6-Month Final Summary Report for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident

Reports submitted to the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) that do not include all of the required information will be returned to the agency for proper completion. Do not identify individuals by name when completing this report. Individuals may be referenced by relationship or position; e.g., mother, father, child, sibling, physician, detective, etc.

Case Tracking Number: 250726DSP-LaCr-1418 **Agency:** La Crosse County Department of Human Services

Child Information (at time of incident)
Age: 10 years Gender: ☒ Female ☐ Male
Race or Ethnicity: White
Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: 7/29/2025

Description of the incident, including the suspected cause of death, injury or egregious abuse or neglect:
On July 29, 2025, the agency received a report regarding a 10-year-old child brought to the hospital with multiple injuries. Law enforcement was contacted and initiated a criminal investigation. Medical professionals determined the injuries were consistent with non-accidental trauma. As a result of law enforcement's investigation, one of the child's legal guardians was charged with Physical Abuse of a Child-Repeated Acts Causing Bodily Harm, Child Abuse-Intentionally Cause Great Bodily Harm, Strangulation and Suffocation. The child's other legal guardian was charged with Chronic Neglect of a Child-Consequence Bodily Harm and Child Abuse-Fail to Prevent Bodily Harm. A criminal charge is merely an allegation, and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Findings by agency, including maltreatment determination and material circumstances leading to incident:
The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse and neglect of the child by her legal guardians. The child and the guardians' children were deemed unsafe, and a Protective Plan was initiated. Subsequently, the child and the guardians' children were taken into Temporary Physical Custody. The child and the guardians' 11-year-old child were placed in non-relative foster homes, and the guardians' 12-year-old child was placed in a like-kin home. The guardians were court-ordered to have no contact with the child or their children. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed, and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

☒ Yes ☐ No Criminal investigation pending or completed?
☒ Yes ☐ No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The child's legal guardians

Child's residence at the time of incident: ☒ In-home ☐ Out-of-home care placement

Complete the appropriate following section (A. or B. based on the child's residence at the time of the incident).

A. Children residing at home at the time of the incident:

Description of the child's family (includes household members, noncustodial parent and other children that have visitation with the child and / or in the child's family home):
At the time of the incident, the child resided with her legal guardians and her guardians' 11-year-old and 12-year-old children. The child's 9-year-old twin siblings resided with the mother and father.

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, any member of the child's 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: (Does not include the current incident.)
The following history is related to the child's guardians:
On September 12, 2024, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse to the guardians' now 11-year-old child by one of the guardians. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On November 20, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse to the guardians' now 12-year-old child by one of the guardians. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On March 10, 2021, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse to the guardians' now 12-year-old child by the one of the guardians. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

The following history is related to the child's mother and father:

On September 16, 2024, another county screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect to the child's now 9-year-old sibling by the father. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On April 15, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report for Alternative Response alleging emotional damage/abuse to the child by the father. An assessment was completed by the agency with a determination of services needed. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed for the child and the child's now 9-year-old twin siblings on June 19, 2023.

On April 29, 2022, the agency screened-in a CPS Report for Alternative Response alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 9-year-old twin siblings by the father. An assessment was completed by the agency with a determination of services needed. The case remained open for voluntary case management services.

On January 5, 2022, the agency screened-in a Services Report. The family was referred to community services.

On April 19, 2021, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging sexual abuse to the child by the father. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of sexual abuse was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On August 10, 2020, the agency screened-in a CPS Report for Alternative Response alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 9-year-old twin siblings by the father. An assessment was completed by the agency with the determination of services not needed. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

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. (Does not include the current incident.)

(Note: Screened out reports listed in this section may include only the date of the report, screening decision, and if a referral to services occurred at Access. Reports that do not constitute a reasonable suspicion of maltreatment or a reason to believe that the child is threatened with harm are not required to be screened in for an Initial Assessment, and no further action is required by the agency.)

The following history is related to the child's guardians:

On April 16, 2025, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On April 11, 2025, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On March 7, 2025, the agency screened-out a Services Report.

