

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: 240311DSP-Port-1304

Agency: Portage County Health and Human Services

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 8 months

Gender: ☐ Female ☒ Male

Race or Ethnicity: Black/African American

Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: 03/11/2024

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

On March 11, 2024, the agency received a report of an infant brought to the hospital with injuries. Law enforcement was contacted and initiated a criminal investigation. Medical professionals noted no signs of trauma; the toxicology report was positive for controlled substances. As a result of law enforcement's investigation, the mother's significant other was criminally charged with 2nd-Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Operator Flee/Elude Officer-Bodily Harm or Property Damage, Cause Injury/OWI (Passenger < 16 Yrs), and Violation of Child Safety Restraint Requirements-Child under 4 Years of Age. A criminal charge is merely an allegation, and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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. Medical professionals noted no signs of trauma; the toxicology report was positive for controlled substances. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate neglect of the infant by his mother and his mother's significant other. The agency deemed the infant and the infant's 2-year-old half-sibling unsafe, and they were placed with a relative under an existing Child in Need of Protection and/or Services dispositional order. 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? The mother's significant other

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 infant resided with his mother and his 2-year-old half-sibling. The infant had infrequent visits with his father. The infant's 7-year-old and 5-year-old half-siblings resided with their father.

☒ 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:

At the time of the incident, the infant and his sibling were under an in-home Child in Need of Protection or Services Order related to the July 20, 2023 CPS Report. The last contact by the agency was a home visit with the mother, the infant and the 2-year-old half sibling on March 7, 2024.

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 July 20, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant and the infant's now 2-year-old half-sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of neglect was substantiated. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed on July 26, 2023, and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

On January 23, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging unborn child abuse to the infant and neglect to the infant's now 2-year-old half-sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of unborn child abuse and neglect was unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community services, and the case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On October 12, 2020, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old and 5-year-old half-siblings by the mother and the half-sibling's father. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On January 2, 2020, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect and physical abuse to the infant's now 7-year-old and 5-year-old half-siblings by the mother and the half-sibling's father. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect and physical abuse were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

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 December 7, 2023, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On July 20, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant and the infant's now 2-year-old half-sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegation of neglect was substantiated. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed on July 26, 2023, and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

On March 13, 2023, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On January 23, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging unborn child abuse to the infant and neglect to the infant's now 2-year-old half-sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of unborn child abuse and neglect was unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community services, and the case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On December 7, 2022, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On November 28, 2022, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On September 30, 2022, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On January 4, 2021, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On October 29, 2020, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On October 12, 2020, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On October 12, 2020, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old and 5-year-old half-siblings by the mother and the half-sibling's father. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On January 2, 2020, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect and physical abuse to the infant's now 7-year-old and 5-year-old half-siblings by the mother and the half-sibling's father. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the

allegations of neglect and physical abuse were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

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 professionals to complete the assessment. Medical professionals noted no signs of trauma; the toxicology report was positive for controlled substances. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate neglect of the infant by his mother and his mother's significant other. The agency deemed the infant and the infant's 2-year-old half-sibling unsafe, and they were placed with a relative under an existing Child in Need of Protection and/or Services dispositional order. The case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

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 a 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): The infant and 2-year-old half-sibling were under Child in Need of Protection and/or Services orders at the time of the incident. |

FOR DSP COMPLETION IF FURTHER REVIEW WAS UNDERTAKEN:

Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified based on 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) completes an initial review of the agency's practice for each case reported under the Act. A further practice review has been completed for incident #240311DSP-Port-1304. As a result of this review process, the DSP did not determine policy or practice changes were needed.

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

None

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