

## Fatalities

### Allegheny County

1-2. Three year old twin brothers died on Jan. 4, 2013 as a result of injuries sustained in a house fire. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Family Services (CYS) substantiated the report in Feb. 2013 listing the mother as a perpetrator for lack of supervision. The mother admitted to police that she left the boys home alone while she went to find her 15 year old daughter whom she believed stole marijuana from her. The fire started in the home after the boys turned on a stove burner. The stove, crusted in grease, caught fire. The mother also admitted to leaving the boys home alone two weeks prior while she went to the store to buy rolling papers so she could smoke marijuana. The mother reported that when she returned home the house was filled with smoke. She stated that the boys had taken frozen ribs out of the freezer, turned on the stove, and put the ribs on the burner. The mother was arrested and charged with 2 counts each of involuntary manslaughter, endangering the welfare of children, and recklessly endangering another person. Mother is scheduled for a jury trial in July 2013.

The family was open with the agency at the time of this incident. Services were being provided due to allegations of the mother physically abusing the 15 yr old daughter in September 2012. The family was receiving in-home crisis services. The agency confirmed that the mother was also participating in a dual diagnosis treatment program. The twins' father is currently incarcerated at a state correctional facility. In addition to the twins, the mother has three older daughters. The mother's 15 year old daughter, who was residing with mother at the time of the incident, is currently in shelter placement. This child's father passed away in 2006. The 15 year old and the twins were the only children in mother's care when the fire occurred. The mother's 13 year old daughter resides with her father and stepmother. The mother's seven year old daughter has been residing with her father since 2005. Allegheny County CYS has had involvement with this family dating back to 2005 when the 15 year old and 13 year old were removed from their mother's care due to neglect and substance abuse issues. From 2005, CYS was involved with the family off and on regarding concerns for lack of supervision, the 15 year old sexually acting out on her younger sister, truancy concerns, inadequate living conditions, and concerns regarding the mother's mental health status.

3. A one year old male child died on March 2, 2013. The cause and manner of the child's death are unknown at this time. The Western Region Office of Children, Youth, and Families substantiated the report for medical neglect in April 2013 and listed the child's maternal aunt, a maternal female cousin, and the maternal aunt's paramour as perpetrators. The victim child and his twin brother had sustained chemical burns. The victim child also had scratches on various parts of his body. Inconsistent reports have been provided by the caregivers as to how and when the children sustained the burns. It has been reported that the children were sleeping in their crib and the victim child soiled himself. The victim child and his sibling were removed from the crib and the crib and bedding were cleaned with bleach. The victim child and his sibling were then placed back into the crib. The children started to cry and were removed from the crib

and placed on the living room floor with their eight year old brother and their six year old cousin. The maternal female cousin's two children (ages two and 23 months) were also on the floor sleeping. The boys were propped up on pillows. The caregivers allegedly noticed the victim child had redness to his stomach. The maternal aunt left the home to go drinking and left the boys in the care of her paramour and the maternal cousin. The mother was notified by the maternal aunt that there had been an incident in the home involving bleach but the boys were fine. The mother then came to the home hours later (around 5:00 am) and saw the victim child unresponsive. It was reported that all three caregivers were under the influence of marijuana. The mother was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. The aunt's paramour called an ambulance to the home at approximately 6:00 am on March 2 because the victim child was found unresponsive. The victim child was already deceased when the ambulance arrived and was taken directly to the medical examiner's office. The sibling was taken to the hospital, where he was admitted and treated for his injuries. The investigation determined that the caregivers initially considered notifying emergency personnel but had decided not to.

The county has been involved with the family for various reasons since 2008. The mother has a history of inpatient mental health hospitalizations, outpatient psychotherapy, and substance abuse evaluations. The father was incarcerated prior to this incident due to drug-related issues. Most recently, the county became involved due to the mother making threats of self-harm, and allegations of substance abuse. The county opened services with the family in April 2012. The children were placed in the care of their maternal aunt at the beginning of Oct. 2012 due to being left home alone by the mother. The county then removed the boys from the maternal aunt's home after determining she had previously been convicted on a child endangerment charge. Despite the aunt's criminal record, a judge ordered the children back into the care of the maternal aunt after a hearing on Oct. 12, 2012. Due to the aunt's criminal conviction, she was unable to become a licensed kinship provider. The county was providing oversight of the boys and their placement in the aunt's home at the time of the incident. There have not been any charges filed in this report pending the final autopsy report.

