

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

Case Tracking Number: 110628DSP-Doug-121 Agency: Douglas County Dept. of Health & Human Services

Child Information: Age: 11 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 6/28/11

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

After finding the child unresponsive in his crib, the boyfriend began cardiopulmonary resuscitation and called for assistance. The child was stiff, cold, blue, bruised and had a distended stomach. He was determined deceased at his home. The child's sibling had multiple bruises to his face, head, chin, ear and upper back at the time of his sibling's death. None of the adults provided plausible explanations for the children's injuries. The deceased child had significant bruising to his face and head and sustained an internal stomach laceration, likely caused by blunt force trauma. Septic pooling in the body cavity caused the child's death. A penny was found inside the child outside of his stomach area, and there is conflicting medical opinions about the penny causing the laceration or traveling through the laceration after it occurred. Medical professionals agree that the child would have been in tremendous pain, showing undeniable signs of distress. Upon return of all of the autopsy results, law enforcement will take the entire case file for a medical consult. No criminal charges have been filed at this time.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the deceased child by the mother's boyfriend and neglect to the deceased child by the boyfriend and a relative of the boyfriend living in the home. Physical abuse and neglect of the sibling by the boyfriend was substantiated. Neglect of the sibling by the relative was also substantiated. The surviving child was determined unsafe. The mother arranged for the children to be cared for by her boyfriend while she was incarcerated. Several other adults who are not related to the children were also staying in the children's home. The children were put to bed in the basement, where the deceased child slept in a crib and the sibling slept on a mattress on the floor. Reportedly, the boyfriend awoke and attended to the deceased child who was crying around 2:00 a.m. When he checked on the child later that morning, he was unresponsive.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child and a half-sibling resided with their mother's boyfriend and relatives of the boyfriend while the mother was incarcerated. The deceased child's father was not involved with the child, and the sibling's father occasionally had visits with his child prior to this 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:

The agency screened in 1 report in 2009 and 2 reports in 2010 for child welfare rather than child protective services. Each time attempts to contact the mother were unsuccessful, and the case was closed.

Also in 2010, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging neglect of the 2 children. Workers again were unable to locate the family.

On March 24, 2011, the agency screened in and investigated a CPS Report of neglect to the mother's two children and the boyfriend's child. Neglect was unsubstantiated and the children were determined safe. The case was closed.

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:

See previous section

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 deceased child and his sibling by the mother's boyfriend. Neglect to both children by the boyfriend and a relative of the boyfriend was also substantiated. The surviving child was determined unsafe and placed with his biological father. The agency worked with the sibling's father to arrange and determine safety of the placement. The mother is pregnant and continues her relationship with the boyfriend. The mother's visits with the sibling are supervised. The child and family members have been referred to services. The case remains 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 the child's death. Physical abuse to both children by Mother's boyfriend was substantiated. Neglect to both children by the boyfriend and a relative was also substantiated. The sibling was determined unsafe and placed with his biological father. Agency staff collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the initial assessment. They arranged placement of the sibling with his father, assessing the father's household. The mother's visits with the child are supervised. The agency referred the child and family members to needed services. The agency conducted an internal review of this case. The families continue to receive Ongoing Services from the agency.

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

The agency identified the need to enhance its practice in the area of unborn child abuse.

***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.