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: 140309DSP-Milw-422  Agency: Milwaukee

Child Information (at time of incident)
Age: 1 Year  Gender: [ ] Female  [x] Male
Race or Ethnicity: White/Caucasian
Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: 03/09/14

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

On March 9, 2014, the agency received a report regarding a 14-month-old child who had been pronounced dead in his home. The mother reported to law enforcement that she put a pillow over the baby's face while he was sleeping and held it there until he stopped moving. She then sent the baby's father a text stating that he should come to the home to check on her and the baby. The mother then attempted to commit suicide by taking multiple pills and also attempted to electrocute herself. The father called the police in response to the text he had received from the mother, and asked that they go to the home to check on his son. When paramedics and law enforcement arrived at the home, they found the baby deceased and the mother lying in her bed nonresponsive. The mother was taken to the hospital. Upon her release, she was taken into police custody and was charged with and convicted of a class B Felony count of 1st Degree Reckless Homicide (Wisconsin Statutes 940.02(1)).

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 agency found a preponderance of evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse to the child by the mother. According to the Medical Examiner's preliminary report, the suggested manner of death was homicide. The final Medical Examiners' report is pending. The mother admitted to intentionally putting a pillow over the baby's face and holding it over his face until he stopped moving. As there are no other children in the home, the case was closed.

[ ] Yes  [ ] No  Criminal investigation pending or completed?
[x] Yes  [ ] No  Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The mother.

Child's residence at the time of incident: [x] 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 child resided with his mother.

   [ ] Yes  [x] 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.)
   NA

   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.)

DCF-F-2476-E (R. 04/2014)
NA

Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child’s family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 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 agency found a preponderance of evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse to the child by the mother. According to the Medical Examiner’s preliminary report, the suggested manner of death was homicide. The final Medical Examiners’ report is pending. The mother admitted to intentionally putting a pillow over the baby’s face and holding it over his face until he stopped moving. As there are no other children in the home, the case was closed.

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:

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 or other actions that constitute 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 IF RECORD OR ON-SITE REVIEW WAS UNDERTAKEN:

Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified based on the record or on-site review of the incident:

Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues based on the record or on-site review:

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not Applicable  This 90-day summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) action on 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.

This 90-Day Summary Report was previously delayed. DSP did determine that releasing the summary report would jeopardize an ongoing criminal proceeding, and delayed posting as provided under Wis. Stat. § 48.981(7)(cr)7.