On February 27, 2025, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On September 12, 2024, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse to the guardians' now 11-year-old child by one of the guardians. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On June 14, 2024, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On June 10, 2024, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On February 13, 2024, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On January 29, 2024, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On November 20, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse to the guardians' now 12-year-old child by one of the guardians. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On November 13, 2023, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On June 9, 2023, the agency screened-out a Services Report.

On April 27, 2023, the agency screened-out a Services Report.

On March 10, 2021, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse to the guardians' now 12-year-old child by one of the guardians. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

The following history is related to the child's mother and father:

On January 30, 2025, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On September 17, 2024, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On February 2, 2024, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On October 4, 2023, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On April 15, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report for Alternative Response alleging emotional damage/abuse to the child by the father. An assessment was completed by the agency with a determination of services needed. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed for the child and the child's now 9-year-old twin siblings on June 19, 2023.

On April 29, 2022, the agency screened-in a CPS Report for Alternative Response alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 9-year-old twin siblings by the father. An assessment was completed by the agency with a determination of services needed. The case remained open for voluntary case management services.

On March 18, 2022, the agency screened-out a Services Report.

On January 5, 2022, the agency screened-in a Services Report. The family was referred to community services.

On December 10, 2021, the agency screened-out a Services Report.

On October 28, 2021, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On October 26, 2021, the agency screened-out a CPS Report

On July 15, 2021, the agency screened-out a Services Report.

On April 19, 2021, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging sexual abuse to the child by the father. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of sexual abuse was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On August 10, 2020, the agency screened-in a CPS Report for Alternative Response alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 9-year-old twin siblings by the father. An assessment was completed by the agency with the determination of services not needed. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 and any services provided to the child and child's family since the date of the incident:
The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse and neglect of the child by her legal guardians. The child and the guardians' children were deemed unsafe, and a Protective Plan was initiated. Subsequently, the child and the guardians' children were taken into Temporary Physical Custody. The child and the guardians' 11-year-old child were placed in non-relative foster homes, and the guardians' 12-year-old child was placed in a like-kin home. The guardians were court-ordered to have no contact with the child or their children. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed, and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

B. Children residing in out-of-home care (OHC) placement at time of incident:

Description of the OHC placement and basis for decision to place child there:
N/A

Description of all other persons residing in the OHC placement home:
N/A

Licensing history: Including type of license, duration of license, summary of any violations by licensee or an employee of licensee or other actions that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the welfare of a child.
N/A

Summary of any actions taken by agency in response to the incident: (Check all that apply.)

- ☒ Screening of Access report
- ☒ Protective plan implemented
- ☒ Initial assessment conducted
- ☐ Safety plan implemented
- ☒ Temporary physical custody of child
- ☒ Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services)
- ☒ Placement into foster home
- ☐ Placement with relatives
- ☒ Ongoing Services case management
- ☐ Attempted or successful reunification
- ☒ Referral to services
- ☐ Transportation assistance
- ☒ Collaboration with law enforcement
- ☒ Collaboration with medical professionals
- ☐ Supervised visitation
- ☐ Case remains open for services
- ☐ Case closed by agency
- ☐ Initiated efforts to address or enhance community collaboration on CA/N cases
- ☒ Other (describe): Placement in like-kin home

FOR DSP COMPLETION IF RECORD OR ON-SITE REVIEW WAS UNDERTAKEN:

Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified based on the record or on-site review of the incident:
Under the Child Welfare Disclosure Act (Section 48.981(7)(cr), Stats.), the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) completes an initial review of the agency's practice for each case reported under the Act. A further practice review has been completed for case #250726DSP-LaCr-1418. No immediate changes to policy or practice were made based on review of the incident.

Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues based on the record or on-site review:
The DSP did not make any recommendations for further changes based on this review process. (Note: The review process for an individual case may not result in a recommendation for policy or practice changes but may impact future recommendations as a result of the review of multiple cases and other related sources of information.)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable This 6-month summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) action on this

case.