#### Indiana County

4. A one year old male child died on Feb. 2, 2013 due to drowning as a result of a lack of supervision. Indiana County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in Feb. 2013, naming the mother and father as perpetrators. The mother left the child in the bathtub with his two siblings (ages one and three) and went downstairs for 5-10 minutes. The mother stated that she was relying on the three year old sister to let her know if anything was wrong. The father was upstairs in another room playing video games. When the mother came back upstairs, the child was underwater. The mother performed CPR on the child and then called 911. The child was pronounced dead at the hospital. The coroner reported that the child died as a result of drowning in the bathtub. There were no other injuries noted. Both parents were taken into police custody. The mother was charged with criminal homicide, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, and three counts endangering the welfare of a child. The criminal

homicide and aggravated assault charges were initially dismissed, but the District Attorney recently re-filed criminal homicide charges against the mother, and she remains on house arrest. The mother gave birth to a baby in June. The mother and baby are court-ordered to reside in the maternal great grandparents' home. The mother is not to have contact with the surviving children at this time. The father was charged with three counts each of endangering the welfare of a child, reckless endangerment, and criminal homicide. The father has waived his preliminary hearing and is being monitored by probation in Ohio, where he is residing with his family. The two siblings are currently residing with a maternal great uncle. There was a previous report in January 2011 for a concern that the three year old sister was touched inappropriately by her father's friend. The report was unfounded; however, the case was accepted for services due to mental health concerns with the parents, supervision issues, and the need for basic parenting skills. The parents received services through Family Behavioral Resources, Psychological Associates, and the Center for Family Living, as well as Early Intervention services for the one year old brother and behavioral specialist services for the three-year-old sister. These services were in place at the time of the victim child's death.

#### Lancaster County

5. A two year old female child died on Jan. 12, 2013 due to physical injuries. Lancaster County Children and Youth substantiated the report in March 2013 and named the mother's paramour as the perpetrator of physical abuse. On Jan. 12, 2013, the mother of the victim child called 911 to report the child was in and out of consciousness. The mother reported that the child had fallen down six to seven steps in the home on Jan. 11, 2013. The child later died at the hospital. An autopsy confirmed the child died from multiple traumatic injuries. The child had multiple bruising to the back of the head and extensive internal bodily injury. The paramour admitted to punching the child and knocking her down and then kicking her. No charges were filed against the mother. The mother's paramour has been charged with criminal homicide, aggravated assault and three counts of endangering the welfare of children and is awaiting trial

There were three other children, ages seven, four, and ten months, living in the household at the time of incident. Two were half-siblings of the child and the other was the child of the paramour. All three of these children were placed in a foster home together. The mother currently has supervised visitation with the children. The family was known to the county agency prior to the victim child's death dating back to 2006 when a referral was received regarding concerns about the mother's lack of housing and mental health issues during her pregnancy with the oldest child. This report was screened out because the oldest child was not born yet. A second referral was received in Nov 2006, but the case was closed because the mother's whereabouts were unknown. At that time the mother had been working with an agency that specializes in supporting new mothers and educating them on parenting skills. This agency reported that they did not have concerns about the mother's ability to parent the child appropriately. A third referral was received in April 2008; however, the case was screened out after calls were made to the mother and her Job Corps counselor. In Nov

2011 a referral was received regarding neglect concerns of the victim child. The child was observed with a bruise on her forehead and on her right shin. The agency attempted an unannounced visit but no one was home. The mother then contacted the agency and said she had moved to Schuylkill County and that Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services had been to her home to observe the child and did not have any concerns. Per agency follow up, Schuylkill County did not have any record of visiting the mother. Lancaster County Children and Youth attempted to locate the mother but was unsuccessful and the case was closed. The last referral was Aug 2012 regarding bed bugs in the home, inappropriate discipline, and possible drug use by the mother's paramour. The case was closed due to no concerns for the children's care being present and the paramour being drug tested with negative results.

