

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

Case Tracking Number: 110430DSP-Outag-106 Agency: Outagamie County Dept. of Health & Human Services

Child Information: Age: 9 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 4/30/11

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

On April 30, 2011 the child was taken to the local hospital when her mother and mother's boyfriend noticed her left leg was significantly swollen. The child had a fractured femur, which was determined to have been caused by a great deal of force. The injury to her leg likely occurred 24-36 hours prior to the swelling. Further medical examination at Children's Hospital in Neenah showed that she also had a skull fracture. The mother speculated about different ways the child's leg was fractured, but the couple was unable to provide a plausible explanation for either injury. No criminal charges have been filed in connection with these injuries.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated the child's current injuries as physical abuse by an unknown maltreater. The agency also substantiated abuse to the child by the mother's boyfriend for injuries received prior to this incident. The mother was substantiated for neglect. In the few days prior to seeking medical care, the mother and boyfriend were the only caregivers for the child. The mother expressed concern that her boyfriend may have caused the child's current injuries, but during subsequent interviews there were discrepancies in her possible explanations for the fractured leg. The child was determined unsafe in the care of her mother and placed with her father in another county.

In January 2011, the mother took a photograph of her child's face after learning that her boyfriend had struck her in the face, leaving a large handprint bruise on the right side of her face and nose. The photograph also shows a bruise on the right side of the child's forehead. The boyfriend explained to the mother that he was attempting to swat the cat away from the baby and accidentally hit the baby's face. The mother was concerned but eventually believed her boyfriend's explanation. Approximately a month later, the baby had a large bruise and teeth marks on her cheek. The boyfriend explained that he kissed her too hard, accidentally causing the injury. The agency determined that the mother is unable to protect her child and removed her from her care.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The baby resided with her mother and the mother's boyfriend at the time of the incident. She had occasional visits with her father, who lives in a different county.

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

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Division of Safety and Permanence

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 by an unknown maltreater. The agency also substantiated physical abuse by the boyfriend and neglect by the child's mother. The child was usually cared for by the mother and boyfriend, and neither adult will take responsibility for the child's current injuries. The mother described previous injuries to the child by the boyfriend, producing a photograph of one of these incidents. The child was removed from the mother's care and placed with her biological father. The mother's visits with the child are supervised. The mother and father are receiving services from the agencies in both counties. The case is open for Ongoing Services case management.

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 maltreatment allegation regarding the child's current injuries. Current and past injuries to the child were determined maltreatment, and physical abuse and neglect were substantiated. The child was determined unsafe in her mother's care. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the initial assessment. A no-contact order preventing the boyfriend from having contact with the child was initiated. The agency arranged placement with the father in another county, collaborating with the local county agency. Supervision is required during the mother's visits with the child. The family has been referred to services, and the case remains open with 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.