

Report Identification Number: NY-15-106 Prepared by: New York City Regional Office

Issue Date: 6/1/2016

This	s report, prepared pursuant to section 20(5) of the Social Services Law (SSL), concerns:
	A report made to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) involving the death of a child.
	The death of a child for whom child protective services has an open case.
\boxtimes	The death of a child whose care and custody or custody and guardianship has been transferred to an authorized agency.
	The death of a child for whom the local department of social services has an open preventive service case.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is mandated by section 20 of the SSL to investigate or cause for the investigation of the cause and circumstances surrounding the death, review such investigation, and prepare and issue a fatality report in regard to the categories of deaths noted above involving a child, except where a local or regional fatality review team issues a report, as authorized by law.

Such report must include: the cause of death; the identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regard to such child and child's family; any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the child's death; whether the child or the child's family received assistance, care or services from the social services district prior to the child's death; any action or further investigation undertaken by OCFS or the social services district since the child's death; and as appropriate, recommendations for local or state administrative or policy changes.

This report contains no information that would identify the deceased child, his or her siblings, the parent, parents, or other persons legally responsible for the child, and any members of the deceased child's household.

By statute, this report will be forwarded to the social services district, chief county executive officer, chairperson of the local legislative body of the county where the child died and the social services district that had legal custody of the child, if different. Notice of the issuance of this report will be sent to the Speaker of the Assembly and the Temporary President of the State of New York.

This report may <u>only</u> be disclosed to the public by OCFS pursuant to section 20(5) of the SSL. It may be released by OCFS only after OCFS has determined that such disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the deceased child's siblings or other children in the household.

OCFS' review included an examination of actions taken by individual caseworkers and supervisors within the social services district and agencies under contract with the social services district. The observations and recommendations contained in this report reflect OCFS' assessment and the performance of these agencies.

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Abbreviations

Relationships						
BM-Biological Mother	SM-Subject Mother	SC-Subject Child				
BF-Biological Father	SF-Subject Father	OC-Other Child				
MGM-Maternal Grand Mother	MGF-Maternal Grand Father	FF-Foster Father				
PGM-Paternal Grand Mother	PGF-Paternal Grand Father	DCP-Day Care Provider				
MGGM-Maternal Great Grand Mother	MGGF-Maternal Great Grand Father	PGGF-Paternal Great Grand Father				
PGGM-Paternal Great Grand Mother	MA/MU-Maternal Aunt/Maternal Uncle	PA/PU-Paternal Aunt/Paternal Uncle				
	Contacts					
LE-Law Enforcement	CW-Case Worker	CP-Case Planner				
DrDoctor	ME-Medical Examiner	EMS-Emergency Medical Services				
DC-Day Care	FD-Fire Department	BM-Biological Mother				
CPR-Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation						
	Allegations					
FX-Fractures	II-Internal Injuries	L/B/W-Lacerations/Bruises/Welts				
S/D/S-Swelling/Dislocation/Sprains	C/T/S-Choking/Twisting/Shaking	B/S-Burns/Scalding				
P/Nx-Poisoning/ Noxious Substance	XCP-Excessive Corporal Punishment	PD/AM-Parent's Drug Alcohol Misuse				
CD/A-Child's Drug/Alcohol Use	LMC-Lack of Medical Care	EdN-Educational Neglect				
EN-Emotional Neglect	SA-Sexual Abuse	M/FTTH-Malnutrition/Failure-to-thrive				
IF/C/S-Inadequate Food/ Clothing/ Shelter	IG-Inadequate Guardianship	LS-Lack of Supervision				
Ab-Abandonment	OTH/COI-Others					
	Miscellaneous					
IND-Indicated	UNF-Unfounded	SO-Sexual Offender				
Sub-Substantiated	Unsub-Unsubstantiated	DV-Domestic Violence				
LDSS-Local Department of Social	ACS-Administration for Children's	NYPD-New York City Police				
Service	Services	Department				
PPRS-Purchased Preventive Rehabilitative Services						

Case Information

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Report Type: Child Deceased **Jurisdiction:** Bronx **Date of Death:** 12/24/2015

Age: 16 year(s) Gender: Male Initial Date OCFS Notified: 12/25/2015

Presenting Information

On 12/24/15 at approximately 11:00 pm, the SC (who was on aftercare/trial discharge status) was leaving the neighborhood of his close family relatives in the Bronx to return to his new home in Yonkers, N.Y. A verbal dispute ensued involving two groups of individuals in the area. The argument between the men became violent; someone pulled out a gun and everyone fled. The SC tried to run and was shot in the back multiple times. He was pronounced dead at the scene as a result of the gunshot wounds.

