

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

Case Tracking Number: 110804DSP-Rock-133 Agency: Rock County Human Services Dept.

Child Information: Age: 10 years Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian  
Special needs: Cerebral Palsy

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

Date of Incident: 8/4/11

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

Paramedics responded to the home after the mother found her child floating in the bathtub. Reportedly, the mother was bathing the child when she left him unattended for approximately 5 minutes. The child has special needs and received muscle treatments in a warm bath. The child was placed in the tub in an inflatable bath chair. When she returned to the bathroom, the water had reached the top of the bathtub, and the child was floating with his bath chair on top of him. His mother pulled him from the water, started CPR and called 911. The mother provided different explanations about why she left the bathroom. She also suggested that he may have had a seizure, causing him to flip over in the chair. No criminal charges have been filed in connection with the child's death.

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

The agency substantiated neglect to the deceased child and his sibling by their mother. The child's sibling was determined safe in the mother's care. The mother reported that she left the child unattended in the bathroom to have a telephone conversation with her boyfriend. She then explained that she heard her other child scream in the backyard and went out to attend to the child. The mother also admitted to leaving the child briefly unattended on other occasions. Also at this time there were reported concerns regarding the condition of the house, and the mother's supervision of her other child.

### Additional information for children in home:

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

The child resided with his mother and sibling. The children's father did not have contact with the 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:

The agency screened in a CPS Report on 6/30/11 and had completed but had not yet closed the initial assessment. The allegation of neglect to both children in the household was unsubstantiated. The mother was offered but declined services from the agency. The agency's last contact with the mother prior to this incident occurred by telephone on July 27, 2011.

#### 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 previous 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:

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 neglect to the deceased child and his sibling by their mother. The mother was a full time caregiver for both of her children, and meeting her son's special needs was demanding and time consuming. However, when recently offered services prior to the child's death, she declined them. Immediately following the child's death, the sibling was taken to stay with relatives in other states. The mother and relatives did not cooperate with Rock County CPS

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during this investigation. The agency made child welfare referrals to the two states where the child was taken, each time requesting assistance to check on the surviving child, which did occur. Reports received indicated that the surviving child was observed and appeared healthy and safe. The last case contact occurred in September, and the mother was planning to move out-of-state to live with her child and relatives. The agency closed the case.

**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 report of the child's death, substantiating neglect to the child and his sibling by their mother. The agency collaborated with law enforcement during the initial assessment. Agency workers requested assistance from two other states where the surviving sibling was taken following the brother's death. Multiple collateral contacts were made to collect information about the family because the mother and relatives were uncooperative. Medical records were obtained to collect additional information about the deceased child. The sibling was determined safe following CPS contacts in another state where the family's case was opened. Rock County HSD closed the case.

**\*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.