6. A four month old male child died on Jan. 16, 2013 due to physical injuries. Lancaster County Children and Youth substantiated the report in March 2013 and named the child's father as the perpetrator of physical abuse. On Jan. 15, 2013, the mother of the victim child called 911 to report the child was not breathing. Both parents were home at the time of incident and claimed the child was sitting in his bouncy seat and began to arch his back. When removed from the seat, the child began having formula come out of his nose, his body went limp and he was not breathing. The father performed CPR on the child. The child was in critical condition with cranial bleeding and hemorrhages within his eye. On this same date, the child was declared brain dead and taken off life support. The father later admitted to picking up the child and slamming him against his own chest and then on to the bed. It was found that the child was brought to the emergency room on Jan. 4, 2013, after the father stated he had tripped and fallen on top of the child. The child was examined and received scans of his abdomen. He was then released with no concerns. During the county's Act 33 meeting, the scans were reviewed by a specialist at a different hospital who stated the scans did reveal some healing rib fractures that were approximately three to eight weeks old. There were no other children living in this household. The father does have four additional children, two that live with their mothers and the other two who are in the custody of Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families. The mother and father were both known to the county agency as children. Referrals were made on the mother as a victim in 2008 and 2009 due to truancy concerns. The mother stated she was missing school to take care of her father who was a paraplegic. The case was accepted for services; however, the mother subsequently dropped out of school to get married and the case was closed in March 2010. A referral was received on one of the father's other children after that child's mother tested positive for marijuana at the child's birth. The father was seen at the hospital, but did not live with the mother and was not present for subsequent visits. The father has not had any contact with this child since the child's birth. That case was closed when the mother moved out of the county. The victim child's mother is awaiting trial on endangering the welfare of children. The victim child's father is incarcerated awaiting trial on charges of criminal homicide and endangering the welfare of children.

## Lehigh County

7. On March 9, 2013 a one year old male child died due to massive trauma to his head, chest, and back. Lehigh County Children and Youth Services indicated the report in April 2013 and named the mother perpetrator by commission, and the mother's paramour perpetrator by omission. On the evening of the incident the mother's paramour stated he was in the upstairs bedroom of the residence when the mother came into the room with the victim child. He stated the mother then took the child into the bathroom, and listening, he could hear her begin to physically beat the child. During this time the paramour stated he was close to falling asleep when the mother and child eventually came back to the bedroom; the mother put the child to bed and told the paramour she was going out for the night. The paramour said he then fell asleep and woke to the sound of the victim child gasping for air. After trying to call the mother for a few hours without success, the paramour stated the mother eventually came home and they called 911. The child was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he was pronounced dead early that morning. Doctors in the emergency room stated the child had bruises in different stages of healing, including broken ribs, pulmonary contusions, sub-scalp hemorrhages, injuries to the head and face, and multiple lacerations of the liver. The mother is currently incarcerated while awaiting trial on charges of criminal homicide, aggravated assault, and endangering the welfare of a child. The mother's paramour is facing charges of recklessly endangering another person, endangering the welfare of a child, tampering with physical evidence, and use/possession of drug paraphernalia. He admitted to selling and using drugs in the presence of the child and to throwing away physical evidence of drug use, and the child's bloody diaper. There was one other child in the house at the time of the incident, the victim child's sibling, who was immediately placed in kinship care and now resides with the maternal grandmother. The sibling's visits to see the mother in prison have recently been suspended upon his therapist's recommendation, due to concerns that visits are too traumatic for him at this time. The family is known to Lehigh County Children and Youth Services, and had two prior cases open within the last two years. The first was in Dec. 2011 when the victim child was born; the mother wanted to put him up for adoption but changed her mind. The mother appeared to have mental health issues when the child was born and the hospital was concerned for the newborn's safety. The second referral was received in Feb. 2013, after the victim child fell down stairs and broke his clavicle; while at the hospital the doctor was concerned that one of the caregivers smelled like marijuana, the case was closed at intake.

## Montgomery County

8. A two month old female child died on Feb. 24, 2013 due to multiple traumatic injuries. Montgomery County Children and Youth indicated the case for physical abuse in March 2013, naming the father as the perpetrator. The child was brought to the hospital on Feb. 24 due to cardiac arrest. She was deceased at the time of admission. The child had skull fractures, broken ribs, and bruises. The child's autopsy showed that her nasal airway was blocked to stop her from breathing. The father gave police three

different stories about what happened on the night of the child's death, but none of the explanations were consistent with the child's injuries. The father is now incarcerated without bail. The father's preliminary hearing was held on June 4, 2013. The father is charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Murder, with a formal arraignment scheduled for July 2013. There is an older female sibling who is currently residing with the paternal grandmother, per a safety plan because it was initially unknown who caused the injuries to the child. The mother and the sibling have since been reunited and are currently residing in Massachusetts. Montgomery County Children and Youth has notified authorities in Massachusetts so that they are aware of the family's history. The family was not known to Children and Youth Services prior to this incident.

