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| <b>Summary Report</b> | <b>Near Fatality</b> | <b>1/6/16</b> |
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**1. Near Fatality Victim:** 3-year-old male

**2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the near fatality?**

The child was residing in his home when the following incident occurred:

On September 8, 2014, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 3-year-old child who had been brought to the hospital with life-threatening injuries by his father's girlfriend, Breann Anzar. The child was found to have a traumatic brain injury and explanations provided by caregivers did not match the severity of the injury. The investigation determined that the child's injuries were caused by physical abuse by Breann Anzar. The child's parents, Eli Nolte and Alexandra Scroggins, were found to have failed to protect him from abuse which led to his injuries.

**3. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in the child's home, the following information will be provided:**

**a. Services being provided to the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect at the time of the incident and the date of the last contact before the incident between the entity providing services and the person receiving services:**

No services were being provided to the child, his father Eli Nolte, or his father's girlfriend, Breann Anzar, prior to the September 8, 2014 near fatality incident.

Alexandra Scroggins, the child's mother, was being investigated by the Department for a report dated April 13, 2014, alleging neglect to a half-sibling of the near fatality victim. The report noted that the near fatality victim was residing with his father, Eli Nolte, outside Maricopa County and he was not indicated as a victim of the alleged neglect. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court regarding the half-sibling and services were being provided. The Department's last date of contact with Alexandra Scroggins prior to the near fatality incident was on August 22, 2014.

**b. Was the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident?**

Although the child was not reported to be a victim of abuse or neglect for the April 13, 2014 report, it did involve his mother, Alexandra Scroggins, and a half-sibling.

**c. All involvement of the child's parents and of the person suspected of the abuse or neglect in a situation for which a report for investigation was made or in services provided pursuant to this chapter in the five years preceding the incident:**

There was no DCS involvement with the father's girlfriend, Breann Anzar, prior to the near fatality incident.

The child's parents, Eli Nolte and Alexandra Scroggins, were involved in the following:

On February 20, 2011, a report was received alleging that Alexandra Scroggins and Eli Nolte had engaged in a physical altercation in the presence of the near fatality victim. The



investigation assessed the child as safe and the case was still open when a new report was received. The allegations have since been unsubstantiated.

On May 3, 2011, a report was received alleging that Alexandra Scroggins was using marijuana in the presence of the near fatality victim. The investigation assessed the child to be safe and the allegation was unsubstantiated. The Department provided services to support the family and the case was closed on June 13, 2011.

On July 25, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim due to concerns about Alexandra Scroggins' ability to properly care for him. The investigation assessed the near fatality victim to be safe in the care of his grandmother who had a Power of Attorney in place. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on January 9, 2012.

On April 13, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect by Alexandra Scroggins to a sibling of the near fatality victim. The report noted that the near fatality victim was residing with his father, Eli Nolte, outside Maricopa County and he was not indicated as a victim of the alleged neglect. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and services were being provided to the mother and her other children when the near fatality occurred. The allegation has since been substantiated.

**d. Any investigation pursuant to a report for investigation concerning the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect or services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the near fatality:**

The DCS investigation of near fatality determined that the child's injuries were caused by physical abuse by the father's girlfriend, Breann Anzar. The Department also found the child's parents, Eli Nolte and Alexandra Scroggins, failed to protect him from the abuse which led to his injuries. The child was removed from the home and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Yavapai County Superior Court. The Department substantiated the allegations and services are being provided.

The investigation also resulted in a separate report dated September 12, 2014 alleging neglect by Breann Anzar to her biological child. An investigation was initiated and the case remained open when a subsequent report alleging neglect to the child was received on July 31, 2015. The child was removed from the home and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Yavapai County Juvenile Court. The allegations pertaining to Breann Anzar were substantiated and the Department provided services to the family.

No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received involving the biological parents, Alexandra Scroggins and Eli Nolte. However, on March 17, 2015 a report was received alleging physical abuse of the near fatality victim while in out-of-home placement. The investigation is ongoing.

**4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:**

**a. Licensing Agency:**

N/A

**b. Licensing history of the out-of-home placement, including the type of license held by the operator of the placement and the period for which the placement has been licensed:**



N/A

**c. Summary of all violations by the licensee:**

N/A

**d. Any other actions by the licensee or an employee of the licensee that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of a child.**

N/A

**5. Actions taken by the Department in response to the case including any changes to policy or practice and/or recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes:**

The near fatality victim was removed from his home and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Yavapai County Superior Court. The Department substantiated the allegations and services are being provided. The Department also removed the biological child of Breann Anzar and filed a dependency petition with the Yavapai County Juvenile Court. The allegations pertaining to Breann Anzar were substantiated and the Department provided services to the family.

Additionally, in accordance with the DCS Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews of fatality and near fatality cases were implemented during the first quarter of FY16. The MDT reviews of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

This case was reviewed by the MDT in order to identify any systemic factors, both internal and external to the Department that may have had an impact. The Department is using the aggregate data gathered through all of the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules or statutes. Findings from these reviews will be compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of this report is September 1, 2016.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/news/dcs-strategic-plan>