

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

Case Tracking Number: 100312DSP-PN-9 Agency: Racine County Human Services Department

Child Information: Age: 2 years Gender: Female Male
Race: African Amer/Hispanic
Special needs: None

Description of the child's family:

The deceased child's parents are married but were living apart at the time of his death. Mother lived with a significant other and three of her children and her fourth child primarily lived with the grandmother. All of the children spent time with the mother in her home, with the deceased child and his sibling splitting time between their mother and father's households. Paternity for two of the children is being determined.

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

Date of Incident: 3/11/10

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

The child was brought to the local emergency room on 3/11/10 by his mother and her current significant other. He was pronounced deceased on 3/12/10. The child's kidneys had shut down and a small bump on the child's forehead was noted. The initial autopsy report indicated the child suffered from blunt force trauma as a result of abuse. The child had a number of internal injuries as well as fractured ribs. The child's grandmother stated she had seen the child and mother the previous day and that he was trembling and unable to stand or move. The mother declined to take the child to the ER. Mother's significant other admitted to punching and throwing the child. Mother maintained that she was not aware of her boyfriend's actions. The child's mother is charged with Neglecting a Child (consequence is death) and possession of THC. Mother's significant other is charged with 1st Degree Reckless Homicide.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the deceased child and his surviving siblings by mother's significant other, who is also criminally charged with the death of the child. The assessment indicates that the boyfriend used harsh physical discipline with the children and had on occasion threatened the lives of two of the children. The children's mother denied having knowledge of this, but the agency's investigation determined otherwise.

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:

Racine County Human Services Department received eight child protective service reports from 2007 through 2009 on this family, excluding mother's current significant other. Three of these reports were screened out by the department, and five of these reports were screened in for initial assessment services.

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:

In 2008 the agency received and screened in two CPS Reports for alleged neglect. The first report was unsubstantiated, and the agency assisted the family with some after-school supervision problems. The second report resulted in closing the case during the initial assessment after the agency made several attempts to contact the family but were unable to locate them for an assessment. There were no referrals to services.

In 2007 the agency received and screened in three CPS Reports, including two reports of alleged physical abuse and one alleged sexual abuse. The physical abuse allegations were unsubstantiated and no service needs were identified. The

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sexual abuse by a maltreater two years older than the child victim was substantiated. The agency offered services, which the family declined.

When this mother was a minor, her family received child protective, child welfare and juvenile justice services sporadically from 1996-2008.

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 Racine County Human Services Department completed an initial assessment and substantiated maltreatment to the children. The agency took custody of the surviving children (3) on 03/12/10. The children were immediately placed into foster care, with one of the children subsequently being placed with his father. All of the children were medically examined and did not have injuries. The agency is ensuring that the children receive needed services and their caregivers receive support and assistance as needed. Paternity is being established for two of the siblings. Staff is also assessing relatives for possible placement of the children into their homes, per the request of these family members.

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:**

The agency removed the surviving children from their mother's home and placed them into foster care and with the father of one of the children. Paternity is being established for two of the children. The agency will continue to provide services to the children and their families.

Agency management conducted a review of all of the contacts with this family by child protective services in the past five years due to concerns about a former employee that worked with this family on two occasions in 2007 and 2008. The results of this review found several of the Access reports and initial assessments were not in full compliance with Standards, but this occurred prior to staff training and significant practice changes made by the agency in 2009.

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

Upon reviewing the case practice over the past five years, the agency and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) found that several of the initial assessments were incident based, focusing solely on the alleged maltreatment rather than conducting a comprehensive assessment of the family. In 2009 the agency began addressing this issue in partnership with the DCF to improve its initial assessment practice model.

The agency did not complete this initial assessment within 60 days as required by statute and the CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards. The agency responded immediately to this report and took protective action for the surviving children, quickly moving the case to Ongoing Services where services to the family are being provided. However, the assessment was not completed and approved in eWiSACWIS as required. In addition, there is conflicting information in the assessment regarding the type of substantiated maltreatment, physical abuse and neglect, for the surviving siblings. The agency must ensure that assessments are completed and in compliance with statute and Standards and that the record correctly states the case findings.

***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.