries sustained prior to and on Feb. 9, 2014. Lebanon County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in April 2014 naming the father as the perpetrator of physical abuse. The child was having seizures while at home with the mother on Feb. 9, 2014. As the mother did not drive she contacted the father, who was at work, and asked him to come home to take her and the child to the hospital. While at the hospital the child was observed having additional seizures causing the child to be transferred to a children's hospital. Upon admission the child was diagnosed as having both old and new bilateral subdural hematomas, three fractured ribs, and retinal hemorrhaging. After further examination it was determined the child also had four additional rib fractures that happened closer to the time child was admitted to the hospital. Doctors determined the child did not have any prior medical conditions that would have caused the seizures. During the investigation, the mother raised concerns that the father could have been the one to cause the injuries as he treated the child "roughly". The mother stated she had presented these concerns to the maternal grandmother and both she and the maternal grandmother tried to address the issues with the father. Additionally, the night prior to the child being brought to the hospital, the father had cared for the child, alone, for approximately four hours while the mother slept. The father was interviewed and initially denied causing any injuries to the child. He eventually admitted to the possibility of causing bruises to the child but followed by saying "but I don't think so." The family was not known to children and youth prior to the incident. The child has been discharged from the hospital and is currently residing in kinship care. The mother and father reside together and do not have other children. They have supervised visitations with the child one to two hours a week at the kinship home. The family has been accepted for services and the parents are participating in intensive parenting classes. A criminal investigation is currently being conducted. No charges have been filed at this time.

Note: this summary was updated on August 7, 2014.

13. A 2-year-old male child nearly died on March 13, 2014, after experiencing seizure like symptoms caused by neglect. Lebanon County Children and Youth Services (CYS) substantiated the case in May 2014 naming the child's biological mother as the perpetrator. On the evening of the incident the child was transported via ambulance to the emergency room where it was discovered he had multiple injuries, both old and new. Emergency room doctors noted the victim child had injuries to his forehead, cheeks, scrotum, left knee, and pelvic area, a laceration found under his tongue and several smaller bruises were found on his lower back. The mother's paramour was watching the child in the evening while she worked third shift and he arrived at the hospital with the child. When the paramour was questioned regarding the incident he stated that he went to check on the child and found him unconscious and not breathing.

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At that time the paramour called 911 and began administering CPR. The caseworker investigating the incident reviewed the child's medical records and discovered that the child had also been taken to the emergency room in Feb. 2014 after he fell off the top bunk bed. At that time the child was air lifted to the emergency room as a result of that incident where records show he had suffered a subdural hematoma. The paramour noted to doctors that the child's eyes were rolling into the back of his head and that his arms and legs were jerking everywhere after he fell. The hospital staff noted that the account for the injuries seemed plausible so no further action was taken. The caseworker noted that no bone scan had been completed for the Feb. incident and no phone call was placed to CYS. Two days after being discharged from the hospital for the Feb. incident the mother's paramour reported that the child was not walking properly; he stated that the child then became rigid and fell on his face without putting his arms out to break the fall. The mother checked on the child after he fell and found that he was still conscious and alert. The paramour stated that he called the hospital three times that day but was instructed not to bring the child to the hospital, but rather wait until the follow up appointment at the end of March. The paramour then took pictures of the child's eyes to show doctors that the pupils were not the same size. There was no other medical activity with the child until he was transported to the emergency room in March after he stopped breathing and became unconscious. It was during the trip to the emergency room that the bruises noted above were found as well as an unexplained spiral fracture to the child's left leg which doctors stated was most likely suffered at the beginning of Feb. based on the stage of healing. The caseworker spoke with the mother's paramour, both of the paramour's parents, and the child's biological father during the investigation. It was revealed that the mother frequently sleeps and leaves the child unattended which puts him in potentially harmful situations. When the caseworker went to speak with the mother regarding the incident it was noted that the mother showed no engagement or willingness to cooperate with the investigation. The family was known to Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services from reports received the previous year in which the mother was said to be violent, depressed, and asleep all day. The same report stated that the mother put the child on the top bunk bed to detain him. Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services made contact with the mother regarding this incident and discussed appropriate sleeping arrangements and supervision and closed the case. Based on the information received in the current investigation, Lebanon County CYS placed the child in foster care. Due to the biological father's current and ongoing legal issues he was ruled out as an appropriate caregiver for the child. Based off family finding results, CYS is working with the paternal aunt for possible kinship placement. The victim is the perpetrator's only child. Law enforcement investigated and closed the case.

