

6-Month Final Summary Report for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident

Reports submitted to the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) that do not include all of the required information will be returned to the agency for proper completion. Do not identify individuals by name when completing this report. Individuals may be referenced by relationship or position; e.g., mother, father, child, sibling, physician, detective, etc.

Case Tracking Number: 140119DSP-Dane-409 **Agency:** Dane County Department of Human Services

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 3 Years Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: White, Hispanic/Latino

Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: January 19, 2014

Description of the incident, including the suspected cause of death, injury or egregious abuse or neglect:

On January 19, 2014, the agency received a report regarding a three-year-old child admitted to the hospital with multiple, suspicious injuries. Law enforcement initiated a criminal investigation. Medical professionals diagnosed the child with bruising on her neck, both ears and buttocks, a swollen lip and ankle, broken blood vessels in her right eye, as well as petechial around her eyes and cheek areas. Medical professionals determined the child's injuries were non-accidental and as a result of trauma.

The mother reported the previous night she was watching movies at home with her boyfriend and her children. The mother stated she was drinking and might have blacked out from drinking. The mother indicated she awoke the next morning and found the three-year-old child with a swollen lip, a bruise on her buttocks, and walked with a limp on her left leg. The mother stated she confronted the boyfriend who admitted to spanking the child for wetting the bed that night. The mother called 911 and paramedics transported the child to the hospital. The mother reported she was also concerned with sexual abuse by her boyfriend to the three-year-old child due to the bruising on the child's buttocks and her recent behaviors of bed-wetting and clinging to the mother.

The mother's boyfriend was interviewed and stated he spanked the three-year-old child for wetting the bed that night and did not know how the child sustained the other injuries. As a result of law enforcement's investigation, the mother's boyfriend was criminally charged with one count of Child Abuse- Intentionally Cause Great Bodily Harm. A criminal charge is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Findings by agency, including maltreatment determination and material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical personnel to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse to the three-year-old child by the mother's boyfriend and maltreatment of neglect to the three-year-old child by the mother. The agency did not find a preponderance of evidence to substantiate sexual abuse by the mother's boyfriend to the three-year-old child or physical abuse by the mother to the three-year-old child. The three-year-old child and her five-year-old and eight-year old siblings were deemed unsafe, taken into Temporary Physical Custody and placed in out-of-home care. The agency filed a Child in Need of Protection or Services petition. The case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

Yes No Criminal investigation pending or completed?

Yes No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The mother's boyfriend.

Child's residence at the time of incident: In-home Out-of-home care placement

Complete the appropriate following section (A. or B. based on the child's residence at the time of the incident).

A. Children residing at home at the time of the incident:

Description of the child's family (includes household members, noncustodial parent and other children that have visitation with the child and / or in the child's family home):

At the time of the incident, the child resided with her mother, her mother's boyfriend, her five-year-old brother, and her eight-year-old brother.

Yes No **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, any member of the child's

family or alleged maltreater at the time of the incident, including any referrals received by the agency or reports being investigated at time of incident?

If "Yes", briefly describe the type of services, date(s) of last contact between agency and recipient(s) of those services, and the person(s) receiving those services:

At the time of the incident, the agency had an open initial assessment with the family as a result of a screened-in CPS Report on September 30, 2013. The family had been offered in-home parenting and community services, however, the family declined those services. The last contact with the family was a telephone call with the mother's boyfriend on November 1, 2013.

Summary of all involvement in services as adults under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years: (Does not include the current incident.)

N/A

Summary of actions taken by the agency under ch. 48, including any investigation of a report or referrals to services involving the child, any member of the child's family living in this household and the child's parents and alleged maltreater. (Does not include the current incident.)

(Note: Screened out reports listed in this section may include only the date of the report, screening decision, and if a referral to services occurred at Access. Reports that do not constitute a reasonable suspicion of maltreatment or a reason to believe that the child is threatened with harm are not required to be screened in for an initial assessment, and no further action is required by the agency.)

On September 30, 2013, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse by the mother's boyfriend to the child's five-year-old and seven-year old (now eight-year-old) brothers. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated and the children were deemed safe. The family was offered community services. The case was open in initial assessment at the time of the 1/19/2014 incident.

Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the child and child's family since the date of the incident:

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate physical abuse to the three-year-old child by the mother's boyfriend and neglect to the three-year-old child by the mother. Medical professionals determined the child's injuries were non-accidental and as a result of trauma. The agency did not find a preponderance of evidence to substantiate sexual abuse by the mother's boyfriend to the three-year-old child or physical abuse by the mother to the three-year-old child. The three-year-old child and her five-year-old and eight-year old siblings were deemed unsafe, taken into Temporary Physical Custody and placed in out-of-home care. The agency filed a Child in Need of Protection or Services petition. The case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

B. Children residing in out-of-home care (OHC) placement at time of incident:

Description of the OHC placement and basis for decision to place child there:

N/A

Description of all other persons residing in the OHC placement home:

N/A

Licensing history: Including type of license, duration of license, summary of any violations by licensee or an employee of licensee that constitutes a substantial failure to protect and promote the welfare of the child.

N/A

Summary of any actions taken by agency in response to the incident: (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening of Access report | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempted or successful reunification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protective plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referral to services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial assessment conducted | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation assistance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with law enforcement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary physical custody of child | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with medical professionals |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervised visitation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placement into foster home | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case remains open for services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placement with relatives | <input type="checkbox"/> Case closed by agency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Services case management | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiated efforts to address or enhance community collaboration on CA/N cases |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): |

FOR DSP COMPLETION ONLY:

Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified during the review of the incident:

Under the Child Welfare Disclosure Act (Section 48.981(7)(cr), Stats.), the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) completed an initial review of the agency's practice for each case reported under the Act. A further practice review has been completed for case 140119DSP-Dane-409. As a result of this review process, DSP determined the agency implemented steps to improve the consistency and quality of safety assessment and decision-making practice.

Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues:

Based on the agency's effort and response to this incident and DSP review, no further statewide policy, practice, or statutory changes are recommended.

Yes No Not Applicable This 6-Month final summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.