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REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF

BORN: 03/18/09
DATE OF NEAR FATALITY: 04/02/2009

FAMILY KNOWN TO:
Berks County Children and Youth

REPORT DATED 02/02/09
REPORT FINALIZED 02/12/10

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 into law by Governor Rendell on July 3, 2008 and went into effect 180 days from that date, December 30, 2008. 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 reviews and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.

Family Constellation:

Name	Relationship	Date of Birth
[redacted]	Victim child	03/18/09
	Mother	[redacted]88
	Father	[redacted]/84
	sibling	[redacted]/03
	sibling	[redacted]/05
	sibling	[redacted]/06
	sibling	[redacted]/07

Notification of Near Fatality:

According to the [redacted], on 04/02/09, the mother left the family home at 7 A.M. When she returned at 9 A.M., she noticed the 2-week-old child was blue and not responding. Mother took the child to the doctor's office and then to the hospital. The child had [redacted] and a [redacted]. Parents reported no history of trauma. Both parents had access to the child. The doctor reports that the [redacted] poor but a determination of [redacted] was not yet made.

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

[redacted], case record was reviewed, risk assessment, safety assessment, interviews with intake manager, supervisor and caseworker. The medical information was also made available for review.

Case Chronology:

4/02/09-Unannounced home visit. Mother not home. [redacted]

4/02/09-Caseworker met with mother at City Hall. Caseworker conducted interview with mother.

4/02/09-Caseworker interviewed father.

4/02/09-Caseworker went to maternal grandmother's house to see the other children. Grandmother was cleared through ChildLine and criminal checks were completed.

4/02/09-Phone call to Dauphin County Children and Youth Services for a courtesy contact with the victim child. Dauphin County will see the child today. Safety plan is for no unsupervised contact between parents and the child. The child is currently at Hershey Medical Center. Caseworker also spoke with Hershey Medical to ensure that child is not left unsupervised with the parents.

4/02/09-Safety assessment completed. Children are safe with a plan. Children are not to have contact with their parents. Children were to reside with a relative.

4/03/09-Report of [redacted] sent to law enforcement.

4/03/09-A CT scan was completed and there is [redacted]. The baby does have a [redacted] but this could [redacted]. Child has [redacted].

4/03/09-School visit to see oldest child, age 6. No fear of caretaker. Child was not interested in talking to caseworker.

4/06/09-Safety plan amended to allow for supervised contact with the parents (for other children).

4/07/09-Safety plan lifted on children after discussion in supervision.

4/20/09-Phone call to Dr [redacted]. Dr. reports child came quickly. The child was [redacted] at birth. [redacted] could have been [redacted]. Parents are up to date on all the children's appointments. Doctor has no concerns. He will send a letter to the caseworker regarding this.

4/28/09-Home visit. Children were all home and doing well. No safety threats. Caseworker advised case will be closing. The agency is waiting on medical documentation (unspecified in notes).

4/28/09-[redacted] completed. Case [redacted].

5/27/09-Home visit. Caseworker discussed case will be closed.

5/28/09-Risk Assessment completed. Overall severity and overall risk were both low. Injury was originally thought to be a [redacted], but it was later diagnosed that the child had [redacted], and a [redacted]. The [redacted] was from an [redacted] and the [redacted] reportedly could have [redacted].

5/29/09-Closing letter sent to family.

Previous Children and Youth Involvement:

This family had brief involvement with Berks County Children and Youth Services from 7/31/03 to 10/24/03. This intake was in regard to a referral on the mother. The baby's [redacted] and needed to be monitored. This is in reference to baby born in 2003. Intake went out and found baby to be in good health. Mother had no phone so did not know about doctor's attempts to reach her. She complied and baby was doing well. Case was closed after it was followed at intake for a short time. Mother was very co-operative.

Circumstances surrounding the near fatality

The child was reported by the hospital as having [redacted] and a [redacted]. It was determined that that was [redacted] as the child did not have [redacted]. The child did have a [redacted] doctor believes [redacted]. This child suffered from [redacted] and was [redacted] by his parents. The parents were co-operative with investigation. The case was [redacted]

Current / Most Recent Status of Case

- Status of [redacted] investigation is [redacted]
- C&Y case status is not accepted or referred to community services for prevention services.
- The children all reside at home with their parents
- Due to the fact that the near fatality was [redacted], there were no follow up services required or requested.
- The child was assessed [redacted] and no recommendations for further services were required.

[redacted] There are [redacted] as the child's condition was [redacted]

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance

- All children are safe.
- All children were determined to be safe without a safety plan.
- Investigation began immediately
- All pertinent parties were interviewed..
- Risk Assessments were completed accurately. The last was completed on5/28/09 and was rated low.
- The family was not accepted for services. .
- The agency made a determination that there was no need for [redacted] services.

A CY104 was sent to law enforcement at the time of the incident

Findings:

This child was there was no need for agency follow up.

Recommendations:

The agency's response was correct, as there was no indication of on the part of parents or family members. The child had and appropriate steps were taken to care for him.