



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF



BORN: 9/20/09

DATE OF NEAR FATALITY INCIDENT: 1/23/10

The family was not known to Bedford County Children and Youth Services.

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 on July 3, 2008 and went into effect 180 days from that date, December 31, 2008. This Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets standards for reviewing and reporting child fatality and near child fatalities that were suspected to have occurred due to 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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	9/20/09
[REDACTED]	Sibling to Victim	[REDACTED]/08
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED]/89
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED]/85
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	[REDACTED]
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Great Aunt	[REDACTED]/63
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Great Grandfather	[REDACTED]/42
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Great Grandmother	[REDACTED]/43

* Not Household Members

Notification of Near Fatality:

On 1/23/10, [REDACTED] called 911 when the victim child began having a seizure in her home. The child was transported by ambulance to Western Maryland Health System Regional Medical Center in Cumberland, Maryland due to seizures. After arriving at Western Maryland Health System Regional Medical Center, it was determined that the victim child had bilateral bleeds in her brain and bilateral retinal hemorrhages. The child was then transported by ambulance to Ruby Memorial Hospital in West Virginia [REDACTED] Hospital, [REDACTED]. The attending physician at Ruby Memorial Hospital, [REDACTED], certified the child to be in serious condition. Neither parent had an explanation for the child's injuries. The injuries are reported to be old bleeds.

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

For this review, the Central Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families reviewed Bedford County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS) investigation file which included medical records from both hospitals that evaluated the child on 1/23/10 and prior medical records for the child.

The Central Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families communicated with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Bedford County Children and Youth Services and attended the near fatality team review on 2/24/10.

Previous CY involvement:

This family had no prior history with Bedford County Children and Youth Services.

Circumstances of Child's Fatality:

The mother reported concerns of previous seizure symptoms that she reported to the child's pediatrician. This is recorded in the child's pediatric record dated 12/8/09. The pediatrician, [REDACTED].

The child was admitted to Western Maryland Regional Medical Center on 10/11/09 after the mother found the child unresponsive in her crib. The mother reported that the child was limp with a reddish color. The father arrived home and the child was foaming at the mouth. Both parents are Emergency Medical Technicians. The parents transported the child to Western Regional Medical Center. The child was admitted for further testing, but was assessed to be stable with normal vital signs. [REDACTED]

On 1/23/10 the mother was home with her two children. The father was working out of the state. The mother called 911 because the child was unresponsive and seizing. The child was transported by ambulance to Western Maryland Health Systems. The child was examined in the emergency room [REDACTED] and a CT scan was completed that determined that the child had bilateral bleeding. The child was then transported by ambulance to Ruby Memorial Hospital in West Virginia the evening of 1/23/10. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She was examined and found to have increased cranial pressure. The child's head circumference was above the 95th percentile. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The child was observed to have a bulging fontanel with chronic subdural fluid.

[REDACTED]

On 1/25/10 an MRI was completed. The child was diagnosed with large bilateral subdural hematoma. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Any concerns of a bleeding disorder were ruled out. [REDACTED] concluded that these injuries would have occurred between 12/8/09 and 1/23/10. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] with the safety plan that she would be supervised by the Maternal Great Grandparents with both parents at all times.

Current / most recent status of case:

During the investigation, the child's 17 month old sibling was supervised at all times with both of the parents by her maternal great grandparents. The sibling was physically examined by the worker and no injuries were visible on the sibling. No medical examination for the sibling was requested by the agency since there were no concerns or injuries noted for her. The agency did complete unannounced visits to ensure that she was not unsupervised with her parents. The father has a 4 year old child to a prior relationship. The 4 year old resides with his own mother. The father's visitation with this child did not occur during the [REDACTED] investigation unless supervised by the 4 year old's mother. The agency verified this safety plan through phone contact with the 4 year old's mother. A Safety Plan was implemented for the victim child on 2/2/10 [REDACTED]. This child was to be constantly supervised by the maternal great grandparents with both parents at all times. This required the Maternal Great Grandparents to stay in the victim child's home to provide the supervision.

On 2/20/10 a new Safety Plan was created. The parents moved in with friends due to concerns for the stress that the prior Safety Plan was placing on the great grandparents. Bedford County Children and Youth Services did complete a home inspection and background checks on these individuals prior to the Safety Plan being implemented. This plan lasted few weeks and then the prior safety plan with the Great Grandparents went back into effect on 3/24/10 with the maternal grandmother and maternal great aunt added to the list of individuals able to supervise the children with the parents so that the supervision was shared by multiple individuals. This alleviated the concerns that the constant supervision solely by the Great Grandparents was too stressful for them.

On 2/24/10 the Bedford Children and Youth Services Emergency Response Team met. [REDACTED] confirmed the diagnosis of non-accidental trauma. [REDACTED] denied the possibility that child's sibling could have inflicted this injury and stated the child has a good prognosis for full recovery. [REDACTED] offered [REDACTED] opinion that the child should be returned to the parents' supervision with careful monitoring. The team discussed various services to be considered such as: parenting, [REDACTED] and FGDM.

A second team meeting was scheduled and completed on 3/18/10. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] recommended that the child remain with the parents

and did not recommend any further services. The team discussed the need for: parenting, monitoring of the family by Bedford County Children and Youth Services [REDACTED].

The family was accepted for ongoing services on 3/23/10 and the Family Service Plan was completed on the same date. The Family Service Plan goals were as follows: Parents ensure child attends all medical appointment and follows all medical recommendations, [REDACTED], Family Preservation Services, weekly caseworker visits and that the safety plan be lifted. [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]. The PA State Police are not filing charges due to lack of evidence of who perpetrated the abuse.

Independent Family Services began providing services to the family on 4/1/10 and [REDACTED]. Both children were evaluated and determined to be developmentally on target. [REDACTED].

On 5/7/10 the mother advised the agency that the rental residence they reside in was sold and the family was moving to [REDACTED], West Virginia on 5/15/10. On 5/14/10, Bedford CYS made a referral to Mineral County Health and Human Services and closed the family in Bedford County. The agency received a response from Mineral County Health and Human Services on 5/24/10 stating that the referral would not be accepted by their agency.

Services to children and families:

- On-going monitoring of child's medical treatment.
- [REDACTED].
- Independent Family Services.
- [REDACTED].
- Frequent supervision by Bedford County CYS staff.
- [REDACTED].
 - Assisting her to use supports by such things as having a Family Group Decision Making meeting.
- Referral made to Mineral County Health and Human Services to provide services to family when they moved.

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

The Near Fatality Team met on 2/24/10 and again on 3/18/10. In attendance for the meeting were representatives of Bedford CYS, OCYF, Agency Advisory Board, State Citizen's Advisory Board, MHMR, School Nurse and an agency service provider.

- Agency obtained medical records and completed interviews as required.

- Agency ensured safety of children during investigation
- Agency resources to assist families are limited due to the small, rural setting.

County Recommendations for changes at the Local Levels as identified by Fatality Report:

- It was recommended that the agency seek additional resources to assist families in their community for parenting education in the home environment of the family.

Recommendations for changes at the State Level:

- None

Central Region Findings:

- Agency completed interviews and obtained records as required.
- Agency provided appropriate services to family prior to family's relocation.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance issues:

- None