

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

Case Tracking Number: 110824DSP-Dane-141 Agency: Dane County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 2 months Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian  
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 8/24/11

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

Reportedly, after his mother found the baby not breathing, the parents called 911 and he was taken to the emergency room. The baby suffered a fatal head injury, rib fractures, and bruising to his abdomen. The mother initially explained that the baby's older sibling dropped him. She then explained that she picked up the baby to get him a bottle, tripped, fell and landed on him. It was determined that the death was caused by unexplained, nonaccidental injuries and is considered a homicide. The mother has been criminally charged with 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Reckless Homicide.

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

Physical abuse to the infant by an unknown maltreater was substantiated. Neglect to the infant and his sibling by both parents was substantiated. Both parents contend that the baby's death was an accident. The parents explained that they were at home drinking on August 23, 2011. Reportedly, the father went to bed around 9:00 p.m., and the mother fell asleep on the couch with the children. The mother explained that she woke up between 12:30-1:00 a.m., picked up the baby and tripped, causing her to drop him and fall. She ran to tell her husband and started CPR while he called 911. Medical opinion is that the extent of the injuries do not match the explanation, and the baby's injuries remain unexplained. Neglect was substantiated due to the parents' admitted drinking and inability to care for the infant and sibling.

### Additional information for children in home:

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

The baby lived with his older sibling and parents.

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:**

None

**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 physical abuse to the infant by an unknown maltreater and neglect to both children by their parents. The surviving child was determined unsafe in her parents' care. The parents admitted to drinking the evening prior to the baby's death and insist that the child's injuries were accidental. The sibling was placed with a relative, and the parents' visits with the child are supervised. The case remains open 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 serious injuries and subsequent death. Physical abuse to the infant by an unknown maltreater was substantiated, and neglect to both children by their parents was substantiated. The surviving sibling was determined unsafe in the parents' care. The agency implemented a protective plan, immediately placing the child with relatives and requiring supervised visits between the child and parents. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the initial assessment. The sibling remains in placement with relatives, and the family receives 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.