

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

Case Tracking Number: 101003DSP-PN-55 Agency: Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Child Information: Age: 2 years Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: African American  
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 10/3/10

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

On October 5, 2010, the agency received a report of physical abuse to the two-year-old toddler. The agency and law enforcement visited the home where they found the child to be in need of immediate medical care. He was taken from the home by ambulance to Children's Hospital where he was found to have significant bruising on his face and chest, a cut on his lip, bruising to the front and back of his legs, looped marks on his back and burn marks on his left arm. He had sores both old and new to his buttocks, and his penis was swollen and bruised. Further examination found that he had multiple rib fractures and a fractured right femur. It was determined that the injuries were at different stages of healing and did not all occur at the same time. The child's siblings were forensically interviewed and reported that their mother and her boyfriend were punishing the toddler, describing their actions that resulted in his injuries. The mother has been criminally charged with Child Abuse - Intentional Causion of Great Bodily Harm, one count each of Child Abuse - Intentional Causion of Harm, Neglecting a Child - Consequence is Bodily Harm, and Child Abuse - Failure to Prevent Great Bodily Harm. The boyfriend has been criminally charged with Child Abuse - Intentional Causion of Great Bodily Harm, Strangulation and Suffocation, and Child Abuse - Intentional Causion of Harm.

### Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the toddler by his mother and her boyfriend. The mother was also substantiated for neglect to the child. The child's injuries were medically determined to be intentional and nonaccidental. The family was assessed, and the child was determined unsafe in his mother's care. The siblings provided consistent information about the mother and her boyfriend physically abusing their younger brother. Initially, both adults confessed but later recanted, denying responsibility for causing the injuries. Please see the previous section for material circumstances.

### Additional information for children in home:

#### Description of the child's family:

The child lived with his mother and her boyfriend and has regular contact with his biological father. Also living with the child were two half siblings whose custody was shared by his mother and their father. The mother gave birth to her boyfriend's baby while incarcerated in December 2010.

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 as adults under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years:

In 2003 and 2005, the agency screened in and investigated two reports (one each year) on the injured child's siblings. In 2010 the agency received and screened in three child protective services (CPS) reports on this family. A report alleging physical abuse to the child by his mother was received by the agency in April 2010. The two other 2010 CPS reports were received in response to and following this incident. Please see the following sections for more information.

#### 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 living in this household and the child's parents and alleged maltreater at the age of 18 years or older:

In 2003 and 2005, the agency screened in and investigated two reports on the injured child's siblings. Both of the initial assessments unsubstantiated the maltreatment allegations and determined the children to be safe in their parents' care.

The April 2010 report of alleged physical abuse to the toddler by his mother was screened in and assessed. The report was unsubstantiated and the child was determined to be safe in his mother's care. The mother declined any services, and the agency provided her with community resource information regarding the Family Links and Birth-to-Three programs. Two other CPS reports received in 2010 are reported in the following section.

The last report in 2010 was to inform the agency the incarcerated mother had given birth, and agency services would be required. The agency has initiated a CHIPS order for the toddler and the infant, and the family is receiving services from the agency.

**Summary of any investigation conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the family since the date of the incident:**

On October 5, 2010 the agency screened in the report of the child's injuries and began an initial assessment. On October 6, the agency made a request for another county to conduct an assessment of the toddler's biological father for placement consideration. The placement was determined safe and appropriate, and the agency is providing case management services to facilitate the toddler's integration into his father's home. The initial assessment substantiated physical abuse to the toddler by the mother and her significant other. Neglect to the toddler by the mother was substantiated, and he was determined unsafe in his mother's care. The mother and boyfriend are incarcerated and criminally charged with injuring the child. The child's siblings were allowed to remain with their biological father, and contact with their mother must be supervised.

Another CPS Report occurred when the mother gave birth in December 2010 while incarcerated. The agency initiated a CHIPS proceeding for the infant, placed the infant into foster care, and is assessing potential relatives for placement. The assessment substantiated neglect to the infant by her mother. The agency will continue to provide ongoing case management services to the family.

**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 collaborated with law enforcement to investigate the allegations of maltreatment to the injured child, substantiating physical abuse and neglect. The newborn infant was removed from his parents' care, and action was taken to confirm that the child was safe with his biological father. After the birth of another child in December, the agency initiated a CHIPS proceeding, and placed the infant into foster care. The agency is assessing relatives for placement options and will continue to provide ongoing case management services to the family.

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

The initial assesment is not in compliance with the CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards. The agency is working with the DCF Office of Performance and Quality Assurance to review the case and address identified issues.

**\*Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues:**

Pending

**Statement of Completion:**

Yes  No This 90-day summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Division of Safety and Permanence

\* 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.