

## 90-Day Summary Report for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident

Case Tracking Number: 100211DSP-PN-2

Child Information: Age: 16 years Gender:  Female  Male Race: Caucasian  
Special needs: Obesity, challenging behaviors

### Description of the child's family:

Child was living at a separate residence at the time of the incident. The parents are separated for the past several years. The child has an adult sibling who has a child and lives at their own residence. The child's grandparent would visit the home daily to take care of pets living with the child. The parents denied that they were neglecting or had abandoned their son, since they visited him regularly.

Child's Residence:  In-home  Out-of-home care placement

Date of Incident: 2/11/10

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

This youth called Adams County Sheriff's Dept stating he could not live like this anymore. He was living alone in a home with no hot water, working sewer, soap or food preparation utensils. The home was filthy with human and animal feces. His parents supplied him with TV dinners about 1-2 times per month, and he would have one meal per day. He has not been in school for the past 2-3 years. He had two sets of clothing that did not include underwear and socks. Both parents report their child has challenging behaviors and becomes physically aggressive. They believed they were making their son's life easier by allowing him to live alone and play computer and video games all day. His mother reports knowing that the living conditions were deplorable, but she believed cleaning the home would condone her son's behaviors. She wanted the conditions to be poor so that he would decide to come and live with her.

### Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The Adams County Health and Human Services Department (ACHHSD) has substantiated neglect and named both parents as maltreaters. Reportedly, the parents will be criminally charged with neglect, but this information is not yet available on the Wisconsin Consolidated Court Automation Programs. The parents separated several years prior to the incident, and Dad continued living with child. According to information obtained from the family, he had progressively left the home about two years prior. The family checked on the child daily either via telephone or in person. Several home school wavier were obtained due to the excessive amount of time the child was missing school each year. The family indulged their child, giving in to his tantrums and dislike of school. They also were somewhat fearful of the child's acting out behaviors. The family sought community services when their child was younger but did not follow through on provider recommendations. Initially, the parents did not understand or agree that they were responsible for this incident.

### Additional information for children in home:

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

None

### Summary of all involvement in services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years:

Brief involvement in 2007 to assist family with completing tasks related to a delinquency charge. The ACHHSD was contacted as a legal formality nine months after the youth was charged and a Juvenile Justice worker was assigned. Restitution was already completed, so no real services were needed or provided at that time.

### Summary of actions taken by the agency under ch. 48, including any investigation of a report or referrals to services:

No CPS or other reports were received by the agency.

### Summary of any investigation conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the family since the date of the incident:

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Division of Safety and Permanence

The ACHHSD completed an initial assessment and both parents were substantiated for child neglect. Reportedly, the parents will be criminally charged and received various public health citations related to the condition of the home. The child was placed into foster care and remains there. The child was medically examined and is on a dietary program. He also received a psychiatric consult and crisis intervention services. Both parents and child are participating in counseling. The child is enrolled in special school programming. The case continues to be open with the agency, and the family is receiving ongoing case management services.

**Additional information for children in out-of-home (OHC) placement at time of incident:**

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

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

**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.

**\* Summary of actions taken by agency in response to the incident:**

The ACHHSD coordinated its investigation with those of local law enforcement and public health. A Child In Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) court order was initiated, and the child will remain in out-of-home care placement while receiving the services described above.

**\*Summary of policy or practice changes to address identified issues:**

None. The family did not have CPS history or an open case with the agency in the recent past or at the time of this incident.

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

The ACHHSD identified the need for continued education of community partners in regards to child abuse and neglect. In response to this incident, the agency learned that some organizations knew that the child was in the community without support for a period of time. Coordinated efforts are needed to assure identification and reporting of possible maltreatment to the agency. The agency also identified the need to improve communication with the local hospital regarding child abuse and neglect, and the hospital's role in cases where there appears to be no obvious injury to the child.

**Statement of Completion:**

Yes  No This 90-day summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.

\* If a full report including agency actions, changes in policies or practices and recommendations for further changes was not completed within 90 days, the DSP will complete and submit the final summary report within 6 months.