Luzerne County

14. A 1-month-old male child nearly died on Nov. 18, 2013, due to injuries sustained from physical abuse. Luzerne County Children and Youth Agency (LCCYA) substantiated the report in Jan. 2014 indicating the child's father as the perpetrator. On the date of incident the child's mother called emergency services asking for help from her abusive husband. Earlier that evening while holding the one month old child the mother stated that her husband began hitting her and pushed her against a wall causing her to drop the child. After the mother picked the child up, the perpetrator grabbed his

gun and began to threaten her stating that if she left he would kill her. The perpetrator ordered everyone to go upstairs and while they were walking up the steps he fired four shots near the mother's head. Eventually the perpetrator allowed the mother to call a doctor and ask for medical advice related to the child's injury from falling, but she was not allowed to seek actual medical treatment. Eventually she persuaded the perpetrator to allow her to take the child to the hospital, but he would not allow the child's sibling to go along. The sibling in the home witnessed the entire incident and the mother refused to leave unless both children went with her. The mother stated that after another hour she was able to sneak away with both children without alerting the perpetrator. While she was driving, the mother called 911 and met a police officer and an ambulance off an exit of the interstate. The ambulance transferred all three family members to the hospital. Testing at the hospital revealed that the victim child had an acute depressed fracture of the left parietal bone of the skull and a hematoma. Police arrested the perpetrator later that evening but he was able to make bail. The initial safety assessment stated that the children were safe with the mother while staying at the maternal grandfather's home. The child has since recovered from the incident but missed numerous medical appointments that were scheduled for him. It was later revealed that the police department had responded to four previous domestic violence situations and that the mother dropped the charges for each of the incidents. LCCYA had not been notified of any of the domestic violence calls by the police until after the child was discharged from the hospital. With the new information combined with the child missing numerous scheduled follow up appointments the agency removed the children and placed them in foster care. LCCYA had no previous involvement with this family. The perpetrator eventually pled guilty to aggravated assault and was sentenced to 4-8 years in prison.

Note: this summary was added on June 12, 2015.

Lycoming County

15. A 14-year-old female child nearly died on Oct. 28, 2013, after overdosing on Tylenol in an attempt to commit suicide. Lycoming County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS) substantiated the report in Jan. 2014 indicating the child's mother as the perpetrator due to medical neglect. The mother was aware that the child overdosed on Tylenol but waited until the next day before contacting a doctor. She was told to take the child to the hospital immediately but waited one more day before going to the emergency room. Due to the delay in seeking medical treatment when the child did arrive at the hospital she was found to be experiencing liver failure. The child received liver transplant a few days later but she remained in critical condition due to the medical neglect. Doctors at the hospital expect the child to survive but state she now has extremely complex medical needs and they are concerned with the mother's ability to provide ongoing specialized medical care for the child. The child was discharged from the hospital to the Ronald McDonald House where she stayed for two months so that her transplant could be monitored on a daily basis. The mother stayed with the child while in the hospital as well during her stay at the Ronald McDonald House. After the child was discharged from the Ronald McDonald House the mother and daughter moved to a residence near the hospital in order to make it easier for the child to seek medical treatment. During the child's recovery the medical staff monitoring her condition felt that the mother had a good understanding of the necessary medical follow up that would be required. A safety