## Near Fatalities

### Chester County

1. An eleven month old female child nearly died on Jan. 7, 2013 due to injuries received from physical abuse. Chester County Department of Children, Youth, and Families indicated the case in Jan. 2013 and named the victim child's biological father as the perpetrator. Originally, the mother stated that the victim child and her sibling were sitting on the floor when the sibling pushed the child from behind, causing her to hit her head. Doctors explained that the injuries sustained to the child are not consistent with the mother's story and ChildLine was immediately notified. Results of initial testing and scans of the victim child showed a skull fracture, compression spinal fracture, left forearm fracture, right shoulder fracture, internal kidney hemorrhaging, cuts inside her mouth, and bruising to both ears. Two days after the incident the victim child's father admitted to causing the child's injuries while they were playing by dropping her headfirst on the coffee table. According to the father, when the child began to cry he grabbed both her arms and threw her on the bed. The caseworker interviewed the mother and the victim child's siblings and found the siblings to be in good health, showing no signs of abuse. The caseworker interviewed the mother, who reported that the father has a history of alcohol abuse and domestic violence against her. The father is currently incarcerated while awaiting trial on charges of aggravated assault, simple assault, and endangering the welfare of a child. A safety plan was completed and it was determined that the children are safe with their mother, and she agreed to in-home services while the child recovers. The mother also filed for a protection from abuse against the child's father. The family had no prior history with Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families.

### Delaware County

2. A four month old male child nearly died on Feb. 28, 2013 due to physical injuries. Delaware County Children and Youth substantiated the report in March 2013 and named the child's father as the perpetrator of physical abuse. On Feb. 28, 2013, the father called 911 for the child. The father stated the child woke up crying, he fed him,

and then the child began projectile vomiting and having difficulty breathing. The child was taken to the hospital by paramedics. The child was diagnosed as having suffered from physical abuse-abusive head trauma and was transferred to another hospital. The child had subdural hemorrhages, skull fractures, and retinal hemorrhages. Old blood was observed on the child's brain. The child had been in the father's care all day and into the evening while the child's mother was at work. The father has admitted to throwing the child onto the couch after he vomited on him. He said he took the child upstairs and "sort of threw and dropped" the child onto the changing table from a distance of eight inches to a foot away which could have caused the child to hit his head. Two weeks prior to this incident the parents reported the victim child had fallen off the bed and he was seen by his physician who said he had no injuries. There were three other siblings living in the household at the time of incident. All children were placed into foster care as maternal family members had health issues and were unable to care for them. The children's mother was also deemed unable to care for her children due to drug abuse and mental health issues. The family was known to the county agency. Bucks County Children and Youth Services made a referral to Delaware County Children and Youth Services in Jan. 2013, when the mother moved to Delaware County. The mother was known to Bucks County Children and Youth Services when she tested positive for drugs at the birth of the victim child in Oct. 2012. The victim child's mother has visits with all the children and has undergone a psychological and drug and alcohol evaluation. The victim child's father is incarcerated awaiting trial on aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of children, and simple assault.

#### Jefferson County

3. A one year old male child nearly died on March 20, 2013 due to medical neglect. Jefferson County Children and Youth substantiated the report in May 2013 and named the child's mother as the perpetrator of medical neglect. On March 20, 2013, the child was admitted to the hospital after suffering a seizure at home. The child has congenital adrenal hyperplasia, a medical condition which can be fatal if medication is not given as directed. The mother reported she was out of the child's medication, although the pharmacy said the mother was given 40 days of medication on Feb. 25, 2013 and should have still had medication left for the child. The hospital called in another prescription on March 18, 2013, which the pharmacy filled but the mother never picked up. The mother stated she did not have insurance or money to pay for the prescription and that she had lost her cash and food stamp assistance, even though she had filled out her renewal paperwork. The county investigation determined that the mother could have called the hospital for assistance if she was unable to pick-up or pay for the prescription. There are no other children in this household. The child's father is incarcerated for an unrelated issue. The mother was known to the county agency as a child. There were general protective services provided to her family in 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2011. The victim child is now in kinship care with his paternal grandmother. The mother has supervised visitation. No charges were filed against the mother or mother's paramour for this incident.

