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REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF



BORN: 03/18/2008
DATE OF NEAR FATALITY: 01/30/2009

FAMILY KNOWN TO:
Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED: 02/08/10

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 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.

Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services was not required to complete an internal agency review as the Child Protective Services investigation was completed in 30 days.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Child/Victim	03/18/2008
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1990
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1991
[REDACTED]	Paternal Grandmother (Non Household Member)	
[REDACTED]	Maternal Aunt (Non Household Member)	
[REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother (Non Household Member)	
[REDACTED]	Paternal Aunt (Non Household Member)	

Notification of Near Fatality:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Child/Victim was brought to the Emergency Room at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton by his parents. Child/Victim was diagnosed with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

The Department of Public Welfare, Northeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families conducted a site record review at Lackawanna County Children and Youth. The entire [REDACTED] intake case file was reviewed. Interviews were conducted with the assigned [REDACTED] intake caseworker and supervisor. Additionally, the closed [REDACTED] case file was also reviewed.

Case Chronology:

01/30/2009

[REDACTED] Intake Supervisor at Lackawanna County Children and Youth received and reviewed [REDACTED] report. The Child/Victim was brought to the

Emergency Room of Moses Taylor Hospital by both parents for treatment related to bruising to the head. Child/Victim was diagnosed with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Due to a need for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Child/Victim was transported to Geisinger Hospital [REDACTED].
Case assigned for investigation.

01/30/2009

Assigned [REDACTED] caseworker at Lackawanna County Children and Youth determined that Child/Victim was transferred to Geisinger Hospital due to severe bleeding associated with the head trauma. Montour County Children and Youth was contacted to request in person contact at Geisinger to meet the county's twenty four hour response time. Montour County will make contact and forward requisite documentation.

01/31/2009

Collateral contact was made with Geisinger Hospital social work personnel by assigned Lackawanna County [REDACTED] caseworker. Lackawanna County Children and Youth safety plan for Child/Victim was reviewed with [REDACTED]. Safety Plan was developed with biological parents of Child/Victim, and paternal grandparents of Child/Victim. There was an agreement between all parties that Child/Victim will not be left unsupervised with either biological parent pending outcome of the [REDACTED] investigation. [REDACTED] underwent surgery and all went well. Preliminary assessment indicates that Child/Victim was a healthy, well nourished child. Parents are entirely invested in the care and treatment of Child/Victim. Parents have a great deal of extended family support as evidenced by the number of family members present at the medical facility.

01/31/2009

Lackawanna County [REDACTED] worker had collateral contact with assigned detective from Scranton Police Department and reviewed case specifics. Law enforcement agency will contact [REDACTED] and commence investigation at Geisinger Hospital.

02/02/2009

Lackawanna County [REDACTED] worker prepared and [REDACTED] and also prepared a CY-104 form for law enforcement. A collateral case review was conducted with the Scranton Police Detective assigned to the case. Data was secured from [REDACTED].

02/02/2009

Lackawanna County Children and Youth [REDACTED] supervisor and assigned caseworker completed the case review. The Safety plan was discussed. Extended family are willing to become involved in the implementation of the Safety Plan. This area will be explored further with extended family when discharge plans for Child/Victim are developed.

02/04/2009

Collateral contact by Lackawanna County Children and Youth caseworker was made with Geisinger Hospital assigned social worker. Medical update secured. Treatment provisions discussed. Collateral contact also made with Child/Victim's biological mother on this date. A tentative plan was developed for the [REDACTED] of Child/Victim and identification of family resources pending completion of [REDACTED] investigation.

02/05/2009

Collateral contact with the [REDACTED] by Lackawanna County Children and Youth [REDACTED] caseworker. Background data/family dynamics discussed.

02/05/2009

Lackawanna County caseworker had collateral phone contact with biological mother of Child/Victim. [REDACTED] investigation process reviewed. Information for [REDACTED] assessment was secured from [REDACTED]

02/05/2009

Collateral contact by Lackawanna County [REDACTED] intake caseworker with Geisinger Hospital medical staff [REDACTED]

02/06/2009

Conjoint planning conference with extended family and parents at Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services. Paternal grandmother and paternal aunt agreed to supervise Child/Victim while [REDACTED] investigation is completed. Child/Victim will not be alone with either parent pending completion of investigation.

