

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

Case Tracking Number: 110415DSP-Rock-98 Agency: Rock County Human Services Dept.

Child Information: Age: 1 1/2 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: 4/15/11

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

On April 14, 2011, the mother and her children went to a neighbor's home where they spent the night. Other adults joined them, and the adults drank and partied while the children were sleeping. The next morning, the neighbor got up to feed the children and found the child on the couch, gray in color and stiff. The child's mother was no longer at the residence. The adults started CPR and called for an ambulance. The child was pronounced dead at the residence. Reportedly, the child was placed in a bed in another room, but it was not unusual for the child to crawl into bed with his mother during the night. The mother had left the residence and gone to her apartment in the same complex. She did not recall the child sleeping with her on the couch or seeing him there when she left. The cause of death was accidental smothering. No criminal charges were filed.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency unsubstantiated neglect to the child, determining that his death was accidental. The surviving sibling was determined safe. The mother does not recall all of the events of the evening and early morning. The neighbor reported putting all of the children to bed before retiring for the evening. The mother and other adults continued partying while the children were sleeping. There are conflicting accounts of where the child was sleeping. The child's sibling believes that he saw the child with their mother on the couch, as did one of the adults. However, none of the other adults recall this. The child had some influenza, but this did not contribute to his death.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child resided with his mother and half-sibling. The child's father did not spend time with him. The half-sibling would visit his biological father, and on occasion the deceased child would join these visits.

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 unsubstantiated maltreatment in regards to the child's death. The agency assisted the father of the surviving half-sibling to assume primary placement of the child, and the mother has visits with the child. The mother has been referred to services. The case with the agency was closed following the initial assessment.

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 was unsubstantiated, and the death was deemed accidental. The agency collaborated with law enforcement during the investigation. The agency implemented a protective plan, immediately taking custody of the half-sibling and placing him with a relative during the investigation. The court awarded placement of the half-sibling with his biological father, and the agency assisted the father with the process. The mother was referred to services. The half-sibling was determined safe in his father's care, and no other services were needed by the family. The agency closed the case.

***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.