COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE NEAR DEATH OF

[redacted]

[redacted]

BORN: 2/23/04

NEAR DEATH INCIDENT: **8/20/09**

FAMILY KNOWN TO:
THE DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES,
PHILADELPHIA PA.

Finalized 2/1/10

This report is confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released.
(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 No. 1147, now known as Act 33 was signed by Governor Rendell on December 30, 2008 and went into effect 180 days from that date. This Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets standards for reviewing and reporting child fatality and near child fatality as a result of suspected child abuse. DPW must conduct child fatality and near fatality review and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.[2]

1. Family Constellation:
FAMILY MEMBERS/ HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS :

Name	Relationship	Date of Birth
[redacted]	VICTIM CHILD	[redacted]/04
	Mother	[redacted]1976
	Brother	[redacted]1992
	Sister	[redacted]/1994
	[redacted]'s Bio Father (non-household)	[redacted]/1974
	Maternal Grandmother (non-household member)	adult

NON- FAMILY MEMBERS (The near death incident occurred in the home of [redacted]

	BABYSITTER/[redacted]	[redacted]1961
	Babysitter's daughter	Adult
	Babysitter's grandson	11 yrs old
	Babysitter's grandson	5yrs old
	Babysitter's granddaughter	3yrs old

Notification of Fatality / Near Fatality:
On 8/20/09 The Department of Human Services received a [redacted] report alleging lack of supervision which resulted in a medical condition. Victim child, [redacted] ingested prescription medications while at the babysitter's home. [redacted] was playing 'dress-up' with the babysitter's granddaughter [redacted] [redacted] found the prescription medication in a pocketbook. [redacted] was found by the babysitter unresponsive and convulsing. [redacted] was immediately transported to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and [redacted]

2. Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:
For this review, the SERO reviewed the case structured progress notes completed by the Department of Human Services Social worker. The DHS worker interviewed all the relevant family and non household members. DHS interviewed the attending physician and social worker from St. Christopher's Hospital. DHS made contact with the Detective at the Special Victims Unit. SERO interviewed the assigned social worker from DHS who had previously worked with the family and is still employed by DHS.

Pa. C.S. 6343 © (1)-(2).

Case Chronology:

Previous CY involvement:

- On March 17,2006 , the family became known to DHS as a result of [redacted]. [redacted] ([redacted] brother) was [redacted] (babysitter and a non household member). [redacted] [redacted]'s statements were consistent and credible. This report was [redacted]

- On December 31, 2008, DHS received a [redacted] [redacted] brother, [redacted] was identified as the [redacted] admitted that he [redacted] [redacted] This case was investigated and [redacted] In February 2009, [redacted] was identified as a victim and [redacted]. He was admitted to PA Clinical for [redacted] [redacted] treatment. It was noted, when [redacted] is discharged from PA Clinical that he will live with his maternal grandmother. [redacted]'s case manager reported [redacted] receives individual, group and [redacted] while he is in treatment.

- On January 22, 2009, DHS received a [redacted] report. [redacted] sister was identified as [redacted]. [redacted] was [redacted] by the above mentioned [redacted] [redacted] According to [redacted] the [redacted] occurred on March 17, 2006, the same date as her brother. After the 2006 incident, neither child was left with this caregiver. The [redacted] report was forwarded to DHS on January 22, 2009. This case was investigated by DHS and [redacted].

- [redacted] In August of 2009 [redacted] [redacted] was placed at Wordsworth for [redacted] charges. According to [redacted]'s probation officer, the discharge plan is for [redacted] to return to her mother's home, and receive supportive services through Consortium.[3]

Circumstances of Chid's Near Fatality:

According to the interviews and progress notes completed by the DHS social worker, DHS received a [redacted] report [redacted] [redacted] The victim child, [redacted] took prescription drugs which she found while at the babysitter's home, [redacted]. Child's mother, [redacted], reported that she takes [redacted] to the babysitter's home on Monday night and child would stay there and spend the nights until Thursday afternoon. The mother stated [redacted] with Ms. [redacted] because she attends school three days a week from 7:30am until 12:30pm. The mother and the babysitter had this arrangement for six weeks. Ms. [redacted] and her adult daughter, [redacted] are friends of the family. Ms. [redacted] lives with her adult daughter, [redacted], and her three children, [redacted].

