

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

Case Tracking Number: 110630DSP-Dane-122 Agency: Dane County Department of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 3 years Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Hispanic
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 6/30/11

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

The child was taken to the emergency room when the mother's boyfriend found him limp and unresponsive. The child had a massive head bleed and bruising on his neck, ear, hip, elbow and arm. The mother and boyfriend explained that the child had fallen on two separate occasions, but medical opinion was that the injuries were nonaccidental. The mother later confessed that she became angry with the child the morning of June 30 and threw him into the wall. She then struck him across the face, and he asked her not to hit him anymore. The boyfriend returned from his job and cared for the child and the child's half-sibling while their mother was working. When the child appeared to have fainted, he called the mother at work and together they took the child to the emergency room. On July 1, the mother confessed to law enforcement that she had injured the child. The child died on July 3, 2011. The mother has been criminally charged with 1st Degree Reckless Homicide.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by his mother. The child's sibling was determined unsafe in the care of the boyfriend, who is also the sibling's biological father. The mother confessed to the incident that resulted in the child's fatal injuries. She also described an incident that happened a few weeks earlier when she threw the child into the wall. Reportedly, prior to this incident the boyfriend had told the mother to stop physically striking the child, which she agreed was wrong, but continued to strike the child when she was angry with him. While caring for the child on June 30, the boyfriend was unaware of the child's injuries. He knew that the child was not feeling well, but it was not until he became unresponsive that he sought medical care. During the car ride to the hospital, the mother told her boyfriend what had happened, but both adults withheld this information while the child was receiving emergency care.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child resided with his mother, her boyfriend, and his half-sibling. The child did not see his father who has lived in another country since the child was 5 months old.

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

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 by the mother. The surviving sibling was determined unsafe

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in the care of his father, the mother's boyfriend. The couple did not disclose what really happened to the child until the mother confessed. The sibling did not have any injuries. The agency took temporary physical custody of the sibling, placing the child into foster care where visits with his father are supervised. The mother remains incarcerated. 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, substantiating physical abuse by the mother. The surviving sibling was determined unsafe in his father's care. The agency implemented a protective plan, removing and placing the sibling into foster care. They ensured that the surviving child was medically examined. The agency arranged supervised visits between the sibling and his father. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the initial assessment. The case is open with the agency, and the family continues to receive 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.