



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 04/16/2014
Date of Near Fatality: 02/15/2016
Date of Report to ChildLine: 02/16/2016
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

FAMILY KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:

Lycoming County Children and Youth

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

05/27/2016

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. Section 6349 (b))

Reason for Review:

Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through OCYF, must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a 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.

The Child Protective Services Law also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a fatality or near fatality is substantiated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the report to ChildLine.

Lycoming County has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. Lycoming County was not required to convene a review team because the investigation was unfounded and the CY 48 was submitted to ChildLine on 02/24/2016 (8th day).

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	victim child	04/16/2014
[REDACTED]	mother	[REDACTED] 1979
* [REDACTED]	father	unknown
[REDACTED]	half sibling	[REDACTED] 2002
[REDACTED]	half sibling	[REDACTED] 2004
[REDACTED]	half sibling	unknown 1996

Father is incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Complex in [REDACTED] Pennsylvania.

* Denotes an individual that is not a household member or did not live in the home at the time of the incident, but is relevant to the report.

Summary of OCYF Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all medical records and case records pertaining to the family. The Central Region had ongoing contact with Lycoming County Caseworker. The Central Region ensured the Child Fatality Data Collection Form was sent to ChildLine within 60 days of the report. Central Region also confirmed ChildLine received the CY 48 within 30 days and confirmed that the investigation was unfounded.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

Lycoming County Children and Youth conducted three General Protective Service assessments:

On 05/17/2006 Lycoming County Children and Youth received a referral due to lack of supervision of the oldest sibling (age 10 at time of report). [REDACTED] is the half sibling of the victim child. She had told school staff she was left home after school and overnight. The allegations were addressed and no further services were provided. The half sibling spent the summer visiting a relative in Virginia. No ongoing children and youth services were provided. The GPS was closed on 06/14/2006.

On 07/27/2009 Lycoming County Children and Youth received a referral for follow up supervision following the hospitalization of the oldest sibling (age 13 at time of report). The child was hospitalized at Hershey Medical Center on 07/08/2009 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The family was linked with a variety of services, including Community Outreach, a Family Group Decision Making conference was held and [REDACTED] services were provided. No ongoing children and youth services were provided. The GPS was closed on 09/24/2009.

On 06/15/2011 Lycoming County Children and Youth received a GPS referral regarding allegations of lack of supervision of the three children in the home at the time (then ages 15, 7 and 5). Mother reportedly went to a neighbor's home at night to smoke marijuana. Report was not substantiated and the case was closed on 06/30/2011.

Lycoming County Children and Youth did not assign the following referrals:

On 04/19/2011 the 15 year old eldest child reported to school staff that she had problems with her mother and did not want to live with her. She alleged poor parenting practices. This was referred to School Outreach and no formal services were provided.

On 09/07/2011 School Outreach relayed that a relative alleged that a boarder was living in the family home illegally. This individual reportedly locked the 15 year old in her room for two days without food. School Guidance and the School Outreach worker met with [REDACTED], who denied any problems in the home. No formal CYS action occurred, with School Outreach remaining involved as needed.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 02/16/2016 the victim child was taken to the Williamsport Regional Medical Center Emergency room. [REDACTED] reported that the victim child has facial trauma and is unable to move his left arm. The referral source was concerned because mother who is listed as the alleged perpetrator kept changing the story as to how the victim child got injuries. Initially the mother stated the child sustained the injuries while outside playing with his 11 year-old sister. Then the second story was that he fell down about 20 steps. Referral source is concerned that no treatment was sought. This morning mother noticed that victim child's left eye was swollen shut and he could not move his left arm. Referral source had concerns that child may be a victim of physical abuse and that the injuries do not match mother's account as to how child sustained injuries. At that time the referral was a Child Protective Service report due to lack of medical care. Later in the day on 02/16/2016 the referral source called to report that victim child's injuries are life threatening and that victim child is in serious condition. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Referral source obtained additional information from mother who stated that victim child had been outside at 4PM yesterday (02/15/2016) with his 11 year old sister and that child fell while standing on a little sled and victim child bumped his head. Mother stated this is how victim child sustained the left temporal swelling and abrasion. Mother stated that around 11:00-11:30 PM last night (02/15/2016) she heard victim child running up and down the stairs. Mother then heard victim child fall down about 20 steps. Mother stated she had been in her bedroom when she heard victim child fall down the steps. The victim child sustained swelling over his nose and forehead. Referral source was concerned that mother did not bring victim child for medical care until 1:30PM on 02/16/2016. When victim child arrived at Williamsport Regional Medical Center his left eye was swollen shut and he could not move his left arm. Victim child was being transferred to Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The report was then registered as a near fatality.

