

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

Case Tracking Number: 110206DSP-Sauk-77 Agency: Sauk County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 1 year Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 2/6/11

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

The agency received a report that a 13-month-old child is deceased, and the suspected cause of death is shaken baby injuries. Reportedly, the father was caring for the child and her half-sibling, and they were with their father in the bathroom. The father explained that when the sibling pulled her sister from a toy, she fell, striking her head on the floor. The sibling then lost her balance and fell on the child's head. After comforting the 13-month-old, the child fell asleep. The mother returned home and later heard the child moaning. The parents immediately took the child to the hospital, where a CT scan revealed brain hemorrhaging. She was transported to Children's Hospital in Madison where she died in surgery. The postmortem exam found two bruises on the child's anterior thighs, and extensive subdural and retinal hemorrhaging. Medical professionals determined that the cause of death was blunt force trauma. The father has been charged with 1st Degree Reckless Homicide.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the deceased child by her father and physical abuse/threatened harm to the child's sibling. The surviving child was determined safe in the care of her mother, who does not live with the father. The parents of the deceased child refused to be interviewed by the agency. After initial interviews with police, they refused to participate in additional interviews with law enforcement. The mother is supporting the father's description of the incident, although she was not present in the home at the time of the child's injuries. The information regarding the alleged events in the home was obtained from police records.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child lived with her mother and father. A half-sibling stayed with the family one day each week and every other weekend.

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 screened in and attempted to investigate the report of the child's injuries and threatened harm to the sibling, but the deceased child's parents refused to cooperate with Child Protective Services. Information was obtained from police records of interviews with the three parents of the two half-siblings and relatives. The agency obtained information directly

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from medical professionals and relatives. The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by her father and physical abuse/threatened harm to the surviving child. There are no other children in the home of the deceased child. The surviving child was determined safe in her mother's care, and the mother is not allowing the father to have unsupervised visits with her. Prior to this incident, the father was pursuing placement rights in family court, but this court action has been tabled. The parents are not receiving further services from the agency.

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 attempted to investigate the allegations regarding the child's death and safety of the surviving child. The agency attempted to collaborate with law enforcement, but primarily obtained information from police records. The agency collaborated with medical professionals and gathered information from medical records. Physical abuse to the deceased child and physical abuse/threatened harm to the surviving child by their father were substantiated. The surviving child was medically examined and no significant injuries were found. The agency worked with the mother of the surviving child and determined the sibling safe in her mother's care. The two families' cases with the agency were closed.

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

The agency met resistance from the local police investigating the case despite an established Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on suspected child abuse cases. The agency will continue to work with law enforcement to improve collaboration.

***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.