Executive Summary

This 16-year-old male teen was killed on 12/24/2015. The ME listed the cause of death as gunshot wound of the torso and the manner of death as homicide. It was reported that on 12/24/15 at about 11:00 PM, the SC was leaving the Bronx to return to his new home in Yonkers. A verbal dispute involving groups of individuals in the area arose; the dispute was followed by gunfire. The SC tried to run and was shot in the back. He was pronounced dead at the scene. On 12/25/15, the mother contacted the Non-Secure Placement (NSP) aftercare therapist to inform her of the SC's murder. The contracted provider informed ACS who in turn contacted OCFS.

Both ACS and the voluntary agency (VA) provided the mother with a list of agencies where she could obtain bereavement counseling. The NYPD's Crime Victim's Unit paid for most of the funeral expenses. ACS and the VA offered additional financial assistance. The VA held a memorial service for the SC.

The SC and family had received both preventive services and Close To Home (CTH) Non-Secure Placement (NSP) services in the past, as the SC had a history of Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) and juvenile delinquent behavior. Youth placed in CTH NSP programs are considered foster care children as the programs are operated under NYS foster care regulations. At the time of the SC's death, SC was receiving MST-FITT aftercare/trial discharge services which included monitoring of education, drug use, medication compliance, community safety, and the relationship between BM and SC.

The SC was placed at Children's Village CTH NSP (substance abuse (Sub AB) cottage) on two different occasions, each time for approximately 7 months with trial discharge to aftercare. Episode 1 was 4/19/2013 to 12/3/14 due to violating his conditions of probation for theft.

The SC was placed at CV a second time due to another arrest. The SC did well in placement then was againdischarged to aftercare. The service provider, MST-FITT attempted to meet the service needs of the SC; however, was faced with many roadblocks that pertained to the SC's education and where he would be receiving said education. CV and the aftercare portion of the agency communicated and planned for the SC's discharge. In the end, the SC was released (during the summer) without a discharge plan. The SC's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) had to be reviewed before the SC could go to a Welcome Center to determine where he could attend school. The IEP review did not take place until 9/10/15, after school had started. The aftercare provider along with the assistance from the former case planner helped the family get the SC into a school. The service provider attempted to enroll SC in a new school to avoid risk factors. Despite the request, the SC was placed in his former school. The SC got into fights

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with other teens on the way to school and was at risk of not attending school; finally he stopped attending school. The safety transfer occurred a few weeks later. By then, the SC did not want to continue with school.

The BM had concerns about SC attending his former school and wanted a safety transfer to another school. She did not actively address SC's drug use or medication non-compliance. SC reported that he was smoking marijuana less frequently. SC did not want to participate in mental health counseling and BM did not believe that SC's prescribed medication was effective. The BM was mostly concerned about SC's education and conflicts with other youth in the neighborhood. She did not believe that he was safe in his assigned school. It was unknown whether or not the SC was killed by someone with whom he had a prior conflict within the neighborhood or at school.

The SC resided in the home with his mother. There were no surviving siblings.

Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

Safety Assessment:

- Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:
 - Safety assessment due at the time of determination?

N/A

Determination:

- Was sufficient information gathered to make determination(s) for all allegations N/A as well as any others identified in the course of the investigation?
- Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate?

N/A

Explain:

Children's Village MST-FITT aftercare worker was very thorough in her assessments of the youth and family's needs and very diligent in her attempt to get the youth enrolled in the appropriate school setting. The ACS Permanency and Placement Specialist did a good job of providing oversight to the aftercare provider. Both parties did a very good job of engaging both the parent and child.

Was the decision to close the case appropriate?

Yes

Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory or

Yes

regulatory requirements?

Yes, the case record has

Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation?

detail of the consultation.

Explain:

The case is not closed in the CONNECTIONS system as of 5/6/16. This is a compliance issue.

