

Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident Summary Report

Type of Report: 90-Day Final

Case Tracking Number: 100709DSP-PN-32 Agency: Manitowoc Co. Human Services Dept.

Child Information: Age: 7 years Gender: Female Male
Age: 11 years Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None for either child

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

Date of Incident: 7/9/10

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

The two siblings were threatened with bodily harm and severe punishment by their mother if they disclosed to anyone information about their mother's treatment of them. Allegedly, the children were locked in their bedrooms for long periods of time without access to a bathroom or food. It was also alleged that when the children have visible bruises they are kept home from school. It was reported that the bruises have been caused by objects thrown at them and beatings with a baseball bat by their mother. It was also alleged that one child was held under water until he passed out in a bathtub filled with ice, and that both children were forced to witness their mother abusing their cats and threatening that she would do the same thing to them. Reportedly, their mother threatened to kill them, and the children were afraid to sleep at night because she may try to do so. The children have marks on their bodies that are consistent with some of the injuries suffered and described by the children.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to both children by their mother. The children were able to consistently describe the incidents of maltreatment, which were extensive and exceed the number and type of incidents described in the previous section. Some timeframes were provided by the older child, which were challenging to recall due to the frequency of the incidents. The children were examined medically, and their bodies have marks and scars matching the allegations of abuse. Friends and relatives confirmed that the mother is known to have a "temper problem," but she continues to deny the allegations. The mother has been arrested and charged with two counts of Child Abuse - Intentionally Causing Bodily Harm.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The two children lived with their mother.

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:

In 2007, the agency received and screened in two child protective services reports on the family. The allegations were investigated and the family assessed. The family received Ongoing Services from the agency.

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 2007, two reports of alleged neglect to the children by their mother were screened in and investigated. The first report was unsubstantiated, and the second report, which arrived before the first investigation was completed, was substantiated. The agency determined the children to be unsafe in their mother's care. The children were removed and placed with relatives. The family received Ongoing Services, and the children remained with relatives until 2009 when they were reunified with their mother. In 2008, the agency received and screened out a report on the family, and no further action was

taken.

In 2008, the older child's father was alleged to have maltreated an unrelated child. The allegation was substantiated and the father plead guilty to the criminal charge. The case was closed, and no services were provided. This father was not involved with the mother and children at the time of the July 9, 2010 report of maltreatment.

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 two children by their mother. They were removed from her care. The younger child was placed with his biological father and the other was placed with relatives. Services are being provided to the children, and their mother remains incarcerated.

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, investigated and substantiated the alleged maltreatment and determined the children unsafe in their mother's care. The agency collaborated with law enforcement during the investigation. The children received medical treatment. One child was placed with the biological father, and the other child is placed with relatives. The children and their families are receiving Ongoing Services from the agency.

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

None

***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.

This final summary report completes the DSP review of this case.