

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

Reports submitted to the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) that do not include all of the required information will be returned to the agency for proper completion. Do not identify individuals by name when completing this report. Individuals may be referenced by relationship or position; e.g., mother, father, child, sibling, physician, detective, etc.

Case Tracking Number: 120915DSP-Dane-256 **Agency:** Dane County Department of Human Services

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 15 years Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: African American

Special Needs: None

Age: 15 years Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: African American

Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: 9/15/12

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

On September 17, 2012, the agency received a report regarding an incident of excessive physical discipline which occurred two days prior. The agency and law enforcement responded to the report and interviewed the twin girls regarding the incident. Both girls were noted to have multiple injuries on various parts of their bodies and reported they had been repeatedly hit with an extension cord and a belt by their father. The girls reported that this type of discipline has occurred approximately 1-2 times per week and took place in the basement of the home. The father reportedly locked the basement door and one of the parents would turn on loud music to muffle any sounds the children would make while being hit. The children were told to lie on their stomachs on the couch in the basement and were then repeatedly struck with a belt and extension cord. The girls reported receiving excessive physical discipline from the mother as well. The girls also reported being concerned because the parents were starting to use physical discipline with their 11-year-old brother. The mother admitted to law enforcement that all of the children have received physical discipline, except the 4-year-old. The father has been criminally charged with three counts of Child Abuse – Intentionally Cause Harm and was found guilty. The mother has been criminally charged with two counts of Child Abuse – Intentionally Cause Harm and two counts of Child Abuse – Fail/Prevent Bodily Harm and was found guilty.

Findings by agency, including maltreatment determination and material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical personnel to complete the assessment. Based on the information gathered, the Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate physical abuse to the children by both parents. The children described a pattern of physical discipline including being punched, hit with objects, having objects thrown at them, and being threatened with severe bodily harm. The children were reportedly told to lie if anyone questioned them about their injuries. The children's mother acknowledged she uses objects to hit her older children when they misbehave. The children's father denied using physical discipline with his children. The twins were examined by medical professionals who noted numerous scars and injuries which were determined to be consistent with inflicted injury. All four children were determined unsafe and were placed in out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection or Services was filed and the family was opened with On-Going Services for case management.

Yes No Criminal investigation pending or completed?

Yes No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The mother and father

Child's residence at the time of incident: In-home Out-of-home care placement

Complete the appropriate following section (A. or B. based on the child's residence at the time of the incident).

A. Children residing at home at the time of the incident:

Description of the child's family (includes household members, noncustodial parent and other children that have visitation with the child and / or in the child's family home):

At the time of the incident, the household consisted of the mother, the father, the twin 15-year-old daughters, the 11-year-old son, and the 4-year-old daughter.

Yes No **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, any member of the child's

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: (Does not include the current incident.)

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. (Does not include the current incident.)

(Note: Screened out reports listed in this section may include only the date of the report, screening decision, and if a referral to services occurred at Access. Reports that do not constitute a reasonable suspicion of maltreatment or a reason to believe that the child is threatened with harm are not required to be screened in for an initial assessment, and no further action is required by the agency.)

None

Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the child and child's family since the date of the incident:

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical personnel to complete the assessment. Based on the information gathered, the Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate physical abuse to the children by both parents. The children described a pattern of physical discipline including being punched, hit with objects, having objects thrown at them, and being threatened with severe bodily harm. The children were reportedly told to lie if anyone questioned them about their injuries. The children's mother acknowledged she uses objects to hit her older children when they misbehave. The children's father denied using physical discipline with his children. The twins were examined by medical professionals who noted numerous scars and injuries which were determined to be consistent with inflicted injury. All four children were determined unsafe and were placed in out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection or Services was filed and the family was opened with On-Going Services for case management.

B. Children residing 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 any actions taken by agency in response to the incident: (Check all that apply.)

- Screening of Access report
- Protective plan implemented
- Initial assessment conducted
- Safety plan implemented
- Temporary physical custody of child
- Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services)
- Placement into foster home
- Placement with relatives
- Ongoing Services case management

- Attempted or successful reunification
- Referral to services
- Transportation assistance
- Collaboration with law enforcement
- Collaboration with medical professionals
- Supervised visitation
- Case remains open for services
- Case closed by agency
- Initiated efforts to address or enhance community collaboration on CA/N cases
- Other (describe):

FOR DSP COMPLETION ONLY:

Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified during the review of the incident:

Under the Child Welfare Disclosure Act (Section 48.981(7)(cr), Stats.), the DSP completes a 90-day review of the agency's practice in each case reported under the Act. The DSP did not identify practice issues during the review of the incident.

Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues:

None

Yes No Not Applicable This 90-day summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.

If the case review was not completed within 90 days, the DSP will complete and submit the final summary report within 6 months.

The agency must submit an electronic copy of the completed 90-Day Summary Report to RobertB.Williams@wisconsin.gov