Required Actions Related to the Fatality

Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)? \boxtimes Yes \square No

Issue:	Timely/Adequate Case Recording/Progress Notes
Niimmary:	As of 5/6/2016, the last progress note for this case was entered on 2/1/16. The case, which had no surviving siblings, remained opened without any documentation of case activities.

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Legal Reference:	18 NYCRR 428.5(a) and (c)
Action:	The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) should implement a quality control process that will assist supervisory staff in the timely closing of cases. A copy of the corrective action plan must be submitted within 45 days that identifies what action it has, or will take, to address the citation(s) identified in the fatality report.
Issue:	Timeliness of completion of FASP
Summary:	ACS Case Manager approved the FASP 102 days after the FASP was submitted by case planner.
Legal Reference:	18 NYCRR 428.3(f)(5)
Action:	The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) should implement a quality control process that will assist supervisory staff in tracking and approving FASPs.ACS must submit a corrective action plan within 45 days that identifies what action it has taken, or will take, to address the citation(s) identified in the fatality report.

Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

Incident Information					
Date of Death: 12/24/2015		Time of Death: 11:00 PM			
County where fatality incid	lent occurred:	BRONX			
Was 911 or local emergenc	y number called?	Unknown			
Did EMS to respond to the	scene?	Yes			
At time of incident leading	to death, had child used ale	cohol or drugs? Unknown			
Child's activity at time of in	ncident:				
☐ Sleeping	☐ Working	☐ Driving / Vehicle occupant			
☐ Playing	\square Eating	☐ Unknown			
☑ Other: Walking					
Did child have supervision circumstances	at time of incident leading	to death? No - Not needed given developmental age or			
Total number of deaths at Children ages 0-18: 00					

Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	No Role	Male	16 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	No Role	Female	38 Year(s)

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LDSS Response

Following the receipt of the information regarding the SC's death on 12/24/15, ACS made contact with OCFS to report the SC's death, and contacted the agency. ACS requested that the agency perform a status check of all the youth in the program who were on home visits or were in the community. ACS staff reached out to the agency and to the family to assess the mother's needs. Financial assistance was offered to the mother; however, the mother had already accepted assistance from the NYPD's Crime Victims Unit. The ACS case manager was in regular communication with voluntary agency and the mother. ACS offered to pay for the foot maker for SC's grave.

Additional information:

A review of CONNECTIONS, the system of record, was conducted. The composition section of the case noted BM and SC as the only two residents of the household. Previous cases also indicated that SC was the only child in the home.

Progress notes did not reflect that youth was absent without leave (AWOL) or that he was in violation of curfew. The incident occurred Christmas Eve. Emails indicate that SC had walked his girlfriend to the train and was then returning to his home in Yonkers, which is not far from his home. A decision was made to not make a child abuse hotline report.

Case Review:

The SC was placed at Children's Village CTH NSP (substance abuse (Sub AB) cottage) on two different occasions, each time for approximately 7 months with trial discharge to aftercare.

Episode 1: On 4/19/2013 the SC was placed at CV because he violated the conditions of his probation for theft. He remained at CV until 12/3/14 ACS's Community Support Specialist provided poor documentation of case events and poor oversight of service providers - Family Functional Therapy and drug program service provider. The case management did not reflect continuous oversight of the drug treatment provider or the SC and his problem behavior: drug use, curfew issues, truancy and disrespect. In a 2/26/2014 progress note, ACS staff – Community Support Specialist (CSS)- indicated that the Sub AB program provider recommended the SC's participation in a residential Sub AB treatment program upstate. The exact date of the recommendation could not be determined from review of the progress notes.

The SC's CTH time expired on 3/30/2016. The recommendation for residential Sub AB was not implemented prior to the SC's CTH expiration date. The progress notes did not reflect that there was regular communication or oversight of the Sub AB program or the FFT therapist. Within 6 weeks of SC's CTH time expiring, the mother was asking the Family Assessment Program (FAP) for help.

Episode 2: On 11/18/14, the SC was placed at CV a second time due to another arrest; he remained there until 7/6/15. The SC did well in placement then was discharged to aftercare once again. The Service provider, MST-FITT attempted to meet the service needs of the SC; however, was faced with many roadblocks that pertained to the SC's education and where he would be receiving said education. CV and the aftercare portion of the agency communicated and planned for the SC's discharge. In the end, the SC was released (during the summer) without a discharge plan. The SC's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) had to be reviewed before the SC could go to a Welcome Center to determine where he could go to school. The IEP review did not take place until 9/10/15, after school had started. The aftercare provider along with the assistance from the former case planner helped the family get the SC into a school.

