

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

Case Tracking Number: 110713DSP-LaCr-127 Agency: LaCrosse County Human Services Department

Child Information: Age: 21 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None prior to the incident

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

Date of Incident: July 13, 2011

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

The child was taken to the emergency room, reportedly after falling down the stairs. The child had a skull fracture, traumatic brain injury, bruising to her abdomen and behind her ear, and a torn frenulum. The father's girlfriend who was watching the child did not see the fall, and reported finding her shaking and screaming at the bottom of the stairs. Medical professionals indicated they could not rule out nonaccidental trauma due to the nature and extent of the injuries, which are suspicious. The girlfriend has been criminally charged with Neglecting a Child - Consequence is Great Bodily Harm.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated neglect to the child by the father's girlfriend, and she was determined unsafe in the care of her parents and the girlfriend. The child was being cared for by the father's girlfriend while he was working. Reportedly, the child has fallen down the stairs on several occasions, but the father and girlfriend did not take action to prevent more falls. The fall down the stairs may not have caused all of the injuries, some of which appeared to be older. The father has indicated that he believes his girlfriend's explanation that his child's injuries were accidental.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child lives primarily with her mother and a younger sibling. She has regular visits with her father, the father's girlfriend and the girlfriend's child in the father's home.

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:

Mother:

In December 2010, the agency screened in and investigated a CPS Report involving the child, her sibling, mother, and the mother's boyfriend at that time. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the children were determined safe. The case was closed.

In March 2011, the agency screened in a child welfare services report. After meeting with the mother to assess the family for needed services, the mother became unresponsive and could not be reached. The case was closed.

Father's girlfriend:

In August 2010, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging maltreatment to a child living in the same household as the girlfriend and her child. The adults in the household refused to cooperate during the initial assessment and the case was closed with the finding, "Unable to locate source." The children in the household were determined safe.

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 neglect to the child by the girlfriend and determined the child unsafe in the care of her parents and the girlfriend. During the initial assessment the agency required supervision of the girlfriend's interaction with her own child. The girlfriend and father deny that the child was maltreated, insisting that the injuries were caused by an accidental fall down the stairs. The child may have permanent damage and is at serious risk if her head becomes reinjured. The safety assessment concluded that her parents may be unable to provide adequate supervision to protect their child due to her exceptional needs at this time, and parental interaction is supervised. The parents and girlfriend have been referred to needed services. Their cases are 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 injuries to the child. Neglect to the child by the father's girlfriend was substantiated, and the child was determined unsafe in her parents' care. A protective plan was implemented during the assessment, requiring supervision of the girlfriend's interactions with her child. A safety plan was implemented requiring that the child is supervised while in the care of her mother and father. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the assessment. The assessment identified needed services, and the families were referred to appropriate resources. Both households are receiving Ongoing Services case management from the agency.

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

The initial assessment is not in full compliance with the CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards. The DSP is working with the agency to address the identified issues.

***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.