#### Luzerne County

4. A two year old male child nearly died on Jan. 8, 2013 after ingesting what was determined to be large amounts of cocaine. Luzerne County Children and Youth indicated the report in Jan. 2013 naming both the mother and maternal grandmother as perpetrators for a lack of supervision resulting in the child's physical condition. The child's mother states that on the night of the incident her son got into prescription drugs she had lying around the house, began to seize, and became unresponsive. Both the mother and maternal grandmother state they tried to induce vomiting and then dialed 911, but were resistant to EMS entering the home. The hospital immediately gave the child a urine screen which came back positive for cocaine, causing physicians to list the child's condition as critical. The child's mother states she has no idea how the child ingested cocaine, and has not cooperated with the investigation. The mother and grandmother continue to deny that there was any cocaine in their home. The victim child recovered and was initially placed in foster care until a judicial ruling placed the child with his biological father. The child is receiving Early Intervention Services and the father is attending a parenting program. The mother has been referred for mental health services, drug and alcohol services, and a parenting program. Both parents are receiving random drug screens. There were no other children in the household and the family was not known to Luzerne County Children and Youth Services prior to this incident. The criminal investigation into this case is still ongoing.

#### Philadelphia County

5. A one month old female child nearly died on Jan. 18, 2013 due to multiple traumatic injuries. Philadelphia Department of Human Services indicated the report in Feb. 2013, naming the mother, father, and grandmother as perpetrators. The child arrived at the hospital with apnea. Upon exam, it was discovered that the child had posterior rib fractures, subdural fluid, and retinal hemorrhages. None of the adults were able to provide an explanation for the child's injuries. Medical evidence indicated the injuries were the result of inflicted trauma. The child is expected to survive, but will have serious developmental delays. A safety plan was put in place so that the mother and grandmother are supervised when visiting the child in the hospital. The father was incarcerated for an unrelated matter and recently released from prison. His current whereabouts are unknown. After the child is discharged from the hospital, she will be placed in a medical foster home. The foster family has already been identified and the foster mother has started to visit the child in the hospital. There are no other children in the home. The mother was in placement as a child, but there have been no recent reports on this family. No charges have been filed in this case.

6. A three month old male child nearly died on Feb. 26, 2013. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) indicated the report in March 2013, naming both parents as perpetrators of physical abuse. The mother reported that on the day of the incident, she left the child in the care of the father while she took the child's siblings to the store. When she returned, the child played with his siblings and then fell asleep.

The mother said that the child was asleep longer than usual and she became worried. The mother attempted to wake the child 19 times, without success. She reported that when she tried to pick him up out of his swing, his body was limp. The mother told the father to call 911. The child was transported to the hospital by ambulance and admitted to the intensive care unit. The child was diagnosed with an acute subdural hematoma, a sub-acute subdural hematoma with severe bleeding, and a mid-line shift fracture. The child was resuscitated and had surgery to remove a portion of his skull. The child had to have another surgery due to an infection after the removal of part of his skull and is currently waiting to have a titanium plate placed in his skull. The mother and father were unable to explain the extent of the child's injuries. The attending physician stated the injuries were not accidental and were consistent with shaken baby syndrome. The child has since been discharged from the hospital and is currently in the care of a foster mother who is a nurse. There is currently a "Stay Away Order" for both parents with the child. The siblings were medically evaluated and placed with a paternal grandmother. The parents are not allowed to remove the siblings from paternal grandmother's care, and all visits are to be supervised by the paternal grandmother. A criminal investigation is still pending. The family was not known to DHS prior to this incident.

