

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

Case Tracking Number: 110427DSP-Milw-103 Agency: Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Child Information: Age: 3 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: 4/27/11

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

The child was taken to the hospital after she was shot in the stomach by her father. Reportedly, the father was playing with a gun while intoxicated and the weapon discharged, striking the child in the stomach. The prognosis for the child was very poor, but she did survive. Conflicting information about the shooting was provided by the parents and another child in the home. Both parents are incarcerated. The father is criminally charged with 1st Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety. The mother is criminally charged with Harboring/Aiding a Felon - Falsifying Information, Felony Possession of a Firearm, and Resisting or Obstructing an Officer. A criminal charge is an allegation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by her father. All of the children in the household were determined unsafe in the care of the injured child's parents. The first report of the incident stated that the mother and child were walking into the house when the gun discharged and the child was shot. A later version of the shooting states that the child was sleeping on the couch in the same room where the father was handling the gun. The mother explained that the father often plays with the gun when he becomes intoxicated but later denied this. A child in the home described the parents as fighting the day of the shooting, but the child is young, and it is unclear what she means by "fighting." The father was hysterical and wouldn't allow the ambulance to take the child, so officers tasered him at the scene. The shooting is considered accidental but caused by the father's reckless behavior. It is suspected that the mother witnessed the shooting but denies it. She provided conflicting and misinformation to law enforcement during the investigation and has been criminally charged as a result.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child resided with her mother, father, a sibling and a half-sibling at the time of the incident.

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:

See following section

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 2008, the agency screened in and investigated an allegation of maltreatment to this child when she was living with her mother and the mother's boyfriend (i.e., not the biological father). The allegation was unsubstantiated, and all of the children in the household at that time were determined safe.

Summary of any investigation conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the family since the date of the incident:

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Division of Safety and Permanence

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by her father. The children in the household were determined unsafe in the care of the child's parents. The father accidentally shot the child while playing with a gun, but the details of the incident provided by family members vary. The children have been removed from the care of these adults and placed with relatives. Both parents were incarcerated. The children, relatives and parents are receiving Ongoing Services case management 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 report of the shooting. Physical abuse to the injured child by her father was substantiated. The children were determined unsafe and removed from the care of these adults. The agency worked with the parents to identify and place the children with relatives. The children, relatives and incarcerated parents are receiving Ongoing Services from the agency.

***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.