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Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Homicide

Primary Cause of Death: From an injury - external cause

Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death: Medical Examiner

Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

Was the fatality reviewed by an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team? No

Comments: There is no OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team in the NYC region.

CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?			X	
When appropriate, children were interviewed?			×	
Contact with source?	×			
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?		X		
First Responders				×
Was a death-scene investigation performed?	×			
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?	×			
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	X			

Additional information:

Progress notes did not reflect that LDSS had contact with first responders, law enforcement, or the medical examiner to gather information about the SC's death.

Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?		×		

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Legal Activity Related to the Fatality

Was there legal activity as a result of the fatality investigation? There was no legal activity

Services Provided to the Family in Response to the Fatality

Services	Provided After Death	Offered, but Refused	Offered, Unknown if Used	Needed but not Offered	Needed but Unavaliable	N/A	CDR Lead to Referral
Bereavement counseling			X				
Economic support	×						
Funeral arrangements	×						
Housing assistance						×	
Mental health services						×	
Foster care						×	
Health care						×	
Legal services						×	
Family planning						×	
Homemaking Services						×	
Parenting Skills						×	
Domestic Violence Services						×	
Early Intervention						×	
Alcohol/Substance abuse						×	
Child Care						×	
Intensive case management						×	
Family or others as safety resources						×	
Other	×						

Other, specify: Children's Village had a memorial service

Additional information, if necessary:

ACS offered bereavement counseling and financial assistance to pay for the funeral. NYPD Victim's Services covered a large portion of the funeral expenses.

Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality? Yes

Explain:

The BM was offered bereavement counseling and financial assistance.

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History Prior to the Fatality

Child Information

Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment?

Was there an open CPS case with this child at the time of death?

No
Was the child ever placed outside of the home prior to the death?

Yes
Were there any siblings ever placed outside of the home prior to this child's death?

No
Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death?

No

CPS - Investigative History Three Years Prior to the Fatality

There is no CPS investigative history within three years prior to the fatality.

CPS - Investigative History More Than Three Years Prior to the Fatality

There is no known prior NYS CPS history in this case.

Known CPS History Outside of NYS

There is no known CPS history outside of New York State.

Services Open at the Time of the Fatality

Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP)

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the most recent FASP approved on time?		\boxtimes		

If not, how many days was it overdue?

A Plan Amendment was written on 12/9/15 but was never completed or approved. It was converted to template form. The final FASP was due on 12/16/2015. Due to the youth's murder, the agency (Children's Village) un-submitted their overdue FASP and updated it with information that pertained to the fatality and services offered to mom after the fatality. agency submitted the FASP on 1/21/2016. ACS (case manager) approved the plan on 5/2/2016. ACS Case Manager approved the FASP 102 days after the FASP was submitted by case planner. Additional information- the case



most recent FASP?

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is still not closed in the connection system.

Was there a current Risk Assessment Profile/Risk Assessment in the

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X

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Required Action(s)				
Are there Required Actions related to compliance issues for provisions □Yes ⊠No	of CPS or I	Preventive s	services ?	
Preventive Services History				
#1 Advocate (ADVPO) Preventive Service -Good Shepherd Services' (GSS suicide. The BM took him to be evaluated at an ER that referred him to con received individual and family counseling due to SC acting out in school, n and poor communication between BM and child. The BM received parentir improvement in all areas. #2 ADVPO Prev, GSS 2/23/12 - 1/7/13 -Family Assessment Program references in areas of the resistance and surface in the second marriage and second marriage and surface in the second marriage and s	nmunity base ot being mon ng skills train Gerral due to	ed programitivated to coning. Service	ming. The Somplete school es ended du attendance	C/family ool work, e to marked
classes, increased marijuana use, and curfew issues. SC was arrested for the in-patient substance abuse services. The SC AWOLLed from the program. and placement in detention.				
#3 New York Foundling's (NYF) - Multi-Systemic Therapy program from 6 through ACS's FAP program on 5/22/14. The BM had requested services do reported that the SC was disobedient, disrespectful, truant from school, and weeks after CTH case was closed, The BM requested that the case be closed quick change in the SC's behavior.	ue to youth b smoked ma	oeing uncon rijuana. This	trollable. Tl s referral oc	ne BM curred 6
Foster Care at the Time of the	Fatality			
1 0	Zes 27/06/2015 Court Order			
Review of Foster Care When Child was in Foster Care	at the time of	the Fatality		
				TT 23 /
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Does the case record document that sufficient steps were taken to safeguard this child's safety while in this placement?	×			
Did the placement comply with the appropriateness of placement standards?	X			

