

Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident Summary Report

Type of Report: 90-Day Final

Case Tracking Number: 100712DSP-PN-36 Agency: Dane County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 6 1/2 months Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: African American

Special needs: None identified prior to the reported injuries

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

Date of Incident: 7/11 or 7/12/10

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

The child was brought to the ER on 7/12/10 due to fussiness and inability to move his arm well. The child was admitted to the hospital with blood at the top of his cervical spinal cord, a torn ligament in the C-4 and C-5 of his spinal column, an L-2 lumbar spinal compression fracture, a hematoma around his spine, and a torn anterior ligament. The child also presented with bacterial meningitis. Medical personnel identified injuries as being non-accidental, possibly caused by the child being slammed onto his buttocks with extreme force causing hyperflexion of his neck. The physician believes that the meningitis set in after the spinal injury.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the infant by an unknown maltreater. The initial assessment found that the baby lived with his mother, alleged father, aunt and 3 cousins. Reportedly, the baby seemed fine on 7/9/10. Over the weekend he was with a number of extended family, including children, at their home. The mother reported that on 7/11/10 the child seemed somewhat fussy and unable to move one arm well. The father reported that on 7/12/10 the baby was sleepy and lethargic. No one reported observing the child fall or cry out in pain. The father recently began parenting the child when he moved in with the family in June 2010. He stated that, in general, he did not provide basic care for the child such as diapering and feeding. The child's mother provided most of the care for the child. Medical reports indicate that the child's injuries are due to maltreatment.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child resided with his mother, alleged, father, aunt and three cousins. The child also has half siblings that do not live with his parents.

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:

N/A

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

None

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 or alleged maltreater:

None

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

The agency screened in, investigated and substantiated maltreatment to the child by an unknown maltreater. The agency determined that the child was unsafe in the care of his parents and was placed into a foster home upon discharge from the hospital. Parents' visits with the child are supervised. The family is receiving Ongoing Services from the agency.

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 agency screened in, investigated and substantiated maltreatment to the child by an unknown maltreater. The child was determined to be unsafe in the care of his parents. The parents' visits with the child were supervised at the hospital. Upon discharge from the hospital, he was placed into foster care. Visits between the parents and child continue to be supervised. The family is receiving Ongoing Services from the agency.

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

The initial assessment is not in compliance with the CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards. The DSP and agency have reviewed the assessment together, and the agency agrees with the finding. The agency is addressing the identified practice finding with staff that are responsible for initial assessments.

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

None

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.

This final summary report completes the DSP review of this case.