assessment was completed after the child's discharge which determined that the mother could assure the child's safety with LCCYS involvement and numerous other interventions. LCCYS has weekly contact with the family as well as In-Home Outreach Services involvement and Family Based Mental Health Services assessing the family's progress. The mother and child have not missed any medical appointments since being discharged and hospital staff noted that the mother has proven to be extremely supportive. Police have charged the mother with endangering the welfare of a child and as of June 2015 no trial has been held. LCCYS had two prior reports involving this family. In Oct. 2008 Williamsport Hospital Emergency Room staff reported that the child's mother had been brought to the hospital by local police for driving under the influence. The victim child was a passenger in the car at that time. LCCYS conducted a safety assessment and the family made the necessary arrangements to address the issue. In June 2009 a report was made regarding the mother's alcohol use while caring for her child. An assessment was conducted but LCCYS could not substantiate the report. If the mother is incarcerated a plan has been developed for the child to live with her biological father, step-mother and brother. Note: this summary was added on June 12, 2015.

Monroe County

16. A 3-year-old male child nearly died on Nov. 30, 2013, due to injuries sustained from physical abuse. Monroe County Children and Youth Services (MCCYS) substantiated the report in Jan. 2014 and indicated the child's mother as a perpetrator by omission and her paramour as a perpetrator by commission. The paramour called emergency services on the date of incident stating the child was not responding after falling and hitting his head in the bathtub. The paramour was the only adult with the child at the time of incident. The child was flown to the hospital where testing revealed a subdural hematoma, as well as bruising to his forehead, back, groin and ears. Nurses at the hospital noted that the child appeared fearful of the mother's paramour when he was present. When the mother was questioned she denied any knowledge of abuse and her paramour denied abusing the child. When questioned the next day the mother admitted that she knew the paramour punched the child in the groin on multiple occasions when he became upset however, she did nothing to intervene and continued to allow the perpetrator to be alone with the victim child. Police arrested the paramour and charged him with aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a child. The child was discharged from the hospital five days after admission and is doing well medically. Emergency custody of the child was granted on the date of incident and he was placed with a foster family. The mother currently has supervised visits with the child. The paramour is incarcerated at this time. Prior to this incident the family was known to MCCYS from two prior investigations which stemmed from complaints that the mother and her paramour left the child unsupervised at times, however both investigations were unsubstantiated. As of June 2015 the paramour is still incarcerated but has yet to go to trial.

Note: this summary was added on June 12, 2015.

Montgomery County

17. A 3-month-old female child nearly died on March 14, 2014, due to physical abuse. Montgomery County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in April 2014 naming the father as the perpetrator. The parents initially told medical professionals that the child was laying on her father's chest and fell, hitting an object on the floor. The child was admitted to the hospital on the date of incident for evaluation of seizure activity. Upon examination, it was found that the child had old and new rib fractures, intracranial hemorrhage, and bi-lateral retinal hemorrhage. Upon further questioning, the mother had no explanation for the child's old injuries. As a result the child entered foster care upon discharge from the hospital where she remains. The biological mother was not at home when the incident occurred and there are no other children in the home. This family was known to Montgomery County Children and Youth Services for prior unfounded reports of child abuse. The father has admitted to shaking the child violently three to five times. The father was arrested and is now incarcerated.