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Was the most recent placement stable?	×			
Did the agency comply with sibling placement standards?			X	
Was the child AWOL at the time of death?		×		
	•		•	
Visitation				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the visitation plan appropriate for the child?			X	
Was visitation facilitated in accordance with the regulations?			X	
Was there supervision of visits as required?			×	
Casework Contacts				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were face-to-face contacts with the child in the child's placement location made with the required frequency?	X			
Were face-to-face contacts with the parent/relative/discharge resource made with required frequency?	X			
Were face-to-face contacts with the parent/relative/discharge resource in the parent/relative/discharge resource's home made with required frequency?	X			
Were all of the casework contact requirements for contacts with the caretakers made, including requirements for contact at the child's placement location?	×			
Provider Oversight/Training				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the agency provide the foster parents with required information regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues?			×	
Did the provider comply with discipline standards?				×
Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care payments because of child need?			×	
If yes, was foster parent provided a training program approved by OCFS that prepared the foster parent with appropriate			×	
				•

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knowledge and s	kills to meet the needs of the child?					
Was the certifica	ation/approval for the placement current?	,				X
Was a Criminal History check conducted? Date:						X
Was a check cor Date:	npleted through the State Central Registe	r?			×	
Was a check cor Date:				×		
	mation, if necessary: en. OCFS has reached out to ACS to close th	e case as there	e are no othe	er children i	n the home.	
	Required	Action(s)				ı
Are there Requi	red Actions related to the compliance issu	es for provisi	on of Foste	r Care Serv	vices?	
	Foster Care Pla	cement History				
the care and custowas placed in FC Episode 1 - 4/19/ education, mental due to his "time" AB) cottage) on the Aftercare status, and for service provides continuous oversiand disrespect. In go into a resident	dicated a JD by FC Judges due to being arrested of the Commissioner of ACS on 2 separa at CV's Sub AB CTH program. 13- 11/22/13 -in care- Aftercare/Trial Discharchealth counseling, sub AB counseling, and related to his delinquency charge, expiring. Wood different occasions, each time for approximately approximately and the drug treatment provider nor the Social Sub AB residential program. SC's time of the drug treatment program.	arge -11/22/13 independent l The SC was plaimately 7 more yided poor doc gram service p C and his prob d that the Sub	- 3/30/14. Viving skills aced at CV of this with triumentation brovider. The lem behavior AB program	While in pla training. Th CTH NSP (al discharge of case even the ACS CSS or: drug use, in provider ro	cement your ne SC's place (substance a e to aftercare nts and poor did not refle, curfew issu	th received ement ended buse (Sub buse). While on oversight ect les, truancy d that SC
	Legal History Within Three	Years Prior to	the Fatality			
Was there any le ⊠Family Court	gal activity within three years prior to the Criminal Court	e fatality inve	_	der of Protec	ction	
Family Court Pe	tition Type: FCA Article 3 - JD					
Date Filed:	Fact Finding Description:	Disposition 1	Description	1:		
	There was not a fact finding	Cara/Custods	to OCES	Commission		

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Respondent:	None
Comments:	Youth was adjudicated a juvenile delinquent by Family Court Judges due to being arrested and subsequently violating probation. He was placed in the care and custody of the Commissioner of ACS on two separate occasions - 4/5/2013 and 11/18/14. In both instances, he was placed in foster care at CV's CTH programs.

Recommended Action(s)

Are there any recommended actions for local or state administrative or policy changes? ⊠Yes□No

Action: THE LDSS- ACS should have documented communication with first responders, law enforcement and medical examiners when a fatality of a child in their custody occurs. The information should be placed in the CONNECTIONS system.

Are there any recommended prevention activities resulting from the review? $\boxtimes Yes \square No$

Explain: Progress notes did not reflect that LDSS-ACS had communication with first responders, law enforcement, or the medical examiner.

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