Lycoming County Caseworker saw child at Williamsport Regional Hospital and also at Geisinger Medical Center. The victim child was not interviewed due to his age. The Caseworker interviewed mother at the Williamsport Regional Hospital. The mother reported that the victim child had fallen two different times on 02/15/2016. The first time was between 4:00PM and 4:30PM while playing with his 11 year old half-sister. Mother was watching the children periodically through the kitchen window and had even taken some videos. She stated she did not see victim child fall, but heard him crying and she went outside to check on him. She reported that he cried briefly and had a scrape on the side of his face and by his left eye. She stated the victim child went back to playing normally and appeared fine. Mother also reported around 11:00PM on the same date (02/15/2016) the victim child was playing on the steps and he was going up and down the steps because he had toys upstairs and downstairs. Mother reported that she had asked her 13 year old son to watch him and she went to her bedroom to watch television; she stated she heard him fall but did not see it happen. She went to check on him and found him lying at the bottom of the steps on some clothes. She stated at first she was scared to touch him. She stated he was crying but there was nothing visually

wrong with him except he appeared a little sleepy. She put victim child to bed and then went to bed herself. The next morning they woke at about 9:00AM and she had noticed the victim child's left eye was swollen and he could not move his left arm. She got all 3 children around and they rode the bus to the Williamsport Regional Medical Center.

On 02/16/2016 Lycoming County Caseworker interviewed the two older half-siblings at the maternal grandmother's home. Both siblings confirmed what mother had stated.

On 02/16/2016 Lycoming County Caseworker completed the CY-104 and it was sent to Lycoming County District Attorney. The investigation was assigned to [REDACTED] State Police Trooper [REDACTED].

On 02/17/2016 Lycoming County Caseworker and Pennsylvania State Police trooper spoke to a physician at Geisinger Medical Center and obtained victim child's medical records. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the injuries are consistent with mother's statements, he does not feel child was a victim of child abuse. In addition he stated that mother's delay in medical care was reasonable and did not result in the child's condition worsening.

On 02/18/2016 Lycoming County Caseworker was advised by the Pennsylvania State Trooper that based on her interviews of mother, 2 older half siblings and the doctor at Geisinger Medical Center, [REDACTED] State Police Department is not pursuing any criminal charges.

On 02/18/2016 the victim child was [REDACTED]. Lycoming County Children and Youth purchased baby safety gates for the top and bottom of the steps. Lycoming County Caseworker made home visits on 02/18/2016 and 02/19/2016 and confirmed mother had installed the safety gates at the top and bottom of the steps. The Caseworker saw no other concerns regarding safety in the home and mother had been very cooperative with the agency. The overall risk was rated low.

On 02/24/16 Lycoming County Children and Youth unfounded the case. Lycoming County has opened the case for in-home services to address supervision concerns.

Summary of County Strengths, Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child Fatality Report: N/A

Department Review of County Internal Report:

Lycoming County did not conduct an Act 33 meeting because the report was unfounded within 30 days. However on 03/03/2016 they did present this case at a Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:

Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families commends Lycoming County Children and Youth in its collaborative relationship with this office in compiling case specific data and evaluating the overall process of the Fatality/Near Fatality in an effort to promote consistent, quality services to children, youth and families.

Central Region determined that Lycoming County Children and Youth conducted a thorough and comprehensive investigation of this case. The case file was well documented. Lycoming County Children and Youth had obtained medical records from Williamsport Regional Hospital and Geisinger Medical Center.

Central Region determined that Lycoming County Children and Youth were in full compliance with all applicable regulations.

- County Weaknesses:

No areas were identified.

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.

No areas were identified.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families recognized the quality and procedural mechanisms currently in place within Lycoming County as they relate to the assessment and investigation of Child Protective Services cases and recommends their continuation.