

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

Case Tracking Number: 101123DSP-PN-65 Agency: Eau Claire County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 5 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: African American
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 11/23/10

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

The child's mother called 911 in the early hours of the morning stating that the child was in distress and not breathing. The child was taken to the local hospital and later transported by Medi Flight to another hospital. The child was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury, an occipital skull fracture, and subdural hemorrhaging consistent with non-accidental trauma. The child's father was caring for her while the mother was out. When the mother returned, he told her that the child had fallen off the couch. The mother initially denied leaving the child in the care of the father. She indicated that she checked on the child throughout the night; however, she did not call for help until the child was blue and no longer breathing several hours later. The father later advised law enforcement that while he was alone with the baby, she began to cry and he "freaked out." He confessed that he shook the baby and threw her against a wall in the bedroom. After the baby fell into her crib, he violently shook the crib. The baby died from her injuries on 11/25/10.

Summary of actions taken by agency in response to the incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by her father and neglect by her mother. The child was pronounced deceased while in the hospital. The child's one-year-old sibling was placed with a relative. The father has been charged with 1st Degree Reckless Homicide, Obstructing an Officer, and two counts of Bail Jumping. The mother has been charged with Neglecting a Child, Obstructing an Officer, and Bail Jumping - as Party to a Crime.

Summary of policy or practice changes to address identified issues:

The on-site review of this case found that the 11/24/10 initial assessment was not in compliance with the CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards. The agency is addressing the issues noted from the case review.

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

The DSP will be providing Access and Initial Assessment technical assistance to county agencies in the Western Region, including Eau Claire Co. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

Additional Information: