

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

Case Tracking Number: 110318DSP-Mani-84 Agency: Manitowoc County Human Services Department

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: 3/18/11

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

On March 18, 2011, the infant was placed into her crib at approximately 9:00 p.m. When her mother checked on her later, she found her face down and unresponsive. She called 911, performing CPR with assistance from the dispatcher. The autopsy concluded that the death was the "sudden, unexpected death of an infant," probably due to Positional Asphyxia. There was no evidence of past or current trauma, significant injuries, birth defects, infection or that the death was the result of non-accidental means. There are no criminal charges in connection with the child's death.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency unsubstantiated maltreatment in the baby's death. The child was fed and placed into her crib on her back around 9:00 p.m. The child recently started rolling over onto her stomach, and the mother found her face down and cold when she checked on her around 12:00 a.m. The findings during investigation are consistent with the autopsy finding of Positional Asphyxia.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The deceased child resided with her mother, father, sibling, half-sibling and a friend of the parents.

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:

On March 16, 2011, the agency screened in an allegation of neglect to two of the three children living in the household at the time. The report was screened in with a response time of within 5 business days. First contact with the family occurred 3 days later on March 19, after the agency received the report of the baby's death.

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:

On March 16, 2011 the agency screened in and investigated a report of neglect to the child in this incident and her sibling. Neglect to these two children by their parents was substantiated. The baby died on March 18, 2011, and the two surviving children were determined safe in the care of their mother and the baby's father.

On January 5, 2011, the agency screened in and investigated an allegation of sexual abuse to the oldest child (i.e., baby's half-sibling) in this family. The agency decided not to complete this initial assessment after the agency received additional information about the allegation that was believed to contradict the earlier report. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the children were determined safe in their parents' care. Last contact with the family occurred on January 20, and the case was closed on March 16, 2011.

On January 4, 2010, the agency screened in and investigated an allegation of sexual abuse to the oldest child. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the children were determined safe in the care of their mother and the father of one of the surviving siblings.

On November 30, 2009, the agency screened in and investigated an allegation of neglect to the oldest child. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the two children in the home were determined safe in the care of their mother and the father of the younger child.

On November 17, 2008, the agency screened in and investigated an allegation of neglect to the oldest child, who was the only child in the family at this time. The allegation was unsubstantiated, and the child was determined safe in the care of her mother and mother's boyfriend (i.e., the future father of the deceased baby and her sibling).

On April 7, 2008, the agency screened in and investigated an allegation of neglect to the oldest child, who was the only child living in the household at this time. Neglect was substantiated, and the child was determined unsafe in her parents' care. The child was placed into out-of-home care placement and reunified with her parents in July, 2008. At the time of this report, this oldest child had a sibling residing in an out-of-home care placement who was adopted by another family in July, 2008. The family had been receiving Ongoing Services from the agency since 2005.

On November 27, 2007, the agency screened in and investigated an allegation of neglect to the oldest child. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the child was determined safe in her parents' care. The family continued to receive Ongoing Services.

On January 26, 2007, Langlade Co. Dept. of Social Services, received and screened in a report of alleged neglect from residents of Langlade County caring for the oldest child, whose parents lived in Manitowoc County. Neglect to the child by her parents was substantiated, and she was determined unsafe in their care. The child was placed into out-of-home care placement and reunified with her parents in February 2007. The family continued to receive Ongoing Services.

On December 11, 2006, the agency screened in and investigated a report of neglect to the oldest child. Neglect was unsubstantiated and the oldest child was determined unsafe in her parents' care. The case was already open, and the family was receiving Ongoing Services from the agency since the removal of the child's sibling from the parents' care in 2005.

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 October 2005, the agency screened in and investigated a report of alleged neglect to the then only child of this mother. The allegation was unsubstantiated, and the child was determined unsafe in her parents' care. The child was placed into out-of-home care and later (2008) adopted. The parents received Ongoing Services while the child was in foster care and after the birth of their second child, who is identified as the "oldest child" in the family of the deceased baby in the current incident.

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 March 16, 2011, the agency screened in and was investigating neglect allegations to the now deceased baby and her sibling. The baby died on March 19, and both the March 16 and March 19 investigations were concluded since the date of the incident. Maltreatment in the baby's death was unsubstantiated, and the surviving sibling and half sibling were determined safe in the care of the baby's parents. The March 16 allegation of neglect was substantiated, and the surviving children were determined safe in the care of the baby's parents. The family continues to receive Ongoing 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 investigated the baby's death, unsubstantiating maltreatment. Another investigation already in progress was concluded after the incident. Neglect to the deceased baby and her sibling was substantiated. The agency collaborated with law enforcement during the initial assessment. The agency implemented a protective plan to ensure the safety of the surviving children during the investigation. At the conclusion of both assessments, the children were determined safe in their parents' care. The family continues to receive Ongoing Services from the agency.

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

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Division of Safety and Permanence

The agency is not in compliance with the CPS Safety Intervention Standards. The DSP is working with the agency on the identified issues.

***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.