

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: 140121DSP-Brown-411 **Agency:** Brown County Human Services Department

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 9 Years Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: White/Asian

Special Needs: Autism, Cognitive Disability, Seizure Disorder

Date of Incident: January 21, 2014

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

On January 21, 2014, the agency received a report regarding a nine-year-old child pronounced deceased in his home. The mother was the primary caretaker for the child who had special needs. The mother left a suicide note, which indicated her depression had become worse. Law Enforcement responded to the residence when called for a welfare check and found the mother and child deceased. The Medical Examiner determined the child died from asphyxia due to mechanical obstruction of the upper airways, and law enforcement's investigation concluded the mother was responsible for the child's death.

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 to the child by the mother. The Medical Examiner's Office determined the official cause of the child's death was asphyxia due to mechanical obstruction of the upper airways. The agency closed the case as both family members were deceased.

- 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 resided with his mother. The child's father did not have contact with the child.

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:

The agency was providing voluntary child welfare services to the family at the time of the incident. The child was in respite care every other weekend, Friday through Sunday, from September 2013 through January 19, 2014. The agency's last contact with the mother occurred by telephone on October 18, 2013. The agency had additional telephone contacts with collaterals to coordinate services for the family, the last of which occurred on January 15, 2014.

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.)

On December 20, 2012 the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse to the child by the mother. An assessment was completed, which determined the child safe, and the allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community resources and the agency opened the case to provide child welfare services. The family was involved in child welfare services from January 11, 2013 to June 27, 2013. Upon closure of child welfare services on June 27, 2013, the mother was connected with another community resource for ongoing support.

On September 10, 2013, the agency screened-in a Services Report requesting services for the family. The agency provided the mother with community resources and made a referral for respite care services. The family was involved in respite care services every other weekend from September 20, 2013 to January 19, 2014.

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.)

On November 27, 2012, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On December 20, 2012, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse to the child by the mother. An assessment was completed, which determined the child safe, and the allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community resources and the agency opened the case to provide child welfare services.

On June 20, 2013, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On July 15, 2013, the agency screened-in a Services Report requesting services for the family. The agency provided the mother with community resources and made a referral for respite care services.

On September 10, 2013, the agency screened-in a Services Report requesting services for the family. The agency provided the mother with community resources and made a referral for respite care services.

On September 11, 2013, agency screened-out a Services Report.

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 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 to the child by the mother. The Medical Examiner's Office determined the official cause of the child's death was asphyxia due to mechanical obstruction of the upper airways. The agency contacted the adjudicated father as he was next of kin; however, he wanted to relinquish his next of kin rights to the child's grandmother. The agency closed the case as both family members were deceased.

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 that constitutes a substantial failure to protect and promote the welfare of the child.

N/A

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 type="checkbox"/> Referral to services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial assessment conducted | <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Case remains open for services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placement with relatives | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case closed by agency |
| <input 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 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. As part of the 90-Day Summary, an internal review did not identify indicators of the child welfare agency response that require further review. This report completes the DSP actions related to this incident.

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

None.

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