

## 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: 130214DSP-Dane-296 Agency: Dane County Department of Human Services

**Child Information** (at time of incident)

Age: 1 year Gender:  Female  Male

Race or Ethnicity: African American/American Indian

Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: 2/14/13

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

On 2/14/13, the agency received a report regarding a 1-year-old child transported to the emergency room after being hit by a car. The child later passed away from her injuries. The child's mother was out in the early morning hours, pushing the child in an adult-sized wheelchair. The mother reported she dropped a bottle and, when she bent over to retrieve it, the wheelchair rolled into the path of oncoming traffic. The mother was taken into custody on a probation hold at the time of the child's death. The criminal investigation is ongoing, with no criminal charges filed at this time.

**Findings by agency, including maltreatment determination and material circumstances leading to incident:**

The agency collaborated with law enforcement, medical personnel, and other collateral sources to complete the assessment. Based on the information gathered, the agency substantiated neglect of the child by her mother. With the help of a relative, the child's mother obtained a motel room for herself and her four children the night of the child's death, after being asked to leave the home of a different relative, where the family was previously staying. The mother was reportedly asked to leave the motel, and took the child, leaving the other children at the motel with a relative. The mother reported the child rolled into the street when she bent down to retrieve an item. Three different witnesses reported having to swerve around the wheelchair during an approximate five minute timeframe, incongruent with the mother's description of events. The mother tested positive for illegal substances at the time of the child's death, and previous reports indicate a pattern of drug abuse. The three surviving children were placed in the care of their father and the father's girlfriend. The agency filed Child in Need of Protection or Services petitions in juvenile court.

Yes  No Criminal investigation pending or completed?

Yes  No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom?

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 was residing in a motel with her mother, her three older siblings, and an adult relative.

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.)

None

**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.)

2/24/10-Report with concerns of unborn child abuse was screened in and assessed by another county. The mother tested positive for multiple illegal and prescription substances (not prescribed to the mother) while pregnant. The concerns were unsubstantiated and the family was given information regarding local resources.

9/16/10-Report with concerns the mother tested positive for multiple substances after delivering her baby (child's now 2-year-old brother). This report was assessed by another county and found the mother's explanation regarding the substances found in her system could not be corroborated by medical professionals. The family moved to another community during the assessment timeframe. Neglect was unsubstantiated.

6/14/11-Report Screened out.

2/24/12-Report with concerns the children were left unattended in a running vehicle were screened in and assessed in another county. The worker made contact with the mother on the day of the incident, but she was uncooperative with the assessment process. The concerns were unsubstantiated.

5/1/12-Report screened out.

5/8/12-Report screened out.

6/21/12-Child Welfare Report with concerns regarding truancy was opened. A Juvenile in Need of Protection or Services (JIPS) petition was dismissed when it was learned the family moved to a different county.

10/17/12-Report screened out.

**Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the child and child's family since the date of the incident:**

The agency screened in and assessed the allegation of neglect which resulted in the child's death. Neglect to the child by the mother was substantiated. The agency placed the three surviving children with their father and his girlfriend. Child in Need of Protection or Services petitions were filed in juvenile court and the case was transferred for ongoing case management services.

**B. Children residing 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 any actions taken by agency in response to the incident: (Check all that apply.)**

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

**FOR DSP COMPLETION ONLY:**

**Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified during the 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) completed an initial review of the agency's practice for each case reported under the Act. A further practice review has been completed for case 130214DSP-Dane-296. As a result of this review process, the agency implemented steps to improve the consistency and quality of safety assessment and decision-making practice.

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

Based on the agency's effort and response to this incident and DSP review, no further statewide policy, practice, or statutory changes are recommended.

Yes  No  Not Applicable This 6-Month final summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.