On August 20, 2009, the children, [redacted] and [redacted], reported that they were playing dress-up with wigs and pocketbooks that they found in a bedroom closet. [redacted] stated

[3] Central register 8/20/09

they found a pill bottle in one of the pocketbooks. [redacted] opened the bottle and ingested the medication. Ms. [redacted] stated while she was lying down on the sofa downstairs she heard the girls playing dress-up. Eventually, she went in the kitchen to prepare breakfast for the girls. She called the girls to come and eat. [redacted] did not come. [redacted] went to find [redacted] and found her lying on the floor and shaking. [redacted] and [redacted] immediately called for an ambulance. [redacted] was transported to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. She was unresponsive, convulsing and placed in [redacted]

On 8/20/09 the Department of Human Services received [redacted] report [redacted]. This case was assigned to the DHS social worker on 8/21/09. On 8/21/09, the DHS social worker made a visit to St. Christopher's hospital to assess [redacted] safety and medical condition. When the social worker arrived at the hospital she interviewed [redacted] mother and the attending physician. The doctor reported [redacted] was doing well and she was no longer in a coma. The doctor reported that after [redacted] had a [redacted] scan, and the results were stable, [redacted] would be discharged on 8/22/09. The social worker requested the medical staff to allow [redacted] to remain in the hospital until a home assessment was completed by DHS. The social worker from the hospital informed DHS social worker that the hospital was unable to hold [redacted] that the hospital was unable to hold persons if they are medically cleared. The hospital reported they were unable to sign a safety plan. On 8/21/09. A safety plan was signed by the mother stating the mother would not take [redacted] out of the hospital without permission and [redacted] would not return to the babysitter's house until the investigation was completed. The doctor reported the police brought all the medications from the babysitter's home, which is how the hospital was able to determine the medication ingested by [redacted] ingested [redacted] 100 milligrams. [redacted] agent usually [redacted]

The DHS social worker interviewed [redacted] mother, [redacted], at the hospital. As previously mentioned, the mother reported she takes [redacted] to the babysitter's home from Monday night until Thursday afternoon. There were no other children living in the mother's home at the time of the incident. [redacted] two other children were in residential placements. [redacted] was at PA Clinical School in Coatesville Pa. and her daughter, [redacted], was in Wordsworth School, Philadelphia Pa.

The DHS Social worker interviewed [redacted] reported she and [redacted] wanted to play dress-up, so they took the pocketbook off the shelf in the room and took [redacted]'s wigs from under the television stand in the living room. [redacted] said they were playing in the living room. [redacted] opened the medication bottle and gave her some medication. [redacted] said she took the medication and knew she shouldn't, but she took it anyway. [redacted] stated [redacted] was asleep on the sofa in the living room. [redacted] was in her bedroom, and the boys, [redacted] were in their bedroom. The DHS SW's assessment was that [redacted] was very shy and whispered her answers like she was afraid she would get in trouble. SW explained to [redacted] that she was not in trouble. [redacted] appeared fearful and didn't want to get anybody in trouble.

reported was discharged from the hospital on the evening of 8/21/09. It must be noted, the DHS social worker was unaware of discharge. The social worker asked the medical staff to participate with the discharge planning for The DHS SW reported the hospital refused to sign the safety plan. The medical staff stated they were unable to hold based on the bed capacity. The DHS worker completed a safety plan with the mother and the babysitter.

