

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: 140517DSP-Dane-444 Agency: Dane County Department of Human Services

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 1 Year Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: White, Caucasian

Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: May 17, 2014

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

On May 17, 2014, the agency received a report regarding a one-year-old child being taken to the hospital for possible head injuries. There were concerns that the child had fallen on May 5, 2014, and since that time, she had been sleepy, vomited frequently and may have had a seizure. The child was taken to the hospital by her father and her father's girlfriend on May 16, 2014, due to vomiting; however, she was discharged that night and no trauma noted. The child was brought into the hospital again by a relative on May 17, 2014, due to concerning symptoms over the last two weeks. Medical professionals who examined the child suspected head trauma due to the child's presenting symptoms, so the child was transported to another hospital. Law enforcement was contacted and initiated a criminal investigation regarding the child's suspicious injuries.

Medical professionals completed a CT scan on the child that showed head trauma. Medical professionals also stated the child was underweight and could not sit up when she was brought into the hospital. The medical professionals determined the child's weight loss was likely due to maltreatment.

The father reported that on May 5, 2014, he gave the child a bath, stepped out of the room to get a towel, heard a "thud" and came back into the bathroom and saw the child was on the floor face down and unresponsive. The father stated he was getting ready to leave for the hospital emergency room, but the child then vomited and woke up. The father stated he did not seek medical attention for the child at that time. The father's girlfriend was in the hospital on this day as she had just delivered their newborn son. The father's girlfriend was interviewed and provided the same version of events as the father. Medical professionals stated the head injuries occurred within 3-7 days from admittance to the hospital on May 17, 2014. The father and the father's girlfriend could not provide any other explanation for the child's head injuries and did not have an explanation for the extreme weight loss in the child.

Medical professionals diagnosed the child with abusive head trauma and chronic malnutrition. No criminal charges have been filed in this case, but the investigation remains open.

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

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical personnel to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of evidence to substantiate physical abuse to the child by an unknown maltreater and neglect to the child by the child's father and his girlfriend. The child and her newborn sibling were deemed unsafe, taken into Temporary Physical Custody, and placed in out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

- 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 her father, her father's girlfriend, and her newborn sibling.

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.)

N/A

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 May 5, 2014, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On May 14, 2014, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On May 14, 2014, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On May 16, 2014, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 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 personnel to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of evidence to substantiate physical abuse to the child by an unknown maltreater and neglect to the child by the child's father and his girlfriend. The child and her newborn sibling were deemed unsafe, taken into Temporary Physical Custody, and placed in out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

Since the date of the incident, the child and her sibling were referred to the Birth to Three Program for evaluations. The father and the father's girlfriend were provided with counseling resources. The father's girlfriend was provided with employment resources and supervised visitation.

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 or other actions that constitute 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervised visitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placement into foster home | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case remains open for services |
| <input checked="" 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 IF RECORD OR ON-SITE REVIEW WAS UNDERTAKEN:

Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified based on the record or on-site 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 140517DSP-Dane-444. As a result of this review process, DSP determined 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 record or on-site review:

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) action on this case.