

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

Case Tracking Number: 110828DSP-Dane-144 Agency: Dane County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 4 years Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian-Hispanic
Special needs: None prior to incident

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

Date of Incident: 8/28/11

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

The mother's boyfriend called for an ambulance, reporting that the child fell off his bicycle and hit his head. The child was breathing but unresponsive when he arrived at the hospital. The child had a subdural hematoma and bruising on his ribs, shoulders and legs. It was determined that the child's injuries were caused by great force and were not consistent with the explanation. The boyfriend confessed that he pushed the child "too hard" against a sink, causing him to hit his head and possibly other parts of his body. Reportedly, this occurred after the child had pushed his younger sibling. Later, the boyfriend recanted this story, explaining that the child was injured accidentally by a fall from his bike as he described earlier. The child is permanently disabled as a result of the injuries. The boyfriend has been criminally charged with Child Abuse - Reckless Causation of Great Bodily Harm.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by the mother's boyfriend. The children were determined unsafe. The boyfriend lived with the mother and her children, providing child care for them while the mother was working. He was watching the children and reported pushing the child after the child pushed his sibling. The severity of the child's injuries indicate that great force was used. The boyfriend did not have a history of violence towards the mother or her children. The mother described him as "great" with her children, and that he is the first person that the children ever called "dad." The mother of the boyfriend's children also described him as a "good dad" and does not believe that he would hurt children. It is likely that this was an isolated incident. The mother was shocked when he confessed to injuring the child and later believed him when he recanted, explaining the injuries as an accident. The child is permanently disabled with limited functioning and will require long term daily care.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child lived with his mother, sibling and the mother's boyfriend.

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 screened in the report of the child's injuries, substantiating physical abuse by the mother's boyfriend. The

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children initially were determined unsafe, but a later safety assessment determined them safe with their mother. The boyfriend described injuring the child and later recanted, claiming that the injuries were accidental due to a bike accident. Initially, the mother agreed to a no-contact order between the boyfriend and her and the children. She later wanted the no-contact order amended to pertain only to the children, because she wanted to have contact with the boyfriend. The mother believed the boyfriend's story that the child was injured accidentally, despite the professional determinations otherwise. The agency opened the case for Ongoing Services to monitor the mother's contact with the boyfriend and to provide services to the family. The child was placed into a residential treatment center. He is receiving needed medical services and treatment, and his condition is improving. The boyfriend remains incarcerated. The case is 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 report of injuries to the child, substantiating physical abuse by the boyfriend. The agency assessed child safety, determining the children unsafe and later safe with their mother. Agency staff collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the initial assessment. The family is being assisted with needed services. The case remains open with the agency for Ongoing Services.

***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.