On 8/22/09, the SW made a home visit to home to ensure safety. The family lives in a three bedroom row home in Philadelphia. The home was appropriate with no safety or health concerns, . The SW observed the medications stored in the home were maintained in a locked box in the kitchen . reported she was very surprised that would take medications without permission. The SW and Ms. agreed to a safety plan that would not return to the babysitter's home until the investigation was completed.

According to the DHS social worker, a home visit was scheduled for 8/22/09, because the babysitter's family was at the hospital on 8/21/09 visiting The family was very upset and remorseful and concerned with the well being of On 8/22/09, DHS SW made a home visit to the babysitter's home. The family lives in a three bedroom row home in Philadelphia. The home had all working utilities, no safety or health concerns. The two boys share a bedroom and sleeps in the room with when she stays over from Monday through Thursday.

Present during the visit were Ms and her adult daughter, and her three children: . The SW interviewed the family members. The boys, , reported they were asleep when the incident occurred.

's statement was inconsistent with report. The DHS SW assessment reported she was unable to determine whether or opened the medication bottle. reported she was asleep on the sofa when the incident occurred. Ms. reported when she called the girls to eat breakfast, was unresponsive and didn't move when she was called her. was upstairs, called upstairs and told her that was not moving. . immediately came downstairs and the ambulance was called reported she and her daughter have medications in the home, and their children were trained not to bother the medication. According to the DHS SW, the family displayed great remorse and concern for A safety plan was agreed upon by and her daughter, they were not allowed to babysit for until the investigation was completed. In addition, if they decide to continue babysitting for a lock box must be purchased and kept in a secured place.[4] DHS conducted a home visit on 8/26/09 to ensure a secured lock box was purchased to store all medications and safety was not at risk. According to DHS, when the investigation was completed, returned to the babysitter's home until 9/01/09. Since the incident was determined accidental and because day care was no longer needed for

[4] DHS SW progress notes

[redacted] following 9/6/09, DHS accepted this day care plan. [redacted] was enrolled in school full-time on 9/6/09 and her mother's work schedule had changed

Current / most recent status of case:

- 8/26/09 [redacted] Special Victims Unit reported all parties involved were interviewed and no charges were filed.
- According to DHS and SVU, [redacted] accidentally ingested prescription medication which belonged to the babysitter. [redacted] received medical treatment and she will have no long term or negative side effects from this incident. This case was [redacted] and closed.

Services to children and families:

- The County provided the family with Family Stabilization Services. The children and the mother received [redacted] through Intercultural Services, Philadelphia Pa.

County Strengths and Deficiencies as identified by the County's Near Fatality Report:

Strengths-

- The County immediately provided information to SERO regarding the child and the family's involvement. The DHS Social Worker forwarded documentation within 48 hours of the oral report.[5]
- The mother allowed [redacted] to return to the babysitter's home until September 01, 2009. On September 6, 2009 [redacted] was enrolled in the [redacted] in Philadelphia Pa. The mother's work schedule was altered and [redacted] was no longer in need of day care.
- According to the DHS social worker the last follow up visit with [redacted] and the family was 02/01/10.

County Recommendations for changes at the Local (County or State) Levels as identified by way of County's Near Fatality Report:

Reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to child abuse and neglect.

- DHS will develop and implement training for the medical personnel to understand safety assessments. The medical personnel at the hospitals do not understand that their cooperation is a vital key in making good safety decisions for children. Saint Christopher's Medical staff refused to sign the safety plan while [redacted] was in the hospital.

SERO Findings:

County Strengths -

- DSH Social Worker made the appropriate contacts and follow-up interviews to complete a timely investigation.

[redacted] Investigation report dated 9/18/009

[redacted] DHS provided additional services to the family. The family was referred to the Family Stabilization Services. According to the DHS Worker the family is [redacted]

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance issues:

- DHS conducted a timely investigation; all relevant family, non-household members and significant persons were interviewed.
- DHS conducted the safety visits within the required time frame.