Philadelphia County

18. A 2-year-old female child nearly died on March 2, 2014, as a result of medical neglect. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) substantiated the case in April 2014 naming the mother as the perpetrator. The child was born with an endocrine disorder that required her to take cortisone. When the child is ill, she requires higher dosages of the medication, including a shot of cortisone if she is very ill. The child became sick and threw up while at home on March 1, 2014. The mother, who is a nurse, left the child in the care of the aunt so the mother could go to work. The mother did not give the child a higher dosage of cortisone prior to leaving and the aunt was not knowledgeable about the child's medical condition, only that she took medication. The child continued to vomit and when the mother returned home the child was in shock and had a blood sugar level of 28 (a normal range is 110-200.) At this point the mother should have given the child a shot of cortisone. The mother brought the child to the hospital, where the child was diagnosed with an elevated blood pressure, low blood sugar, and was in adrenal shock. The child was also having difficulty breathing. The mother admitted to hospital staff that the child's cortisone shot had expired and that she never got a refill. Additionally, through the investigation, it was determined that the mother had poor follow-up care with the hospital that had originally been treating the child. The child was last seen by that hospital in Jan. 2013 but she should have been having quarterly exams. The child was also to receive a neurologic exam prior to this incident but the mother did not follow through with setting up an appointment for the child. The child was discharged from the hospital on March 10, 2014, and DHS filed an Order of Protection and took custody of the child. The child was placed in the kinship care of her godmother and godfather at that time. This family has received education and was given instructions on the child's necessary medical care. At the time of the incident the child had been residing with her mother, maternal aunt, and a maternal grandfather. She has an older brother, age 8, who also resided in the home. A safety plan was put into place for the older brother that the maternal aunt and grandfather would assist the mother in caring for the brother as he does not have any medical issues. In-home services are being provided to the mother to assist with truancy concerns with the brother. The godparents are supervising all visits between the mother

and the victim child. The godparents have been complying with her medical needs, including providing the child with her medications and assuring she gets to medical appointments. A Family Group Decision Making referral has been made but at this time, has not yet taken place. A criminal investigation was conducted; however, no charges have been filed in this case.

19. A 3-year-old male child nearly died on Dec. 27, 2013 due to injuries suffered as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) investigated the incident and substantiated the report in Jan. 2014 indicating the child's stepfather as the perpetrator. The child's mother brought him to the hospital around midnight on Dec. 27 in obvious distress with bruising all over his body. The child had also been vomiting up blood on and off for a few hours. The doctor who first treated the child at the hospital stated that the child was in shock with extremely low blood pressure and certified him as a near fatality. At the time of incident the child was in the care of his step-father while the biological mother was at work. When interviewed by a caseworker the step-father's explanation of what happened to the child was filled with inconsistencies. A few days later when the step-father was interviewed by police he admitted to punching the child in the stomach several times. His explanation for punching the child was that he witnessed the three year old victim child pick up his half sibling by his feet and then dropped him on his head. After hearing this explanation the half sibling was examined but showed no signs of injury. The step-father was arrested immediately after he confessed to punching the victim child in the stomach. The day the child was brought to the hospital a safety assessment was completed for the two other minor children in the household and it was determined that the children were not safe in the home so both half-siblings were placed in foster care. Two weeks after being admitted to the hospital the victim child was discharged and released to the same foster home as his half-siblings. The child has no medical issues as a result of the abuse and appears to have completely recovered from the physical injuries. The biological mother has regular supervised visits with her children and has been cooperative with the agency during their involvement with the family. The three children all have different biological fathers and as of now they do not appear to be an option for custody of their children. All three children have been referred to Early Intervention for evaluation and the victim child was also referred to Children's Crisis Treatment Center for potential trauma therapy. The children's biological mother has been referred for a parenting capacity evaluation. Prior to this incident the family was not known to the agency. The perpetrator pled guilty and was sentenced in May 2014 to serve 3-6 years in state prison.

Note: this summary was added on June 12, 2015.