02/10/2009

In person contact with Child/Victim, biological mother, biological father and paternal grandmother at paternal grandmother's home. Safety of Child/Victim was assessed. The safety plan was reiterated. All parties are in agreement with supervised contact pending outcome of [REDACTED] investigation. Case specifics reviewed with biological parents again. [REDACTED]

02/10/2009

Supervisory case review with assigned [REDACTED] caseworker. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There is no evidence that the injuries to Child/Victim are suspicious. Criminal investigation will be closed and case will be [REDACTED] by child welfare agency.

02/23/2009

Lackawanna County [REDACTED] supervisor and assigned case worker reviewed all medical data and information secured during interviews with parents. Montour County documentation also reviewed.

[REDACTED] letters were prepared and forwarded to the biological parents. The safety plan was rescinded.

02/24/2009

In person contact with the Child/Victim, biological parents and paternal grandfather at the family residence. Parents were apprised of the [REDACTED] and the agency's decision to close case. Case review conducted. The child/victim's safety was assessed. The family was cooperative with the agency. Parents are following medical recommendations and continue to utilize regular pediatric care. There was discussion with biological mother regarding returning to school to pursue Graduate Equivalency Diploma. Biological mother of Child/Victim had inquired as to this program earlier but did not pursue it due to her pregnancy.

Previous Children and Youth Involvement:

Lackawanna County Children and Youth had brief involvement with this family at the [REDACTED] intake level on 03/16/2008. The referral to the county Children and Youth agency was initiated by [REDACTED] due to the young age of the parents. As both parents were still in high school there was a request made for the county agency to assess the parenting capacities of both parents and also assess the living arrangements. Following an assessment of the home of the paternal grandparents the case was closed at the [REDACTED] Intake level. Mother of the child was referred to the School Age Mothers program sponsored through Scranton High School. Both parents were amenable to [REDACTED] for [REDACTED]. Additionally, parents were consistent with pediatric follow-up. The [REDACTED] intake assessment determined that the parents had significant extended family support and were responsive to input from both sets of grandparents.

Circumstances of the Child's Near Fatality:

The Child/Victim was brought to the Emergency Room of Moses Taylor Hospital by both parents for treatment related to bruising to the head. Child/Victim was diagnosed with [REDACTED]. Due to a need for [REDACTED] Child/Victim was transported to Geisinger Hospital/[REDACTED].

Current / Most Recent Status of Case

Following multiple interviews with Child/Victim's parents, interviews with extended family members, review of all medical records and collateral consultation with [REDACTED] at Geisinger and review of information provided to law

enforcement agency this case was [REDACTED] on 02/23/2009. The criminal investigation was also concluded ruling the injuries sustained by the toddler as accidental. There was documentary evidence contained within the case file that demonstrated extensive and collaborative participation between the law enforcement agency and public child welfare agency in investigating the allegations.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance

Following a site record review of the [REDACTED] case file and all medical records, Risk Assessment documentation, safety assessments and [REDACTED] letters it was determined that the County agency followed all regulatory prescriptions of the Child Protective Services law. The Department of Public Welfare, Northeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families determined that there were no statutory or regulatory violations.

Findings:

There was clear evidence of timely and collaborative efforts on behalf of the law enforcement agency and Lackawanna County Children and Youth to investigate the allegation associated with the Child/Victim's head injury. Lines of communication between both entities were consistent and fluid. Information was readily shared.

Recommendations:

The Department of Public Welfare, Northeast Regional Office Of Children, Youth and Families has reviewed the findings regarding the conjoined efforts of law enforcement and the County Children and Youth agency with Lackawanna County Children and Youth administrative personnel in an effort to foster this type of collaborative environment in all [REDACTED] investigations where law enforcement involvement is mandated. Lackawanna County Children and Youth administrative staff will continue to engage the local law enforcement community through regular case reviews sponsored by the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office.