



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

Robert Beyers

BORN: 11/17/09
DIED: 06/09/10

Family was not known to any county agency

REPORT FINALIZED ON: 05/04/2011

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 1147, Printer's Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008 by Governor Edward G. Rendell. 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. Delaware County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:**Name:**Beyers, Robert, Jr.
[REDACTED]**Relationship:**Victim Child
Biological mother
Biological father
Maternal grandmother
Paternal grandmother**Date of Birth:**11/17/2009
[REDACTED]/1981
[REDACTED]/1977**Notification of Child Fatality:**

On June 10, 2010, Detective [REDACTED] of the Ridley Police Department reported the death of 6 month old Robert Beyers Jr. On June 9, 2010 maternal grandmother [REDACTED] entered the bedroom of her home, where her daughter [REDACTED] and Robert Jr. were sleeping. The maternal grandmother reported entering the bedroom and pulling back the bed sheets in an attempt to wake [REDACTED]. The maternal grandmother found the bed soaked in blood. [REDACTED] was lying on the bed with a deep cut to her right wrist and Robert was found at the foot of the bed with a cut to his right wrist. [REDACTED] was transported to Crozer Chester Medical Center and placed in a [REDACTED]. Robert was transported to Taylor Hospital and pronounced dead.

On June 10, 2010 Dr. [REDACTED] of Taylor Hospital conducted an autopsy of Robert Jr. and concluded the cause of death as a Homicidal violence of unclear etiology associated with [REDACTED].

Summary of DPW Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. The Medical Examiners report and the Ridley Township Police Department report were

reviewed. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Caseworker [REDACTED] the Supervisor [REDACTED] and the Intake Administrator [REDACTED] on June 16, 2010 and August 16, 2010. The regional office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting on July 8, 2010.

Summary of Services to Family:

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

Prior to the incident there was no children and youth agency involvement.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On June 9, 2010, the Ridley Township Police were called to the maternal grandmother's home of [REDACTED] Holmes, PA 19043 in response to a cardiac arrest of [REDACTED]. Upon arrival, [REDACTED] (the sister [REDACTED]) was performing CPR on Robert Jr. who was unresponsive. The police observed [REDACTED] lying in the same bed and she was bleeding profusely from both of her wrists. Police also saw a large black handle kitchen knife in the bed which was covered in blood. The Para- Medics removed [REDACTED] from the bed and transported her to Crozer Chester Medical Center. Robert Beyers Jr. was transported to Taylor Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

A suicide note was discovered by a family friend on Robert's changing table. The family friend turned the note into the Ridley Township Police Station. The suicide note indicated [REDACTED] wishes to take the life of her infant son "Bobby" and then take her own life.

On June 10, 2010, Delaware County Children and Youth received a report [REDACTED] reporting the death of Robert Beyers, Jr.

On June 10, 2010, an autopsy was performed on Robert Beyers, Jr. During the autopsy it was determined the laceration of Robert's right wrist measured 1 1/2 inches deep and 1 1/2 inch long. No blood vessels within the laceration appeared to have been severed enough to cause a fatal loss of blood. There was no evidence of [REDACTED] within the injury affected area. The doctor also focused on the possibility of suffocation or asphyxiation of which characteristics were immediately found. There was no other evidence of trauma, bruising or other injury. The cause of death as identified by the Delaware County Medical Examiner states that the cause of death was Homicidal violence of unclear etiology associated with deep incised injury of right wrist.

The [REDACTED] revealed that Robert Jr. resided with his father and visited with his mother at the maternal grandmother's house. It was revealed through interview with father that they were having marital problems. Father reported that mother was suffering from abusing [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] revealed

that a few months ago, he found pills in [REDACTED]'s purse. He believed the pills were [REDACTED]. He called the police; he reports that he was dissatisfied with the police response. [REDACTED] reports that "the police did nothing and asked him what he was going to do" At that time father told mother to leave the home. She then moved in with the maternal grandmother. Mother had been living with the maternal grandmother for two months prior to the date of the incident and later moved in with a friend. The father and paternal grandmother suspect the mother had been using and purchasing drugs. The father reported he has been in a relationship with [REDACTED] for four years. He reports on the day they returned from their honeymoon in June 2009, "she began acting like a little kid." The father denied that Robert Jr. suffered any abuse prior to this incident. Father also reported that during the last Christmas holidays he found [REDACTED] passed out in the family car in front of the house. He felt she was under the influence.

Maternal family reported that mother suffered from [REDACTED]. The father denies [REDACTED] having an [REDACTED] as the maternal family has reported, and does not believe that she suffered [REDACTED].

Both maternal and paternal families have separated themselves from [REDACTED]. They refuse to have any contact or visits with [REDACTED] at the prison. It is their choice not to have any contact with [REDACTED]. The maternal grandmother has asked that [REDACTED] stop calling the family home. [REDACTED] sister agreed to testify against her regarding the murder of her nephew. The father and maternal grandmother and extended family were extremely upset over the fatality.

Current Case Status:

On June 11, 2010 [REDACTED] was discharged from Crozer Chester Medical Center. [REDACTED] was transported to the medical unit of George Hill Correctional Facility in Thorndale PA. She was charged with murder of the first, second and third degree, aggravated assault, endangering welfare of children, possession of an instrument of crime and recklessly endangering another person.

The attorney for [REDACTED] does not allow any contact or interviews with the media or Children and Youth. On July 26, 2010 [REDACTED] waived her Preliminary Hearing in District Court and all charges were upheld.

The [REDACTED] for mother, [REDACTED]. The fatality of Robert Beyers was due to [REDACTED].

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

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. Delaware County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

- Strengths: There were none identified
- Deficiencies: There were none identified
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level: The review team did not have any recommendations
- Recommendations for Change at the State Level: The review team did not have any recommendation.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths: The Delaware County Children and Youth completed a comprehensive [REDACTED]. The county obtained all necessary documentation that included police reports, medical examiners reports and medical/hospital reports. The county interviewed all individuals involved with the maternal and paternal families. The county presented thorough and comprehensive case notes. The county collaborated well with the Ridley Township Police and the Medical Examiners Office.
- County Weaknesses: None as identified in the Act 33 review team report
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance: As required by Act 33 the review team must submit a final written report on each child fatality or near fatality to DPW and designated county official with 6340 (a) (11) of the CPSL within 90 days of convening. DPW received the written report from Delaware County on October 26, 2010. The date of the Act 33 full review was held on July 7, 2010.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The Department recommends that Delaware County comply with the requirements of Act 33 and submit a final written report on each child fatality or near fatality to DPW and designated county official with 6340 (a) (11) of the CPSL within 90 days of convening.