20. A 5-month-old male child nearly died on Nov. 21, 2013 due to injuries suffered from physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) investigated the report and in Jan. 2014 indicated the child's mother as the perpetrator. On March 24, 2014 the child was adjudicated dependent changing the status to founded on both the mother and the father. On the date of the incident the mother brought the child to the hospital due to a seizure like episode. A head scan revealed a subdural hematoma and retinal hemorrhages in both eyes. The child also had multiple brain injuries which were described as both old and new based on the different stages of healing. Doctors at the hospital stated that there was no explanation other than non-accidental physical trauma

that could have caused the injuries. Neither parent could explain how the injuries occurred. Both parents appeared genuinely concerned for the child's safety. The mother was the primary caretaker when the child was injured which is why she was named the perpetrator. There was one other child in the household who DHS determined unsafe so he was placed in foster care. DHS was unable to locate family members with whom the children could reside. The child has recovered from the incident and was discharged from the hospital into the same foster family as his sibling. Both parents have supervised visits with the children twice a week, which have reportedly gone very well. Prior to this incident the family was not known to children and youth services. The Philadelphia Police Department investigated the incident and decided not to pursue criminal charges.

Note: this summary was added on June 12, 2015 and updated on August 14, 2015.

21. On Feb. 22, 2014, a 2-year-old female child nearly died due to multiple, non-accidental physical injuries. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) substantiated the report naming the mother and mother's paramour as perpetrators of physical abuse. The child was taken to the emergency room by the mother who reported that the child fell down the steps and was unable to walk. At the hospital, the child was deemed in critical condition due to a pancreatic transection and a duodenal hematoma which required immediate surgery. Also observed were a pulmonary contusion and a linear area of ecchymosis around her throat. The child also had an abrasion on the right shoulder and the rear of the right shoulder with a surrounding petechial rash. Additionally, the child had blood in her stomach. The mother reported that the child often falls down the steps head first. The child has 2 siblings and they are residing with the paternal grandmother. Both of the siblings were adjudicated dependent on March 5, 2014, and will continue to reside with the paternal grandmother by court order. The child is still in the hospital and upon discharge from the hospital, will be residing with the paternal grandmother. The family was not known to DHS prior to this incident. A criminal investigation is pending. Both perpetrators are currently incarcerated on charges of endangering the welfare of children, aggravated assault and simple assault.

22. A female child, 3 months shy of her third birthday nearly died on Feb. 18, 2014, after she ingested an unknown amount of opiates. Philadelphia County Department of Human Services (DHS) substantiated the case in March 2014 naming the victim child's mother as the perpetrator due to neglect, resulting in a physical condition. On the date of the incident the victim child was taken to the hospital by her mother after she noticed the child was lethargic and unresponsive. While in the emergency room the child's doctor reported she had a decreased respiratory rate and noted her pupils were "pinpoint". Due to both of those factors the emergency room doctor gave the child a medication used to treat an opioid overdose, to which the child reacted positively. Doctors were unable to get a urine sample from the child at this time so no drug test was performed. There was concern that someone may have given the child drugs, or some prescription medication, or that the child may have found drugs or prescription medication and ingested them. The emergency room doctor reported the child to be in serious but stable condition, so they transferred her to a local children's hospital. The victim's mother was questioned regarding the incident and stated she was unaware of how the child may have ingested drugs. She reported that her cousin was watching the

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child earlier in the day before she became sick. The cousin was questioned and reported that the child was in good health while with her, did not fall or hurt herself in anyway, and did not ingest anything while they were together. The cousin stated she took the victim child to a local park during the day and upon returning home realized that they were locked out. She called the victim child's mother who arrived to unlock the door. After they were in the house the mother stated her child seemed lethargic and in an altered mental state. At this time the mother brought the child to the hospital. No one was able to explain how the child accessed opiates. It was discovered that the victim child's mother had pending criminal charges for possession of a controlled substance and that a bench warrant was issued for failing to show up at her hearing. The family was known to DHS from a general protective services report the previous month alleging that the paternal grandmother found drug paraphernalia in the child's bag after her mother dropped her off for a visit. The child was not harmed and the report was not validated by the time of the near fatality. A safety assessment was completed after the near fatality and it was determined that the child is not safe in the mother's care. Physical custody of the victim child was given to the paternal grandmother and the family has been accepted for services. The mother has supervised visits with her child at the agency. There are no other children in the household. Philadelphia Special Victim's Unit is still investigating the case; no charges have been filed at this time.