

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

Case Tracking Number: 110518DSP-Monr-109 Agency: Monroe County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 1 1/2 years Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Hispanic
Special needs: None prior to incident

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

Date of Incident: 5/18/11

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

On 5/18/11 an ambulance was called to the child's home because the child lost consciousness. The child had multiple bruises on his body. The medical examination found that the child had a traumatic brain injury with intracranial and retinal hemorrhaging, likely caused by shaking or multiple blows to the head. There were abrasions on both sides of his neck consistent with strangulation. The multiple bruises were both old and new. Reportedly, the mother's boyfriend was bathing the child, and when he attempted to dress him, the child fell and hit the back of his head on the heat register. The mother explained that the child is very active, constantly falling down and getting into "fights" with his older sibling. None of these explanations are plausible for such serious injuries. The boyfriend has been criminally charged with Neglecting a Child - Consequence is Bodily Harm, Child Abuse - Intentional Causation of Great Bodily Harm, three drug-related charges, and Intentional Contribute to the Delinquency of a Child. The mother has been criminally charged with Neglecting a Child - Consequence is Bodily Harm, three drug-related charges, and Intentional Contribute to the Delinquency of a Child.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by the mother's boyfriend and neglect to the child by his mother. Both children were determined unsafe in the care of their mother. Both the mother and her boyfriend were home at the time of the head injury. The sibling was with a relative at this time. The boyfriend admitted being "irritated" with the child, but that he never meant to "hurt the kid." He described the child as refusing to listen. He explained he was trying to teach him a lesson on how to "sit back" and "look behind him" when he "tapped" the child on his chest to punish him, and he fell. When he picked him up, the child began convulsing, became unresponsive, and an ambulance was called. Relatives interviewed during the initial assessment reported noticing more bumps and bruises on the child after the boyfriend moved in with the family. The relative reportedly told the mother to take the child to the doctor after observing these previous injuries, but she did not. The mother believes that the child is "klutzy," may bruise easily, and that her boyfriend did not injure the child.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child resided with his older sibling, mother and mother's boyfriend at the time of the incident. Both children had regular visits with their father in his home. The older child was staying with a relative when the child was hurt.

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:

Please see the 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 April 2011, the agency screened in a report for child welfare rather than child protective services. The worker met with

the family several times and provided them with information on community resources. The case was closed.

In June 2007, the agency screened in and investigated an allegation of maltreatment to the older child. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the child was determined safe. The mother was provided with information about community resources, and the case was closed.

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 and neglect to the child. Due to the severity of the injuries and the mother's lack of protective capacities, both the injured child and his sibling were taken into Temporary Physical Custody and placed with relatives. The mother's visits with the child are supervised. The mother has been referred to needed services. The child's health continues to be monitored, and he has been referred to services. All of the involved family members are receiving support and services through from the agency. 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 report of serious injuries to the child. Physical abuse by the boyfriend and neglect by the mother were substantiated. Both children were determined unsafe in their mother's care. A protective plan was implemented, and the agency took custody of both children. The injured child was first placed in foster care and then placed with his father and older sibling. The mother's visits with the children are supervised. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professional during the initial assessment. The agency has referred family members to needed services. The case is open for Ongoing Services.

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

The initial assessment is not in full compliance with the CPS Access and Initial Assessment 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.