

90-Day Summary Report for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident

Case Tracking Number: 100309DSP-PN-7

Child Information: Age: 3 months Gender: Female Male Race: Caucasian

Special needs: 24-hour care due to a vegetative state and physical therapy to decrease atrophy and stiffness of limbs. Child is believed to be blind and possibly deaf as a result of the abuse.

Description of the child's family:

The baby was living with his mother and mother's significant other. His father lives at a different residence with the father's significant other, and the child would visit him overnight.

Child's Residence: In-home Out-of-home care placement

Date of Incident: 3/9/10

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

On March 9, 2010, Mother's significant other was caring for the child and found him to be unresponsive around 4:00 p.m. An ambulance was called, and the child was taken to the hospital and determined to have brain damage as a result of abusive head trauma. The child also had healing rib fractures believed to have been inflicted up to 14 days prior to his admission to the hospital. Another healing fracture was later discovered on the child's thigh area. The child's life expectancy is 2-3 years, although it is possible he could live into his teens or adulthood.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

On March 6, 2010 the baby's father had him overnight and observed bruising around his eyes and chin. Mother offered two different explanations for the bruising. On March 8, 2010, Mother sought medical care for the child and it was determined he was anemic and had an "earache." On March 9, 2010 the child was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he was found to have multiple injuries and brain damage. Douglas County Department of Health and Human Services substantiated physical abuse to the child by an unknown maltreater. None of the caregiving adults provided a reasonable explanation for the baby's injuries. A criminal investigation is pending.

Additional information for children in home:

Yes No **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, 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 under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years:

During the period 2005-2010, several child protective services reports were received about the mother's family when she was a minor. Four of the CPS Reports were screened in and investigated. As a child, this mother was voluntarily placed with a relative caregiver through the Kinship Care Program.

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 or alleged maltreater:

Four CPS reports involving the mother as a child were screened in and unsubstantiated. Services were offered to the family but declined.

Summary of any investigation conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the family since the date of the incident:

The incident was investigated and physical abuse substantiated with an unknown maltreater. The child needs intensive care and with parental agreement was placed into foster care. Visitation between the parents and child is supervised. He receives physical therapy, occupational therapy and was referred to Birth to Three Services. His medical needs are monitored by a home visitor nurse.

Additional information for children 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 actions taken by agency in response to the incident:**

Child was placed into a licensed treatment foster home and referred to needed services. Parents' visits with the child are supervised by the agency.

***Summary of policy or practice changes to address identified issues:**

Agency must assure initial assessments are in compliance with the CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards. The initial assessment focused solely on the mother's household. However, the process should also have included an assessment of the noncustodial parent's home because the injuries were unexplained, and the child was in the care of both of his parents in the weeks prior to being seriously injured. The agency understands this finding and agrees with this practice requirement.

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

None

Statement of Completion:

Yes No This 90-day summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.

* If a full report including agency actions, changes in policies or practices and recommendations for further changes was not completed within 90 days, the DSP will complete and submit the final summary report within 6 months.