#### Schuylkill County

7. A 16 year old male child nearly died in Feb. 2013 as a result of severe medical neglect. Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services indicated the report in Feb. 2013 and named the child's biological father and his paramour as perpetrators. The victim child was taken to a Gastro Intestinal specialist in Feb. 2013 at which time the specialist recommended the child be taken to the hospital immediately due to severe weight loss. According to the specialist the child was in zero percentiles for height and weight for someone his age. The county agency accompanied the victim child and his father to the hospital where the emergency room physician, after examining the child, stated that his body was so malnourished it simply stopped seeking the need for food. According to medical documents the child lost 32 pounds between March 2012 and April 2013. There was also concern that the child had not seen his primary care physician at all during that time, and when he did see the physician in Feb. 2013 there were no notations regarding missed or cancelled appointments and nothing regarding the child's weight loss. School records show that the nurse attempted on numerous occasions to contact the father with concerns about the child's health without success, the lack of cooperation by the father was noted each time. While in the hospital the child was listed in critical condition and monitored around the clock for possible re-feeding syndrome. A report was immediately called into ChildLine from the hospital at which time the investigation began. The victim child is autistic and completely non-verbal; therefore he was unable to be interviewed. The victim child is completely dependent on others for all his needs. When the father and his paramour, both considered full-time caretakers of the child, were interviewed regarding the child's weight loss they were unable to present any reasonable medical explanation. Both caretakers stated that the child was very difficult to feed and when he refused to eat they gave him PediaSure and eventually Ensure. Neither caretaker showed any effort

to help the child eat after he became frustrated, and indicated that they then became frustrated with the child in turn. The victim child's father refused to take responsibility for the child's weight loss. The victim child's treating physician concluded that the only plausible explanation for the child's condition was a lack of nutrition due to starving. The county agency obtained custody of the victim child and he is currently placed with a program offering pediatric specialty care where they are able to monitor the child around the clock. The child has gained weight since placement with the staff reporting that at times he is difficult to feed, but redirection is used with success. The staff stated that the child's behavior improved significantly with their only technique being to address the child's needs in a timely manner. The family was known to the county agency prior to this incident for truancy, lack of parenting skills, and possible neglect due to the hygiene issues. Each time a report was made the family was contacted and voluntary services were opened to help build parenting skills. There are three other siblings in the household and after ensuring there were no safety risks they were kept in their father's custody. The children's biological mother is not involved and attempts to contact her via a last known address have been unsuccessful. The investigation concluded that a failure to respond to the victim child's nutritional needs resulted in physical neglect in the form of severe malnutrition. A revised family service plan was completed with a permanency goal of reunification with the child's father, and a concurrent goal of placement with a fit and willing relative. There is no law enforcement involvement on this case.

#### Venango County

8. A two year old female child nearly died on Jan. 25, 2013 due to physical injuries. Venango County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in March 2013 naming the victim child's paternal aunt and the paternal aunt's paramour as perpetrators of physical abuse. The paternal grandmother and paternal aunt share custody of the victim child and her siblings. The victim child was on a visit at her aunt's home at the time of the incident and sustained bruising to her eyes, ears, neck, and the back of her head. She also had extensive soft tissue swelling over the forehead around her eye. Her buttocks and lower back area were also bruised. The victim child was diagnosed as having extensive scalp hematomas. The investigation determined that the injuries were a result of severe discipline by the aunt's paramour and that the aunt knew about the physical discipline and did nothing to prevent it from happening. The aunt's paramour was arrested and charged with one count each: endangering the welfare of children, recklessly endangering another person, and simple assault. The aunt was also arrested and charged with one count each: endangering the welfare of children, and recklessly endangering another person. They are both incarcerated and awaiting trial.

The paternal aunt and paternal grandmother shared custody of the victim child and her two siblings, a brother age nine years, and a sister, age five years. The aunt had two children of her own who resided with her; a seven year old and a two month old. The victim child's mother has a history of substance abuse and her whereabouts are currently unknown to the county. The victim child's father is currently incarcerated. The

aunt and the grandmother obtained custody of the victim child when the father was first incarcerated. The county was briefly involved with the mother due to concerns about her drug usage and truancy for the older children, but services were not provided. The most recent general protective services referral before this investigation was in May 2012.

