

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

Case Tracking Number: 100808DSP-PN-38 Agency: Dane County Department of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 14 days Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: White
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 08/07/2010

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

The child was brought to the local hospital emergency room by a non-related caregiver on 08/07/2010 due to a high fever and a seizure. A CT Scan revealed that the infant had possible skull fractures and bleeding on the brain in several places. Due to these findings, the child was transferred to another hospital. It was later determined that the child had three skull fractures and a subdural hematoma that was likely three to five days old. The child was admitted to the hospital as a result of his injuries. Medical personnel determined that the skull fractures were non-accidental and likely caused by impact to the child's head.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by an unknown maltreater. An allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. In the days prior to the child's hospitalization, he had several caregivers. A friend of the mother was caring for the child for a few hours prior to taking him to the hospital. The friend became concerned because the child was sweating and subsequently determined that he had a high fever. The friend also observed the child's arms stiffen and his eyes roll back in his head. The friend contacted the mother and took the child to the emergency room, where the mother later arrived with the father of her two older children. The mother reported that in addition to the friend who brought the child to the hospital, another friend and a relative had cared for the child on at least three occasions in the week preceding the child's hospitalization. Each time the friend or relative cared for the child, the child was with the caregiver for several hours, including overnight. At the conclusion of the initial assesment, no one had admitted causing the child's injuries. Police determined that the mother made inconsistent statements regarding who had been caring for the child and on what dates, as well as her association with the father of her other children. On 11/02/2010, the District Attorney's Office charged the mother with Child Abuse and 1st Degree Reckless Injury related to the injuries sustained by her child.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The mother lived alone with the child. The child has two older half-siblings who are under the guardianship of an unrelated caregiver.

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:

At the time of the incident, the agency was conducting an investigation into allegations of neglect that were reported on 07/30/2010. The worker made contact with the mother and child on 07/30/10 and 08/02/10 and there were no concerns about the mother's care of the child. The mother agreed to a referral for the Welcome Baby program. The investigation was not completed at the time of the current incident.

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 2006, the agency received and screened in a child welfare report that did not require investigation. The mother was referred for services in the community.

In 2007, the agency received and investigated a report alleging neglect of the child's older sibling by the mother. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated and the mother participated in intensive in-home services before the agency

closed the family's case.

In 2008, the agency received and investigated two reports. One report alleged neglect of the child's older sibling by the mother. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the family's case was closed, as the mother was receiving support from an early childhood agency in the community. A second report alleged physical abuse and neglect of the child's older siblings by the mother and biological father of the children. Both allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed. The children were being cared for by an unrelated caregiver at the time the case was closed.

In 2009, a report was received of a non-CPS nature that did not require investigation. The caregiver of the children was offered services and the case was then closed.

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:

See above.

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 screened-in and investigated the allegation of physical abuse to the child. The child was determined to be unsafe, was taken into protective custody, and was placed in foster care, where he remains. The mother is cooperating with the agency. The child's siblings remain with the non-relative caregiver, who has guardianship.

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:

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 that constitutes a substantial failure to protect and promote the welfare of the child.

n/a

*** Summary of actions taken by agency in response to the incident:**

The agency completed an investigation and the allegation of physical abuse to the child by an unknown maltreater was substantiated on 08/18/2010. The 07/30/2010 allegation of neglect by the mother was unsubstantiated. The child was taken into protective custody by the agency and placed in a foster home. The agency is providing services to the family. On 11/02/2010, the District Attorney's office charged the mother with Child Abuse - Intentionally Cause Great Bodily Harm and 1st Degree Reckless Injury.

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

The CPS Manager of the agency noted concerns with the quality of the initial assessment. These concerns are being addressed with supervisors and staff.

***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.