

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

Case Tracking Number: 110814DSP-Dane-137 Agency: Dane County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 7 weeks Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian  
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 8/14/11

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

The baby was found deceased in his crib when his parents checked on him. The child was born prematurely, but was reported to be healthy at the time of his death. Early autopsy results found no injuries, and the cause of death was later determined due to "complications from being premature and having underdeveloped lungs." No criminal charges were filed in connection with the baby's death.

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

The agency unsubstantiated neglect to the infant. There were no other children in the home. The child was born prematurely and hospitalized for several weeks due to low birth weight and methadone withdrawal. His parents followed through with his medical appointments, and he was described by the physician as doing well. Reportedly, the parents fed him around 12:30 a.m. and checked on him several times during the night. Around 4:13 a.m. the parents found him cool to the touch, called 911 and attempted CPR. He was pronounced deceased.

### Additional information for children in home:

#### Description of the child's family:

The baby lived with his mother and father and has two half-siblings that reside with relatives.

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:

On 4/26/11 the agency screened in a report alleging unborn child abuse. During the assessment and after the baby was born, the agency received and screened in another report on 7/20/11 alleging neglect of the child who was hospitalized following his birth. Both initial assessments were open at the time of the baby's death. During the assessments, the agency referred the parents and child to a community service provider, and they were actively receiving services at the time of the baby's death.. The service provider's last contact with the family was a meeting with the father on 8/12/11.

#### 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:

See following section.

#### 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:

During the period February 2004-January 2009, Columbia County DHHS screened in 4 reports for child welfare services for this mother and her child. The mother was connected to services, but did not always follow-through and refused to participate. In January 2009, the agency filed a CHIPS petition, changing the case status from voluntary to court ordered.

On 5/28/09, Sauk Co. DHS screened in a Services Report to assist the mother with her child.

On 8/16/09, Dane Co. DHS screened in a CPS Report, substantiating neglect and determining the child unsafe. The agency removed the child from the mother's care and placed the child with a relative.

On 10/1/09, Columbia Co. DHHS screened in a report for child welfare services. The agency requested assistance from Sauk Co. DHS with monthly contacts with the child who was placed with a relative in Sauk county.

On 11/19/09, Sauk Co. DHS screened in a CPS Report alleging abuse by a noncaregiver while the child was visiting with the mother. The allegation was unsubstantiated, and the child was determined unsafe with her mother. The child remained in placement with the relative.

On 12/28/09, Columbia Co. DHHS screened in a child welfare report. Mother's visitation with the child was suspended due to the mother's noncompliance with visitation requirements. Sauk Co. DHS continued to provide services and supervision of the case until guardianship of the child was transferred to the relative in 2010.

On 4/26/11 the agency screened in and investigated a report alleging unborn child abuse. The parents-to-be were offered but declined services. The allegation was unsubstantiated.

On 7/20/11 the agency screened in a report alleging neglect of the newborn infant who was hospitalized following his birth. Neglect was substantiated. The parents were connected to local resources during the initial assessment. Prior to his death, the baby was determined safe with his parents who were actively participating in services.

**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 unsubstantiated neglect by the parents in the child's death. The baby's death was determined due to natural causes. Prior to his death, the agency monitored the parents' participation in services during the assessment, and the baby was determined safe. The couple has no other children in their care. The agency attempted to provide support and services to the parents following his death, which they declined. The agency closed the case upon completion of the initial assessment.

**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, unsubstantiating maltreatment. The parents refused to work with CPS following their initial meeting that occurred immediately after the infant's death. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and the child's doctor to gather information about the child, family and incident. The case was closed.

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

The agency has initiated working with other community providers on the issue of increasing cases involving addiction and methadone involved parents.

**\*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.