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: 200814-LaCr-1015  Agency: La Crosse County Human Services Department

Child Information (at time of incident)
Age: 1 year Gender: ☐ Female ☑ Male
Race or Ethnicity: White/Caucasian
Special Needs: None

Child Information (at time of incident)
Age: 1 year Gender: ☑ Female ☐ Male
Race or Ethnicity: White/Caucasian

Date of Incident: 08/14/20

Description of the incident, including the suspected cause of death, injury or egregious abuse or neglect:
On August 14, 2020, the agency received a report regarding two 1-year-old infants brought to the hospital with multiple injuries. The infants were in out-of-home placement and residing in a non-relative foster home. The injuries were reported to have occurred when the infants were on a visit with their family. Law enforcement was contacted and initiated a criminal investigation. Medical professionals determined the injuries were non-accidental in nature. No criminal charges have been filed in this case, and the investigation remains open.

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 infants by an unknown maltreater. Medical professionals determined the injuries were non-accidental in nature. The agency deemed the infants and their 5-year-old sibling unsafe with their mother and father and safe in their out-of-home placement. The infants and their 5-year-old sibling remained in the non-relative foster home. The case remains 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: ☑ 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):

☐ 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:

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.)

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.)
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:

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:
At the time of the incident, the 1-year-old infants were residing in a licensed foster home. The infants were originally placed in out-of-home care on December 7, 2018, after they were taken into Temporary Physical Custody due to allegations of physical abuse by their mother.

Description of all other persons residing in the OHC placement home:
At the time of the incident, the infants resided with their foster mother, their foster father, their 5-year-old sibling and the foster parents’ five biological children.

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.
The foster mother and foster father have been licensed as a Level 2 Foster Home since May 2017. There is no history of licensing violations by the foster parents constituting 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.)
- Screening of Access report
- Protective plan implemented
- Initial assessment conducted
- Safety plan implemented
- Temporary physical custody of child
- Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services)
- Placement into foster home
- Placement with relatives
- Ongoing Services case management
- Attempted or successful reunification
- Referral to services
- Transportation assistance
- Collaboration with law enforcement
- Collaboration with medical professionals
- Supervised visitation
- Case remains open for services
- Case closed by agency
- Initiated efforts to address or enhance community collaboration on CA/N cases
- 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) completes an initial review of the agency’s practice for each case reported under the Act. A further practice review has been completed for case #200814-LaCr-1015. As a result of this process, the DSP determined that the agency had implemented efforts to enhance communication and collaboration with community stakeholders.

Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues based on the record or on-site review:
None

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not Applicable  This 6-month summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) action on this case.