

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

Case Tracking Number: 110805DSP-Dane-134 Agency: Dane County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 3 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian/Hispanic
Special needs: Newborn methadone-related withdrawal symptoms

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

Date of Incident: 8/5/11

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

When the mother checked on the baby in the morning, she found her face down in bed, not breathing and without a pulse. The parents started CPR and called 911. She was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. Reportedly, the baby had a history of medical concerns, and the parents had been cautioned that the baby should not sleep on her stomach. The preliminary autopsy report indicates the baby's death is likely due to positional asphyxia. No criminal charges have been filed in connection with the death.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency unsubstantiated neglect to the infant by her parents. The mother shares custody of two older children with the children's biological fathers, and these half-siblings were determined safe in the couple's care. The infant was born methadone dependent and spent a month in the hospital, but there were no current medical concerns. The parents were cautioned that the baby should not sleep face down, but continued to place her on her stomach to sleep, stating that she was more content in that position. The baby had taken formula around 12:00 a.m. and woke again briefly around 3:30 a.m. on August 5. The mother found her unresponsive after 8:00 a.m. when she checked on her. The baby's half-siblings were not with the family at the time of her death.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The infant lived with her mother and father. Two half-siblings live with their other biological fathers, having occasional visits with the couple and the baby.

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 May 12, 2011 the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant. The initial assessment determined that the allegation was unsubstantiated. The agency offered assistance to the parents, which they declined. The last contact with the family by the agency worker occurred with the infant's father on 7/14/11.

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:

In 2007, the agency screened in 3 CPS Reports alleging neglect by the mother. All of the allegations were unsubstantiated and the child living with the mother at that time was determined safe. The mother declined services, and the case was closed.

In 2008, the agency screened in a report for child welfare services for the father, his girlfriend at that time and the girlfriend's child. The agency met with the family, and no services were needed.

May 6, 2011 the agency screened in a report for child welfare services. Prior to making contact with the parents, the agency received a second report (May 12) that was screened in for CPS and conducted an initial assessment. (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:

See above

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 unsubstantiated neglect to the deceased infant. Her half-siblings reside primarily with their fathers and were determined safe in their mother's care during their visits with her. During the investigation, the agency required supervised visitation between the mother and her other children. The mother violated the conditions of this protective plan and refused in-home services during the assessment. When the assessment concluded, the parents were referred to services, and the case was closed.

On October 17, 2011 the agency screened in a report of alleged neglect to one of the mother's children by the mother. Neglect was unsubstantiated, and the children were determined safe. The mother refused further contact with the worker, and agency closed the case.

On January 5, 2012, the agency screened in a CPS Report. The initial assessment is pending.

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 infant's death. A protective plan requiring supervised visitation was implemented for the half-siblings that visited with their mother and the infant's father. Services to the parents were offered but declined. The agency 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.