

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

Case Tracking Number: 110112DSP-Milw-73 Agency: Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Child Information: Age: 5 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 1/12/11

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

On January 12, 2011 the agency received a report of a deceased 5-month-old baby. The medical examiner determined accidental asphyxiation was the cause of death. The father reported he left the baby and a seven-month-old cousin unattended on an adult bed for approximately 25 minutes. When he returned to the room, he found the cousin lying on top of the unresponsive baby and called 911. Upon further questioning, the father admitted that earlier that day, he had also left both infants unattended in their respective bassinette and crib for approximately 40 minutes while he drove the mother to work and two older half-siblings to school. Another adult was in the home asleep during this time, unaware that the parents had left and the infants were in the home.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency unsubstantiated neglect specific to the baby's death and substantiated neglect to both infants by the deceased child's mother and father. The medical examiner determined the cause of death to be accidental asphyxiation. The father had arranged the bedding and babies to prevent their rolling off the bed. The father had no reason to believe that leaving the babies unsupervised for the period of time he was out of the room would seriously endanger the physical health of either child. However, the parents left the infants unattended in the home for a significant period of time while transporting the family, which put them at substantial risk for harm. Reportedly, the father will be charged with misdemeanor child abuse, but this charge is not currently posted on the Wisconsin Public Records Consolidated Court Automation Program.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The deceased child lived with her parents, a half-sibling, a cousin and another adult. Another half-sibling regularly visited his father at the residence.

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:

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

None

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 collaborated with law enforcement during the investigation of the child's death. The agency unsubstantiated neglect in the child's death and substantiated neglect to both infants by the deceased child's parents. During the assessment workers learned that the children being left unsupervised on January 12, 2011 was not an isolated incident and had

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happened as recently as December 2010. The parents voluntarily placed the children with relatives, and relatives agreed to supervise all of the parents' interaction with the children. The agency assisted both parents with services. At the close of the investigation, neither parent was living with their children while seeking treatment and additional needed services. The children were determined safe in the care of relatives. The case remains open for 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 the report of the child's death. Neglect in the child's death was unsubstantiated, but neglect to both infants by the deceased child's parents was substantiated. The agency worked with the family to arrange relative care for the children, and at the close of the investigation all of the children were determined safe in the care of relatives. The agency assisted the parents with needed services and provides support to the relative caregivers. The case remains open for Ongoing Services case management.

***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.