

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

Case Tracking Number: 101009DSP-PN-56 Agency: Barron Co. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Child Information: Age: 1 year Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian Egyptian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 10/9/10

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

On October 9, 2010 the child was taken to the emergency room by his mother and her fiance. While bathing the child, the mother noticed that his elbow was red and swollen. The child also presented with multiple bruises on his face and head. The couple was providing inconsistent stories to hospital staff. After examining the child and finding additional extensive injuries, the child was transported to Children's Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. Upon examination at Children's Hospital it was found that the child had a dislocated left elbow, bruising on his ear, face, arm and shoulder, deep bone bruise to his right upper arm, and a total of six bone fractures. The injuries were estimated to be 4-6 weeks old and in various stages of healing. The injuries were attributed to the child being pulled by his limbs and/or sat down forcefully. The mother's fiance has been arrested and criminally charged with Child Abuse - Reckless Causion of Great Bodily Harm.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by the mother's fiance. The child and his sibling were determined to be unsafe and were placed with a relative during the investigation. The child was left in the fiance's care starting in August 2010 while his mother worked and his older sibling attended school. Interviews with relatives learned that the child did not have bruising on his face until the fiance began caring for him. The fiance denies intentionally breaking any of the child's bones, but admitted to inflicting some of the facial and body bruising because he "may have picked up the child too hard," and on one occasion "squeezing the child's face too hard" when he tried to retrieve an object (dime) from the child's mouth when he was choking. The fiance explained that he has little experience caring for young children and often felt uncomfortable or unsure of his abilities. He expressed feeling "a lot on his shoulders" after becoming a parent "suddenly." The mother was at work on at least three occasions when injuries occurred. She is not suspected of mistreating her son, but the agency did determine the children unsafe in her care.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child resided with his pregnant mother, her fiance, and an older sibling. His mother is divorced from the children's biological father who resides out of state. The children have minimal contact with him.

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

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incident:

The agency screened in and investigated the report of injuries to the child, substantiating maltreatment by the mother's fiancé. The child and his sibling were removed from their home and placed with a relative of their mother. Another child born following this incident was also placed with the relative and his half-siblings. The mother currently resides in the relative's home with her children and all of her contact with the children is supervised by the relative. The agency is assisting the family with multiple services, including in-home and community 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 agency screened in and investigated the report of injuries to the child. The agency implemented a protective plan, immediately removing the children from the care and home of their mother and her fiancé and placing them with a relative. The worker conducted an initial assessment, substantiating maltreatment to the child by the fiancé. The children were determined unsafe in their parent's care. The agency conducted a background check on the couple, reaching out to three different states where they resided in recent years. During the assessment, the mother was approved to live in the same home with her children, where her contact with the children is supervised by the relative. The mother's fiancé is not allowed contact with the mother or children. The case is open for Ongoing Services, and the agency is assisting the family with multiple services. The relative is working to become a licensed out-of-home care placement provider.

***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.