

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

Case Tracking Number: 101001DSP-PN-51 Agency: Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Child Information: Age: 3 years Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: African American
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 10/1/10

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

On October 2, 2010 the agency was notified that a three-year-old toddler passed away late the previous day while the mother was enroute to the hospital. The toddler had ingested a methadone pill and had physical injuries. Both of the child's eyes were black and blue, and she had bruising on the forehead, swelling under the scalp and an abrasion on her back. The mother stated she obtained two methadone pills from a relative. She left the pills on a bedside table, and the toddler ingested one on October 1. The mother decided to let the child sleep it off. The only explanation offered for the physical injuries was the mother's significant other saying the toddler tripped on her dollhouse. When a friend of the mother visited the home, she saw the toddler was in distress and repeatedly told the mother to take the child to the hospital. The mother initially refused to seek medical help for the toddler. The medical examiner determined the immediate cause of death was blunt force injuries to the head with acute drug (methadone) intoxication as a significant condition.

Updated 12/15/11: In 2011, the boyfriend was found guilty of 1st Degree Reckless Homicide and the mother was found guilty of Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Death).

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by the mother's significant other and neglect to the child by her mother. The mother was aware of the toddler's physical injuries since Thursday, September 30th, when the toddler was in the care of her significant other. The mother was instructed by others who observed the child that she needed medical attention. The mother did not seek medical care until around 12:00 pm on October 1st. It was determined that the mother waited a significant amount of time after becoming aware of the child's physical injuries and ingesting the methadone before seeking medical care for her. The mother's significant other left the medication within reach of the toddler, and was caring for the toddler at the time she was injured. The mother eventually admitted to lying to protect her significant other. The mother's significant other is incarcerated and charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide. The mother is incarcerated with felony charges of Neglecting a Child - consequence is great bodily harm.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The toddler was residing with her mother, her mother's significant other and his relative.

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 as adults 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 living in this household and the child's parents and alleged maltreater at the age of 18 years or older:

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:

Physical abuse to the child by the mother's significant other was substantiated. Neglect to the child by the mother was substantiated. The mother was aware of the toddler's injuries on September 30, when the toddler was in the care of her significant other. She was also aware of the child ingesting the methadone pill the following day, but did not seek medical care until almost midnight on October 1. It was determined that initially the mother lied during the investigation to protect her significant other. Both the mother and a relative of the significant other expressed concern over his discipline of the toddler prior to this incident. Law enforcement determined that the significant other inflicted the injuries to the child. Both adults are being charged criminally. The case was closed because there are no other children in the family, and further services from the agency are not needed.

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 and investigated the report of the child's death, substantiating physical abuse by the mother's significant other and neglect by the mother. The family does not require any services from the agency, and the case was closed.

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

None

***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.