



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 12/19/2000
Date of Incident: 01/23/2014
Date of Oral Report: 01/24/2014

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Philadelphia Department of Human Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

12/9/14

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. Philadelphia County did not convene a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report as the investigation was unfounded. The report was unfounded as the condition of the victim child was due to his [REDACTED].

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1973
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	12/19/2000
[REDACTED]	Half Sister	[REDACTED]/1976

Notification of Child Near Fatality

The child had been living with his paternal aunt for the last 5 months because his mother was homeless. The mother located housing, and [REDACTED] returned to her care 5 days prior to the date of the incident. Mother felt that the aunt was not feeding the child for the 5 months that he was in her care. On 1/23/14, the child was unresponsive. The mother called 911. The child was taken to Einstein Hospital on 1/23/14. The child's blood pressure was 80 over 30, and according to the mother, the child looked like a "concentration camp" victim, as the child was emaciated. The child was so dehydrated that EMTs were unable to get an IV into the child. The child had to be [REDACTED] and his glucose read high. The child was in unstable condition, [REDACTED] he had a pulse in his neck, but not in his hands. The reporting source felt that the child was about to die. The child was taken to the St. Christopher's Hospital [REDACTED] [REDACTED] by ambulance.

In a supplemental report called in on 1/24/14 [REDACTED], it was stated that the child was certified to be in critical condition due to abuse or neglect. It was unknown if the child was expected to survive. The child was diagnosed with an extreme form of [REDACTED] on 1/24/14. The child was not previously diagnosed with [REDACTED] Philadelphia Department of Human Services (Philadelphia DHS) hotline staff visited the child in the hospital on 1/23/14. It was discovered that his weight was 97 pounds in the spring of 2013, and on admission to the hospital on 1/23/14, he weighed 67 pounds.

Summary of DHS Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. Follow up interviews were conducted with Philadelphia DHS staff [REDACTED], case worker and [REDACTED], supervisor. An Internal Fatality Review Team meeting was not necessary due to the report being unfounded.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family had no prior involvement with the county office of children and youth or any other social services agency.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

This report was called in regarding a child living with his paternal aunt for the last 5 months because his mother was homeless. The mother located housing, and [REDACTED] returned to her care 5 days prior to the incident. Mother felt that the aunt was not feeding the child for the 5 months that he was in her care. The child had been seen at Einstein Hospital on 1/23/2014. He was [REDACTED] and sent home [REDACTED]. On his way home from Einstein, the child began experiencing problems. The parents called 911 and the child was taken to St. Christopher's Hospital. His blood pressure was 80 over 30, and his mother described the child as looking like a "concentration camp" victim, as the child was emaciated. The child was so dehydrated that EMTs were unable to [REDACTED] into the child. He had to be [REDACTED]. His glucose read high. The child was in unstable condition, [REDACTED] he had a pulse in his neck, but not in his hands. The reporting source felt that the child was about to die. The child was taken to the Einstein Hospital [REDACTED] by ambulance.

Current Case Status:

The family became known to Philadelphia DHS following a child protective services (CPS) report on 1/24/14 for alleged possible malnutrition. He was taken to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children [REDACTED] for evaluation and treatment. He was unresponsive and had to be [REDACTED]. There will be no criminal proceeding in this case as the child's condition was deemed to be an unfortunate circumstance that occurred as a result of his medical condition that had not been accurately diagnosed. While at St. Christopher's Hospital, the child's [REDACTED]. He was then transferred to Shriner's Hospital [REDACTED]. While at Shriner's Hospital, St. Christopher's Hospital continued to teach his mother how to help him manage his [REDACTED] so that when he was [REDACTED] home she would be well equipped to deal with his medical needs as well as taking care of her own [REDACTED]. His mother is a motivated and responsible adult who has demonstrated she is willing to learn how to manage and control the safety of her children.

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

Philadelphia County did not convene an Act 33 meeting because the victim child's condition was not due to abuse but a medical condition of [REDACTED] that was not accurately diagnosed. The case was therefore unfounded.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The county did not convene an Act 33 Review as the case was unfounded prior to the 30 day timeframe.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

County Strengths:

Philadelphia County collaborated with St. Christopher staff and Philadelphia SVU and conducted a thorough investigation.

County Weaknesses:

None identified at this time.

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:

None noted.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

Philadelphia DHS should partner with other organizations to inform the public on the causes and rate of increase of diabetes in the community and how to recognize the symptoms.