

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

Case Tracking Number: 110521DSP-Grant-110 Agency: Grant County Dept. of Social Services

Child Information: Age: 7 weeks Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 5/21/11

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

The baby was taken to the hospital by the mother and her boyfriend because she was colicky for the past two weeks. The child was found to have a fractured femur that was described as "completely broken" into two pieces. The baby was transported by ambulance to another hospital, where it was learned she also had a fractured clavicle and small bruises on her cheek and right shoulder. It was estimated that the clavicle was broken 2-4 weeks earlier, and the femur fracture occurred within the past 2-7 days. The mother explained that she had tripped over a dog leash two weeks earlier and fell while holding the baby, which may possibly explain the broken clavicle. None of the explanations offered for the broken femur and bruises were plausible. The femur fracture was medically assessed as nonaccidental trauma. The child was quite fussy for two weeks prior, probably due to the undiagnosed clavicle fracture. According to the mother, she was the only person providing care for the child during the period when the femur fracture and bruising occurred. The initial assessment concluded that most likely the mother became frustrated by the child's crying and handled her in a manner that caused these injuries. No criminal charges have been filed in connection with the child's injuries.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by the mother. The child was determined unsafe in the care of her mother. The mother and boyfriend were unable to explain some of the injuries, and based on medical opinion, the child's broken leg and bruises were caused by nonaccidental trauma. The child was in the care of the mother during the period in which these two injuries occurred. Medical records gathered during the assessment indicated that the mother had taken the baby to the doctor two weeks earlier, reportedly after she tripped on the dogs' leashes and fell with the baby. The doctor felt the clavicle injury could have occurred this way. During the baby's hospital stay, the mother was observed being frustrated with the infant, yelling at her and handling her roughly in spite of her injuries. The assessment concluded that the mother caused the child's injuries while caring for the fussy baby at home.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The baby resided with her mother and her mother's boyfriend at the time of the incident. The baby's father has not been identified. The mother shares custody of a half-sibling, who splits time between this household and the biological father's home. The boyfriend has a child that stays with the family one weekend per month.

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:

None

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:

Two CPS Reports were received and screened in on the half-sibling's father's family prior to her birth. In 2004, the agency

substantiated physical abuse to one of her (future) siblings by the father's significant other (i.e., not this mother) at that time. The children were removed from the home during the initial assessment and later returned to their father.

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 her mother. A protective plan was implemented, and upon discharge from the hospital the child went to a foster home. During the initial assessment and while receiving Ongoing Services, the mother and her boyfriend had supervised visits with the baby at the foster home. During reunification, the visits with the child were moved to the couple's home, and the boyfriend began to supervise all of the mother's interactions with the child. The mother agreed to participate in all of the services recommended by the agency. The child was reunified. The mother and boyfriend married, and the child is being adopted by the boyfriend. The case remains open with the agency 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 injuries to the baby, collaborating with law enforcement and medical professionals. Physical abuse by the mother was substantiated. The child was determined unsafe in the care of her mother and mother's boyfriend. The agency placed the child into foster care, and the half-sibling remained with her biological father during the assessment. Visits with the child, mother and boyfriend were supervised. The mother was referred to and participated in needed services. The child was reunified, starting with extended visits in the couple's home. The boyfriend then assumed supervision of the mother's interactions with the child. The couple married, and the agency is assisting the family with adoption by the child's now stepfather. The case remains open for Ongoing Services case management.

***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.