

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

Case Tracking Number: 100520DSP-PN-22 Agency: Marathon Co. Dept. of Social Services

Child Information: Age: 2 weeks Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Asian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 5/20/10

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

The baby was taken to the hospital emergency room with a head injury. He was airlifted to Children's Hospital due to the severity of his injuries; i.e., closed head injury with skull fracture and an acute intracranial hemorrhage. The parent gave several different explanations as to how the child sustained the injury, including that the child was propped on a pillow and somehow fell out of the crib onto the floor. Medical opinion is that the explanation provided by the parents is medically inconsistent and highly suspicious of child abuse. Law enforcement investigated the incident, but no criminal charges were filed.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child, identifying the maltreater as unknown, but identifying the relationship of the maltreater to the victim as "biological parent(s)." Medical opinion is that the two-week-old baby could not have rolled out of his crib as described.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The baby lives with his parents in their 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:

None

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:

The mother and her family received initial assessment services when the mother was a minor. Both the mother and father received services from the agency when they were minors.

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 agency substantiated physical abuse to the infant by an unknown maltreater. The child was determined to be unsafe in his parents' care and placed with relatives, who supervise the parents' interaction with their child. The family is receiving Ongoing Services.

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 screened in and investigated a report of alleged maltreatment, substantiating physical abuse to the baby by an unknown maltreater. A child in need of protection and services (CHIPS) court order was obtained and the child was placed with relatives. The agency collaborated with law enforcement during the agency's assessment and the criminal investigation. The agency implemented a safety plan where parents' visitation with the child at the hospital and upon returning to relatives is supervised. The family was referred to the Birth-to-Three program and other treatment services. Ongoing Services are being provided.

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

eWiSACWIS needs an enhancement to correct a practice/data issue in cases where maltreatment is substantiated, and the maltreater is unknown. In this case, the system identified a maltreater relationship to the child victim for an "unknown maltreater," which should not be possible.

The Marathon Co. Dept. of Social Services must clearly demonstrate and document safety practice, including assessment of and goals to address parental protective capacities, into the case record. The agency is addressing this finding and is developing a process to enhance safety practice and documentation.

***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.