

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

Case Tracking Number: 110213DSP-Jeff-80 Agency: Jefferson County Human Services Department

Child Information: Age: 4 years Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 2/13/11

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

The child was taken to the hospital due to seizures. Upon examination, he was found to be the victim of forced water intoxication. The child's stepmother forced him to drink such a large quantity of water within several hours that his sodium level dropped very low, causing him to suffer a near-fatal seizure.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by his stepmother. The child's father and stepmother explained that they were directed by the child's doctor to give him water to keep him from overeating. They made the child drink glasses of water both before and after meals to help him feel satiated. On February 13, 2011, the child did not want to eat his lunch or drink the second glass of water. His stepmother watched the child drink the second glass and then he vomited what appeared to be remnants of his sibling's birthday cake. She became angry because the child had sneaked downstairs the previous night and eaten the cake. She filled the glass with water and forced the child to drink it. The father was not present when this occurred. Shortly afterwards the child suffered a seizure and was taken to the hospital. During the investigation, the stepmother described this incident and admitted to injuring the child in the past after losing her temper with him. The stepmother was found guilty of two counts of Child Abuse - Intentional Causion of Bodily Harm. The father has been criminally charged with Child Abuse - Failure to Prevent Great Harm.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child resided with his father, stepmother, a half-sibling and a step-sibling. Another half-sibling resides with the child's mother. The child's mother visited him sporadically prior to this 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:

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:

In October 2010 the agency investigated allegations of physical abuse to the child by his stepmother and father; the allegations were unsubstantiated. The children in the household were determined safe in the care of these adults. The case was closed.

In February 2010 Wood County Dept. of Human Services investigated an allegation of neglect to the child's half-sibling by their mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated, the children were determined safe, and the family declined services. The case was closed.

In October 2009 the Wood County Dept. of Human Services investigated allegations of neglect to the child and his half-sibling by their mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated, the children were determined safe and no service needs were identified. The case was closed.

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:

See above

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 investigated allegations of maltreatment, substantiating physical abuse to the child by his stepmother. The child's half-sibling and step-sibling residing in the household were removed and placed with relatives. The injured child was placed in the home of his mother and half-sibling. The case is open for Ongoing Services and agency staff continues working with the father's, mother's and relative's households to arrange needed services for all.

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 an allegation of physical abuse to the child by his stepmother, substantiating maltreatment. The agency collaborated with law enforcement during the investigation. All of the children were removed from the home and placed with relatives, where they continue to reside. The families will continue to receive Ongoing Services from the agency.

The agency conducted an internal review of the case, identifying and implementing needed practice changes. (Please see following section.)

***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 # 110213DSP-Jeff-80. The DSP determined the initial assessment was not completed and approved within 60 days in compliance with the CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards. The agency also conducted an internal review of the CPS practice in this case. As a result, agency management developed a policy with requirements for assessment documentation.

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. Agency staff also participated in the Access and Initial Assessment roundtable training sessions sponsored by the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System to ensure all children in the household are included in the assessment process. 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.