

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

Case Tracking Number: 110411DSP-Vern-96 Agency: Vernon County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 2 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 4/11/11

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

On April 11, 2011, the mother called 911 after the child had trouble breathing while the father was caring for her. The child was transported to the hospital and then medflighted to Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. The baby had little brain activity, and was found to have acute and chronic subdural hemorrhage, retinal hemorrhages in both eyes, and a bruise on her left cheek. The parents explained that the morning activities were routine; i.e., feeding, burping and changing the baby. They explained the bruise was caused when the baby had tummy time on a table and bumped her face on the table a few days earlier. On April 15, the baby was removed from life support and died. The cause of death was intracranial bleeding. The baby's injuries were likely caused by nonaccidental trauma, and the criminal investigation is ongoing.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse by an unknown maltreater. The baby is the first child for this couple. The parents did not have the baby immunized or given Vitamin K shots because these are "unnatural things," but this was ruled out as a suspected cause of the brain bleeding. Three weeks earlier, the parents took the baby to the doctor following "small seizures for six days in a row," but refused hospitalization. An electroencephalogram (EEG) was performed and the results were normal. The parents refused a follow-up magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) because the seizures stopped. The mother is the full-time caregiver for the child while the father works outside the home. The father assists with the care of the baby, and a babysitter is used on occasion. Reportedly, the father was observed to be rough with the baby when providing care. He described an incident where the baby at two weeks old hit her head on the window sill while he was changing her, but reported this did not result in bruising or injury.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The baby resided with her mother and father. There are no other children.

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 substantiated physical abuse to the child by an unknown maltreater. The mother was the full-time caregiver, and a babysitter provided occasional care for the infant. The parents disagree with certain types of medical treatment,

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explaining that they prefer holistic, natural remedies. However, they did seek medical care on occasion and provided other basic care for the child. There are no other children in the home. The family declined 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 investigated the death of the child. Physical abuse by an unknown maltreater was substantiated. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the initial assessment. Child protective services are not needed due to no other children in the family. The family declined further services from the agency. Agency staff have continued working with law enforcement on the criminal investigation.

***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.