

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

Case Tracking Number: 110712DSP-Milw-128 Agency: Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Child Information: Age: 2 years Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Hispanic/African American
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 7/12/11

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

The child was found deceased on the floor of her mother's boyfriend's home the morning of 7/12/11. The cause of death was a perforated intestine. The child also had bumps on her head, blisters on her feet, a boil on her buttocks, suspicious bruises, older rib fractures and a broken hand. The mother explained that the child had fallen down a few wooden stairs on the front porch, but seemed fine afterward. The child's injuries did not match the explanation. The death was ruled a homicide. The mother has been criminally charged with one count of Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Death) and two counts of Child Abuse-Fail/Prevent Bodily Harm. The mother's boyfriend has been criminally charged with four counts of Child Abuse-Intentionally Cause Harm. A criminal charge is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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 the mother. The child's siblings were determined unsafe in the care of their mother. The mother explained that on July 11, the child had fallen down some steps. Later in the day, the child was vomiting and sweating. The mother's home didn't have air conditioning, so the mother contacted her boyfriend to pick up and take the child to his home where she may be more comfortable. The child continued to be restless and vomit, and she was placed on the floor to rest. The mother and boyfriend left the child with relatives of the boyfriend for the evening. When the child was checked on in the morning, she was dead.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child lived with her mother and three siblings, and the mother's boyfriend regularly stayed with them. The children's father had occasional visits with them.

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:

On 6/1/11, the agency screened in a report of alleged neglect of one of the siblings by the mother. The initial assessment was in progress when the agency received the report of the child's death. The last face-to-face contact with the family prior to the death occurred on June 8, 2011. This allegation of neglect to the sibling was unsubstantiated.

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:

See 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 2006, three reports of alleged maltreatment were screened in and investigated. All of the initial assessments unsubstantiated the maltreatment, the child was determined safe, and the case was closed. The mother was connected to services.

In 2009, one report of alleged maltreatment was screened in and investigated. The maltreatment was unsubstantiated and the children were determined safe. Mother was already receiving community services, and the case was closed.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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In 2010, one report of alleged maltreatment was screened in and investigated. The maltreatment was unsubstantiated, the children were determined safe, and the mother was referred to a needed community service.

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 the boyfriend and neglect by the mother. The children were determined unsafe in their mother's care. The mother said that the child fell down a few steps, but the injuries did not match up with this explanation. The child's death was ruled a homicide. A sibling was observed to have multiple, suspicious healed marks on his body at the time of the child's death. Several family members reported that there was domestic violence in the home and that the mother's boyfriend often hit the children, all of which the mother denied. The surviving children were removed from their mother's care and placed with relatives. The children were later moved to a foster home. The mother's and father's visits with the children are supervised. 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 the child's death, substantiating physical abuse by the boyfriend and neglect by the mother. The agency took protective custody of the surviving children and placed them with relatives. They later moved the children to a foster home. The parents' visits with the children are supervised. The family continues to receive Ongoing Services from the agency.

***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.