



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 10/8/2013
Date of Incident: 01/04/2014
Date of Oral Report: 01/04/2014

FAMILY KNOWN TO:

Cumberland County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

October 3, 2014

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, DPW 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. Cumberland County convened a review team on February 19, 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]	Victim Child	10/08/2013
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2007
* [REDACTED]	Babysitter	[REDACTED] 1983
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1981
* [REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1978

* Non HHM

Notification of Child Near Fatality:

On January 3, 2014, the mother picked up the victim child from the babysitter and noticed bruising on the child's head and forehead. On January 4, 2014, the mother's doctor referred mother and child to the Hershey Medical center. It was determined that the injuries had occurred within the previous 24 hours of the examination. There was no other bruising on any other part of the child's body. [REDACTED] called ChildLine as the child was found to have a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] certified the case as a near fatality due to suspected abuse from the head trauma.

Summary of DPW Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Caseworker and the Supervisor on March 24, 2014 and August 28, 2014. The regional office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting on February 19, 2014.

Children and Youth Involvement Prior to Incident:

GPS in 2010- child left outside alone for 15 minutes.

3 CPS reports were received in October 2013 – It was reported that [REDACTED] is a Megan’s Law offender and that family visited from Luzerne County and alleged that [REDACTED] touched their children. The cases were unfounded in December 2013.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On January 3, 2014, the mother picked up the victim child from the babysitter after work and noticed bruising on the child’s head and forehead. On January 4, 2014, the victim child was taken to the doctor and the mother’s doctor referred mother and child to the Hershey Medical Center. It was determined that the injuries had occurred within the previous 24 hours of the examination. There was no bruising on any other part of the child’s body. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] called ChildLine as the victim child was found to have [REDACTED] [REDACTED] certified the case as a near fatality due to suspected abuse from head trauma.

The babysitter was scheduled for a polygraph test by the police. When the police arrived at his home, he attempted suicide by slitting his throat, wrist and stabbing himself. He admitted to the police that he had punched the child out of his own frustration of having his own child living in another state and having no contact with that child. On March 3, 2014, Cumberland County Children and Youth indicated the babysitter due to the physical abuse of the victim child. The babysitter was charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of a child and recklessly endangering another person.

Current Case Status:

The mother has participated in a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Mother is receiving [REDACTED]. The victim child’s sibling is receiving [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from Cumberland County Children & Youth Services. Sibling visits have been set up for twice a month between the victim child and his sibling. Cumberland County is arranging a Family Group Decision Making conference with family members. The victim child is receiving [REDACTED]. The father has not participated in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to date. He has canceled twice and now resides in [REDACTED].

On March 3, 2014, Cumberland County Children and Youth indicated the babysitter as a perpetrator of child abuse due to the physical abuse of the victim child. The babysitter was charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of a child and recklessly endangering another person.

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

- Strengths:
The investigation completed by Cumberland County Children and Youth Services was conducted in a timely fashion and in collaboration with the [REDACTED] Police Department.
- Deficiencies:
None noted
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:
None Noted
- Recommendations for Change at the State Level:
None noted

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The county Act 33 report was received on August 28, 2014. There were no discussions about particular recommendations to avoid this circumstance in the future.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths:
Cumberland County Children and Youth worked in collaboration with the police on this case. Interviews were conducted by both caseworkers and the police. The investigation completed by Cumberland County Children, Youth and Families was conducted in a timely fashion and in collaboration with the [REDACTED] Police Department. The level of cooperation between the county and the police department was commendable.
- County Weaknesses:
The Act 33 meeting was not held within the required 30 days.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:
The Act 33 meeting was not held within the required 30 days.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The Act 33 meetings must be held within 30 days of the receipt of the oral report unless the case is UNFOUNDED within 30 days. It is recommended that the meetings be scheduled promptly to avoid not meeting this mandate.