

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

Case Tracking Number: 110818DSP-Sauk-139 Agency: Sauk County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 4 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 8/18/11

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

The caregiver of the baby called 911, reportedly when she heard the infant making gurgling noises and having difficulty breathing. Paramedics arrived and were able to revive the child, taking her to the local hospital. She was medflighted to Children's Hospital in Madison with a poor prognosis for survival. The cause of death was a fatal blow to the head. The child was found to have 3 skull fractures, multiple bruising on her scalp, abdomen and back, a previously fractured and refractured tibia, broken right clavicle, shocked bowel, and shocked spleen, in addition to other injuries with evidence of healing and recent trauma. The caregiver explained that she had tossed/dropped the baby on the bed, and the child bounced into the night stand, which does not explain all or the extent of the injuries. The caregiver has been criminally charged with 1st Degree Intentional Homicide. It was determined that the fatal injury occurred shortly before the child's death, but some of the other injuries were determined to be up to or more than 10 days old.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the infant by the caregiver. The caregiver's children were determined safe with the caregiver's significant other. The caregiver was a friend of the mother who provided regular care for the baby. She was caring for the infant for several days prior to the child's death. The mother would stop in occasionally to visit and then leave again. The mother was contacted by the police and informed about the critical condition of the infant. The mother also reported speaking with her friend, who was hysterical while explaining that she found the baby choking and tried to help her. The caregiver provided the explanation that she had tossed/dropped the baby on the bed, and the baby bounced into the night stand. She could not provide any explanations for the additional injuries. Reportedly, the mother left the child in the care of numerous people over the child's life.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The infant lived with her mother and was not involved with her father.

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:

Alleged maltreater: The agency received and screened in a child welfare services report on the caregiver's family on 5/24/11. A home visit with the family occurred on 6/10/11. Services were offered. No other contacts occurred, and the services to the family were completed, but the agency did not close the case prior to the report of the child's death.

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:

Alleged maltreater:

5/24/11 (see previous section)

On 9/10/09 the agency screened in a report alleging medical neglect, which was unsubstantiated. The agency offered services, which the family declined.

On 7/14/08 the agency screened in a child welfare report. The worker met with the family and offered services. The case was closed.

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 screened in the report of the child's significant injuries and death under both the mother's and caregiver's cases. Physical abuse to the infant by the caregiver was substantiated. There were no other children by this mother. Alleged physical abuse and sexual abuse to the caregiver's children was unsubstantiated. The children were determined safe in the care of the mother's significant other, who is the father of two of the four children. The caregiver was incarcerated, and the agency provided services to her significant other who was providing care for three of the children. The oldest child of the mother went to live with relatives. The agency closed both cases following the initial assessments.

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 maltreatment by the caregiver. An initial assessment was conducted with both the mother's and caregiver's families. Maltreatment to the caregiver's children was unsubstantiated, and the children were determined safe with the mother's significant other. The agency collaborated with medical professionals and law enforcement during the assessments. Services were offered to both families. The agency closed the cases following the initial assessment.

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

The DSP identified a practice issue regarding the maltreatment determinations in the initial assessment and is working with the agency on the finding.

***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.