

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

Case Tracking Number: 110623DSP-Dane-119 Agency: Dane County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 2 months Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: African American  
Special needs: None prior to incident

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

Date of Incident: 6/23/11

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

The baby was taken to the emergency room after his father found him limp, unresponsive and gasping for breath. The baby was transferred to Children's Hospital in Madison. He was found to have a serious head injury, later diagnosed as abusive head trauma due to shaking without impact. In addition to the current injury, older subdural blood collection was noted, which likely indicates previous head trauma. Reportedly, on 6/22/11 the father picked up the baby from the mother's home because the baby was irritable, and the mother needed a break. The baby was with the father and his girlfriend on 6/23/11. The father explained that the baby fell asleep in his car seat, and when he checked on him an hour later he found him unresponsive. Later the father confessed to violently shaking the baby when he became frustrated with the baby's crying. The father has been criminally charged with 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Reckless Injury.

### Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency conducted initial assessments on both parents' households. Physical abuse to the baby by his father was substantiated, and physical abuse to the baby by an unknown maltreater was substantiated. Maltreatment to the baby by his mother was unsubstantiated. The injured child and a sibling were determined unsafe in their mother's care. Both parents described the baby as fussy and that he cries a lot due to constipation. While attempting to understand or explain his injuries, the mother offered four possible instances where the child's head was "bumped" while in her care. The father described the child's head being accidentally "bumped" while he was caring for him. On June 22, the father picked up the baby after the mother asked for a break because the baby was very irritable; i.e., "crying, fussy, and does not want to be touched." The child fell asleep in his car seat when the father gave a friend a ride to work, and he left him in his car seat while sleeping. Reportedly, he checked on the baby after an hour. He found that the baby had spit up and could not be awakened. He then took the child to the emergency room, where it was learned that that child had previous head injuries in addition to the current serious injury. During the assessment, the agency learned that the child had several different adults in both households caring for him. Both the injured child and his sibling were determined unsafe in their mother's care.

### Additional information for children in home:

#### Description of the child's family:

The child lived with his mother, an older half-sibling and two of the mother's relatives. He had regular visits with his father at the father's home, where the father's girlfriend and a friend also resided. The father has another child that lives out of state that he visits occasionally.

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:

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 conducted two initial assessments, one on each parent and household. The child was found to have current and previous injuries. The current injury was caused by his father shaking him; the previous injuries could not be explained by either parent or other caregivers of the child. The abusive head trauma caused severe, permanent brain damage. Physical abuse by his father and by an unknown maltreater were substantiated. The child and a sibling were determined unsafe in their mother's care. The sibling was medically examined and found to have no injuries. Medical records obtained on the sibling found that the child did have a medical history of injuries starting when he was around 3 months old. The sibling was placed with a relative and upon discharge from the hospital, the injured child was placed into foster care. The mother's visits with the children are supervised. The father's case was closed following the initial assessment. The mother's case remains open for Ongoing Services case management, and the father is able receive services under the mother's case in the future.

**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 the allegation of physical abuse to the child and conducted two initial assessments on the parents' households. Agency staff collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the assessment. A protective plan was implementing, requiring that the sibling be placed with a relative and visits with family members supervised. The injured child was placed into foster care upon discharge from the hospital. Visits with his parents are supervised. Both children were referred to services. A safety plan remains in place for the injured child who now has intensive care needs. The agency is working with the family on reunification of the children with their mother. The mother's case remains open for Ongoing Services.

**\*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.