



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 12/05/2013
Date of Incident: 03/13/2014
Date of Oral Report: 03/14/2014

FAMILY KNOWN to:

Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

06/23/2015

Unredacted reports are confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released to the public.

(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6340)

Unauthorized release is prohibited under penalty of law.

(23 Pa. C.S. 6349 (b))

Reason for Review:

Senate Bill 1147, Printer's Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008. The bill became effective on December 30, 2008 and is known as Act 33 of 2008. As part of Act 33 of 2008, DHS must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a child fatality or near fatality. This written report must be completed as soon as possible but no later than six months after the date the report was registered with ChildLine for investigation.

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine. Montgomery County has convened a review team on April 16, 2014 in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Child	12-05-2013
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1994
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1993
[REDACTED]	Maternal Aunt	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	Maternal Uncle	[REDACTED] 1987

Notification of Child Near Fatality:

On March 14, 2014 the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth was notified [REDACTED] of injuries sustained by three month old victim child. The child had been taken to Pottstown Medical Center [REDACTED] the day before where she was treated for a possible concussion and [REDACTED] her parents' care. Her mother then took her to [REDACTED] the next day due to possible seizure activity. The physician at [REDACTED] determined the child's injuries met criteria for a "Near Fatality" report as she was diagnosed with [REDACTED], severe [REDACTED], bruising to her chin and chest, and [REDACTED].

Summary of DHS Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the family.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family had a prior involvement with OCY in January 2014 when a report was made by hospital personnel when the child presented with a suspected head injury. The investigation based on the medical evaluation that ruled out suspected abuse or neglect causing the injury. The family was referred for [REDACTED] services at the [REDACTED]. The family did not follow up with services. Their OCY file closed as no safety threats were identified.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 03/14/2014 the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth was notified [REDACTED] of injuries sustained by three month old. She had been taken to Pottstown Memorial Medical Center [REDACTED] the day before where she was treated for a possible concussion and [REDACTED] her parents care. The father initially reported that on 03/13/2014, he was bouncing the child on his legs, and child hit her head on his chin. The mother was at work at the time. Child then went limp, and the mother called emergency services when she came from work. Child was taken to Pottstown hospital, and [REDACTED] a concussion.

The parents took her to [REDACTED] the next day due to possible seizure activity and vomiting. The physicians at [REDACTED] determined the injuries met criteria for a "Near Fatality" report as she was diagnosed with [REDACTED] bruising to her chin and chest, [REDACTED]. Scans showed that child had old and new [REDACTED]. The case was certified as a near fatality due to non-accidental trauma. Child was [REDACTED] when she was admitted to the hospital.

On 03/20/2014, [REDACTED] admitted to police that he violently shook the baby 3-5 times on 03/13/2014. [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with Attempt to Commit Involuntary Manslaughter, Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, and Endangering the Welfare of a child. [REDACTED] is incarcerated. The mother was credible and there are no concerns that mom harmed the child or was aware that [REDACTED] had hurt the child. On 04/15/2014 the agency investigation report was filed with the findings that [REDACTED] had inflicted the injuries on the child.

Current Case Status:

Child was treated at CHOP from 03/14/2014 -04/05/2014. Child was [REDACTED] with recommendations for ongoing [REDACTED] was initially recommended, however child's condition improved and she no longer met the criteria for [REDACTED].

Mother and child are residing with maternal aunt and uncle in [REDACTED] County. The maternal aunt, uncle, and maternal grandfather supervised mom with the child for 2 weeks [REDACTED] while [REDACTED] and the family adjusted to having the child in the home. The aunt and uncle work full-time. Mom is unemployed at this time and is responsible for caring for the child full time. Mom had the child's [REDACTED] switched to [REDACTED] County. Child is in need of ongoing [REDACTED]. The case was referred to [REDACTED] County Children and Youth with the recommendation that due to the severity of this report and the need for ongoing [REDACTED], that the case will be opened for ongoing services to monitor the medical care and safety of the child in the home.

County Strengths and Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child Near Fatality Report:

Strengths:

- None Noted

Deficiencies:

- None Noted

Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:

- Pottstown Memorial Medical Center to participate in Education for Physicians in their Own Community Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (“EPIC SCAN”) training.
 - This has already occurred.
- Additional outreach to all local hospitals and Emergency Responders will occur in conjunction with education surrounding changing Child Abuse Legislation.
- The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia to be available for consultation with OCY staff and any local hospital personnel regarding questions surrounding signs and symptoms of head injuries or other suspicious injuries to children. This has already occurred.

Recommendations for Change at the State Level:

- None noted

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Department Of Public Welfare concurs with the report received on 07/23/2014.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

County staff developed comprehensive Safety Plan using family resources.
Investigation was timely and thorough.

County Weaknesses:

The Fatality Review Report did not provide many details about the family history.

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:

None Noted

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The Fatality Review Report, although privileged and confidential, does not reflect the extensive work the County completed on the investigation. Perhaps a chronology of the investigation would be more informative and reflective of the Social Worker’s investigation providing context to the recommendations of the team.