

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: 131122DSP-Milw-385 **Agency:** Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 8 months Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: African American

Special Needs: None known

Date of Incident: November 22, 2013

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

On November 22, 2013, the agency received a report regarding an 8-month-old infant admitted to the hospital with multiple, suspicious injuries. The infant's father and paternal grandmother initially stated the infant was hurt when she fell off the couch onto a pile of toys; however, the infant's injuries were inconsistent with the family's explanation. Medical assessment by hospital staff determined the infant sustained extensive injuries, which included: abusive head trauma, internal injuries from abdominal trauma, multiple areas of bruising, and bone fractures. Medical personnel advised the infant's injuries as indicative of physical abuse. The father was criminally charged and found guilty of two counts Child Abuse-Recklessly Cause Great Harm, a class E felony, Wisconsin Statutes 948.03(3)(a).

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. The Initial Assessment completed by the child welfare agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate physical abuse to the infant by the father. The infant sustained multiple, serious injuries consistent with inflicted trauma while in the father's care. Prior to the incident, the father was awarded full custody and placement of the infant through Family Court. Due to other issues identified by the agency regarding the mother, the infant's 4-year-old half-brother was in the care of a relative as part of a protective plan. The agency determined the infant unsafe and placed her into out-of-home care with the half-brother. Petitions were filed in juvenile court alleging they were Children in Need of Protection or Services. The case remains open and the family is currently receiving case management services.

Yes No Criminal investigation pending or completed?
 Yes No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The 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):

Prior to the incident, the infant resided with her adjudicated father and paternal grandmother.

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:

A screened-in report alleging neglect, emotional damage, and physical abuse to the 4-year-old half-brother by the mother was being assessed by the agency at the time of the incident. The agency worker was in the process of arranging supervised visitation between the mother and the 4-year-old half-brother. The adjudicated father of the infant was awarded primary placement and full custody of the infant through Family Court just prior to the screened-in report being assessed.

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.)

The father has a 14-year-old, a 13-year-old, an 11-year-old, a 10-year-old and a 6-year-old from a previous relationship who were found by the court to be Children in need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) in 2006, while living with their mother. The father was incarcerated for much of the case history. Since his release, his involvement with agency ongoing services has been sporadic. The CHIPS order referenced above was set to expire in March 2014.

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.)

On 3/11/2013, the agency screened in a report alleging neglect to the infant by the mother. An assessment was completed, which found the mother appeared to be meeting the children's needs. No safety concerns were found and neglect was unsubstantiated, so the agency closed the case.

On 9/20/2013, the agency screened out a report.

On 9/23/2013, the agency screened out a report.

On 10/10/2013, the agency screened in a report alleging neglect, emotional damage, and physical abuse to the 4-year-old half-brother by the mother. At the time of the incident, an assessment of this report by the agency was in progress.

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. The Initial Assessment completed by the child welfare agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate physical abuse to the infant by the father. The infant sustained multiple, serious injuries consistent with inflicted trauma while in the father's care. Prior to the incident, the father was awarded full custody and placement of the infant through Family Court. Due to other issues identified by the agency regarding the mother, the infant's 4-year-old half-brother was in the care of a relative as part of a protective plan. The agency determined the infant unsafe and placed her into out-of-home care with the half-brother. Petitions were filed in juvenile court alleging they were Children in Need of Protection or Services. The case remains open and the family is currently receiving case management services.

B. Children residing in out-of-home care (OHC) placement at time of incident:

Description of the OHC placement and basis for decision to place child there:

N/A.

Description of all other persons residing in the OHC placement home:

N/A.

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.

N/A.

Summary of any actions taken by agency in response to the incident: (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening of Access report | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempted or successful reunification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protective plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referral to services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial assessment conducted | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with law enforcement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary physical custody of child | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with medical professionals |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervised visitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placement into foster home | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case remains open for services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placement with relatives | <input type="checkbox"/> Case closed by agency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Services case management | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiated efforts to address or enhance community collaboration on CA/N cases |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 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. In accordance with the DCF memo Series 2010-13, dated December 7, 2010, pertaining to the Child Welfare Case Review Protocol, the Bureau of Performance Management (BPM) completed an on-site review in case # 131122DSP-Milw-385.

BMCW Initial Assessment made good use of collateral contacts in their assessment of the mother's parenting and protectiveness in one of the Assessments reviewed, and later in the case accurately identified present danger threats, and the need for an out-of-home protective plan which culminated in an out-of-home care placement. BMCW Access was not compliant with standards in the area of timely completion of screening decision for one of the four Access reports under review. BMCW Initial Assessment was not compliant with standards in the areas of collateral contacts for one of the Initial Assessments reviewed, interview with non-custodial parents, timely monitoring and naming all protective adults in protective plans, thorough CPS and criminal records in the context of development of a protective plan, compliance with the confirming safe environments process, standards and BMCW policy related to case transition and transfer, and timely completion of Initial Assessment. The Ongoing Services agency demonstrated thorough assessment of safety in the out-of-home care placement commencing with the initial contact with the out-of-home care provider. The Ongoing Services agency was not compliant with BMCW policies related to documentation of case transfer and timely family interaction subsequent to children being taken into temporary physical custody.

BMCW modified its Child Welfare Access/Initial Assessment Quality Assurance Plan to help ensure thorough information gathering in Initial Assessment and thorough completion and monitoring of Protective Plans. BMCW has also assigned additional staff oversight to help improve completion of timely Initial Assessments as well as timely screening of Access Reports. The BMCW reiterated requirements of case transfer per standards in an agency wide memorandum, to include requirements for Confirming Safe Environments. The ongoing services agency has implemented a procedure in which all new cases requiring supervised visitation utilize their internal visitation program to ensure parent/child interaction occurs within time limits per Ongoing Standards

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

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.