#### Westmoreland County

9. A one month old male child nearly died on Jan. 6, 2013 due to injuries received due to physical abuse. Westmoreland County Children's Bureau substantiated the report in Jan. 2013 naming the child's biological father as the perpetrator. The household where the incident occurred consisted of the victim child's maternal grandparents, biological parents, a maternal aunt, two older cousins, and his two year old sister. On the evening of the incident all household members were downstairs together when both parents took the child upstairs for bed. The mother then stated she came back downstairs to retrieve the child's bottle when she heard the father calling down to her that something was wrong. The mother ran back upstairs and when she saw the child was not breathing immediately dialed 911. The child was rushed to the hospital by ambulance where a head CT scan was immediately performed. The results showed a large complex parietal skull fracture with multiple cracks radiating from a central area. An abdominal scan was also performed revealing older bruises, including multiple bilateral rib fractures, in the early stages of healing. When asked by doctors what happened to the child the father stated that he was in his swing and just went limp. After doctors explained to the parents how severe the child's injuries were the father added that after the child went limp he picked him up, still covered in blankets, which caused the child to slip thru his arms and fall to the hardwood floor. The treating physician felt the bruising sustained by the child could not have resulted from such a fall and notified ChildLine and law enforcement of possible child abuse. Three days after the incident the father admitted to law enforcement that he caused the child's bruising. As of May 2013 the father has been charged with endangering the welfare of a child and is incarcerated while awaiting trial. The two year old sister is still with the mother who is not a perpetrator; they continue to reside with the maternal grandparents who agreed not to allow the child's father in the home. The child's mother was known to the county agency when she was younger and ran away from home; then eventually moved back for good after becoming pregnant for the first time. The county agency provided in-home services to the mother to help with the newborn, the family all worked together and the case was eventually closed.

#### York County

10. A three year old female child nearly died on Feb. 13, 2013 due to burns and medical neglect. York County Children and Youth substantiated the report in April 2013 and named the child's mother as the perpetrator. On Feb. 14, 2013, the mother took the victim child to the hospital with an almost complete right hand burn. The dorsal side of the hand was completely burned with burns on the palmar aspect as well.

These burns were of a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree nature. The mother did not immediately seek treatment which resulted in an infection to the burn and it was severely swollen. The child may still require several surgeries to correct the injuries. The mother stated that the previous morning she was getting water ready to do laundry and had the hot water running in the bathtub and the child stuck her hand in the hot water resulting in burns. The mother reported that she put butter on the child's wound and wrapped it. Later, the mother said the burns were caused when she was getting a bath ready for the child. There were other physical injuries found in various stages of the healing process, including a rib fracture. Upon medical exam, it was also found that part of the burn was healing, which means the injury did not occur when the mother stated. Based on the pattern of the burn, there was also concern that the burn was forced. The child lived with her mother, her mother's paramour and sibling. The victim child is now living with her father and has no contact with the mother or her mother's paramour. The agency determined that services for the father and child were not needed at this time. The sibling is currently residing with her mother and mother's paramour (the sibling's father), the great grandmother, and an aunt. The sibling is to only have supervised contact with her parents. The mother is receiving in-home services to assist with parenting skills. No charges have been filed in this case. The family was known to the county agency. There was a referral in May 2012, as the mother's current paramour was indicated for physical abuse on another child of the mother's. That child had bruising to his eye, neck, and back and an infected bite mark on his finger. The mother's paramour was criminally charged and did spend time in jail. The child moved out of state with his grandmother who has guardianship. The county reported that the family was not cooperative during the May investigation and the county was not aware of the existence of the victim child until the near fatality incident.

11. A four month old female child nearly died on Feb. 19, 2013 due to physical injuries. York County Children and Youth Services indicated the report in April 2013, naming the father as the perpetrator. The child was brought to the hospital on the above date due to vomiting and refusal to eat. The child was admitted to the hospital due to symptoms of pneumonia. Upon admission, doctors noticed several bruises on the child's back. Further exam revealed that the child had two separated skull fractures and two subdural hematomas of varying ages. The child's injuries were suspicious for non-accidental trauma. There was no explanation for the child's injuries at the time of report. The child's older sibling was temporarily removed from the home. A few days later, the father confessed to shaking the child. The child was discharged from the hospital into the care of the mother. The sibling was also returned to the mother's care. The child has attended two follow up medical appointments and is not showing any residual medical issues as a result of the incident. She continues to be monitored by medical professionals as there is concern that she could experience developmental delays in the future, despite doing well upon discharge. The child is currently receiving Early Intervention Services. The father was charged with endangering the welfare of a child, aggravated assault, and simple assault, and is incarcerated in the York County Prison. The family was not known to York County Children and Youth prior to this report.