

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

Case Tracking Number: 100809DSP-PN-40 Agency: Dane Co. Department of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 3 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 8/9/10

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

The child was taken to the emergency room by his parents on August 9, 2010. The baby was limp and having trouble breathing. The child was diagnosed with multiple rib fractures, subdural hematoma, perforated bowel, right femur fracture, and multiple bruising to his forehead, torso and knees. The physician stated that he had been injured on more than one occasion. Both parents noticed bruises on the child over the past several weeks and discussed the possibility that they were caused by laying the child on his stomach. The parents are the usual caregivers for the infant. Neither parent admitted to harming the child and are unable to explain the child's injuries.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the infant by an unknown maltreater. Both parents acknowledged having primary caregiving responsibilities for the infant during the period of time in which he sustained injuries. Neither parent has admitted to harming the child. Neglect was substantiated against both parents for their failure to seek medical care for the infant in a timely manner.

The mother reported that she had noticed bruising on the infant for a period of time. According to the mother, the infant had developed diarrhea two days earlier. He was not eating well over the previous 24 hours and had not slept well the previous night. On August 9, she left the infant in the care of the father. The father reported that the baby was fussy the following morning and went limp when he attempted to feed the him. Both parents brought the infant to the ER.

The medical examination determined that the perforated bowel was caused by a hard blow to the stomach or hard squeezing. A two-year-old half-sibling was ruled out as possibly having caused any injuries to the child. The parents reported that both grandmothers had provided care for the infant several weeks ago, but they were the sole caregivers since that time. The mother stated that she was primarily caring for the infant until a week prior when she started working outside the home. At that time, the father assumed primary care during the periods of time that she was at work.

No one has been criminally charged with injuring the child at this time.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The infant resided with both of his parents. The infant has an older half-sibling who also was residing in the home at the time of the incident.

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:

Please see the following section.

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:

During the period 2001-2007, the father's family received services when he was a minor. The family continued to receive services through 2010, although the father was no longer a minor living in that household.

In 2001, two reports requesting services were screened in, and services were provided to the family.

In 2003, fourteen reports requesting services for the father and his sibling were screened in and services were provided.

Also in 2003, the agency received one child protective services report that was screened in and investigated, the allegations were unsubstantiated, and the children were determined safe.

In 2005, eight reports requesting services for the youths were screened in and services provided.

In 2006-2007, five reports requesting services for the youths were screened in and services provided.

Requests for services for this family continued during the period 2008-2010 after the father was no longer a minor in that household.

In 2008 the agency received two child welfare services reports on the father's family at that time (i.e., not the mother and child involved in the current incident). The reports were screened out, and services were offered to the family.

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. Neglect to the infant by his parents also was substantiated because the child did not receive necessary medical care. The infant and his half-sibling were determined unsafe in the care of their parents in this household. The infant and sibling were both examined medically. Both children were removed from their parents' care and placed into foster care. The half-sibling was subsequently returned to the care of his biological mother in her home (i.e., a separate household). The infant was later placed with relatives. Visitation with the child and his sibling is supervised by the agency. The criminal investigation is ongoing.

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 the report of alleged maltreatment, substantiating physical abuse by an unknown maltreater and neglect by the parents. The family was assessed, and the children were determined unsafe in the care of the parents. Both children were examined medically. Both children were removed from the parents and placed into out-of-home care placements. The sibling was returned to his mother in her home, and the infant was later placed with relatives in another county. Visits between the parents and children are supervised. The family will continue to receive Ongoing Services from the agency. The agency is coordinating supervision and services with Jefferson Co. Human Services Dept.

***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.