

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

Case Tracking Number: 110107DSP-Doug-72 Agency: Douglas County Dept. of Health & Human Services

Child Information: Age: 3 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None prior to incident

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

Date of Incident: 1/6/11

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

The child was admitted to the hospital with bruises covering his face, head, chin, back and chest. X-rays showed four skull fractures of varying stages of healing, a healing liver laceration estimated to be 2-3 weeks old, detached retina and a subdural hemorrhage. The doctor determined the injuries were caused by being hit, kicked or shaken, and a flat area on the child's head was due to neglect since the child was not born prematurely. The mother identified several caregivers that had cared for the child. She also indicated an older sibling is very aggressive with the baby, and on January 6, 2011, the sibling had dropped him. Another adult in the household provided inconsistent information, and admitted his memory may be impaired because he had been drinking.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by an unknown maltreater. The agency also substantiated neglect to the child and his sibling by their mother. The children were determined unsafe and removed from their mother's care. The children had several caregivers prior to and on the day the child was taken to the hospital for his injuries. The mother's explanations for the child's injuries are not plausible due to the extent of the child's injuries. The criminal investigation is ongoing.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child was living with his mother and sibling. The child's father was incarcerated at the time of the incident. Another adult may have been residing with the mother and children at the time of the incident.

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:

The agency was conducting an initial assessment on the family in response to an allegation of neglect on December 15, 2010. The agency worker met with the mother on December 30, 2010.

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:

In 2007 the agency screened in and investigated an allegation of neglect, unsubstantiating maltreatment to the sibling, who was the only child in the household at this time. No services were provided.

In 2009, the agency screened in a child welfare/services (i.e., no alleged maltreatment) report on the family. A letter was sent to the home offering services, but there was no response.

December 15, 2010, the agency received a report alleging neglect to the child and his sibling by their parents. Initial assessments must be completed within 60 days of receipt of the report. During this assessment the child was seriously injured, and both children were removed from their mother's care. Neglect to the children by their mother was substantiated.

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 prior to 2007.

Summary of any investigation conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the family since the date of the incident:

In December 2010, the agency was investigating allegations of neglect to the children when the child became seriously injured. On 1/7/11, the agency screened in a report alleging physical abuse to the injured child and neglect to his sibling. Physical abuse to the injured child by an unknown maltreater was substantiated. Neglect to both children by their mother was substantiated. The sibling was not injured but needed medical care an untreated ailment. The children were removed from their mother's care. They were initially placed into foster care and later placed with relatives. Visits between the mother and the children are supervised.

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 injuries, substantiating physical abuse to the injured child and neglect to both children. The agency collaborated with law enforcement during the investigation. A protective plan was implemented while the child was hospitalized. The children were determined unsafe and removed from their mother's care. The sibling also was examined and received medical care. The children were placed into a foster home and later moved to the home of relatives. The mother's visits with the children are supervised by the relatives. The children, mother and relatives have been referred to needed services. The case remains open with the agency and the family continues to receive Ongoing Services. The agency staffed the case with law enforcement and medical providers.

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

Under the Child Welfare Disclosure Act (Section 48.981(7)(cr), Stats.), the DSP completes a 90-day review of the agency's practice in each case reported under the Act. In accordance with the DCF memo Series 2010-13, dated December 7, 2010 pertaining to the Child Welfare Case Review Protocol, the DSP completed an on-site review in case # 1110107DSP-Doug-72.

The initial assessment was not in compliance with the CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards or the Safety Intervention Standards. After the onsite review, staff from the DSP and the Bureau of Regional Operations provided case consultation to agency staff regarding Access, Initial Assessment, and safety intervention practice. The goal of the consultation was assist the agency in assigning the correct response times to CPS Reports and ensuring all individuals are interviewed as part of the initial assessment process. Agency staff also participated in the Access and Initial Assessment roundtable training sessions sponsored by the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System. Roundtable sessions are a facilitated discussion of the practical application of the Wisconsin Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards where participants have hands-on exploration of actual case studies. This resulted in enhanced initial assessment practice for the agency.

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

The onsite review did not identify any needed changes in policies, practices, rule, or statutes to address the identified issues in this case.

Statement of Completion:

Yes No This 6-month final 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.