

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

Case Tracking Number: 110326DSP-Fond-89 Agency: Fond du Lac County Dept. of Social Services

Child Information: Age: 2 years Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None prior to incident

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

Date of Incident: 3/26/11

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

On March 26, 2011 an ambulance was called to the family's home where the two-year-old child was limp, her arms were stiff and hands curled. The child was flown to Children's Hospital in Madison. The child sustained a skull fracture and massive bruising behind her right ear, left forehead, hips, buttocks, right arm and a hand print on her back. Part of the child's skull was removed to allow the swollen brain to expand. Mother's boyfriend was the caregiver for the child at the time and gave different stories at the scene regarding what may have happened to the child. He later admitted being frustrated with the child and, while playing airplane, struck her head on the wall. The child survived but is in a vegetative state and will need 24-hour care for the rest of her life. Doctors determined the cause of the injuries non-accidental blunt force trauma. The boyfriend has been arrested and criminally charged with Child Abuse - High Probability of Great Bodily Harm.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated maltreatment to the child by the mother's boyfriend. The child was determined unsafe, needing lifelong 24-hour treatment and care. The mother was sleeping when the boyfriend came running into the bedroom "in panic" sometime after 2:00 a.m., because he did not know what was wrong with the child. The couple called a relative for assistance and then called for an ambulance. During interviews with law enforcement, the boyfriend admitted being frustrated with the child the previous night because she was awake very late. He offered different possible explanations for the injuries, eventually explaining that the child's head accidentally hit the wall. The boyfriend has been arrested and criminally charged. The child was discharged from the hospital to a relative's home where the child will reside with her mother and relatives and receive 24-hour care.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child resided with her mother and the mother's boyfriend at the time of the incident.

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:

A CPS Report was received and screened in on March 15, 2011. The initial assessment was underway when the child was seriously injured on March 26. On March 15, the agency arranged for relatives to care for the child while they were obtaining medical information regarding some markings on the child's face that the doctor attributed to a reaction to medication. On March 16, the child was permitted to return to the mother's home. The agency's last contact prior to the incident was a face-to-face visit with the mother on March 17.

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:

Please see the following section.

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:

On March 15, 2011, the agency screened in a report alleging physical abuse to the child. The child had what appeared to be

bruises to her face, neck and back. Three doctors concurred that the marks were due to a possible drug reaction and not maltreatment. The allegation of physical abuse was unsubstantiated. During the assessment, the agency received a new report regarding alleged maltreatment resulting in serious injuries to the child.

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 serious injuries to the child, substantiating physical abuse to the child by the mother's boyfriend. The explanations provided by the boyfriend do not match the child's injuries which doctors indicate were caused by non-accidental blunt force trauma. The agency assisted the family with arranging for needed care for the child upon release from the hospital. The child is in the custody of her mother and will receive in-home care from the mother and relatives. She will also continue to receive medical care. 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 alleged physical abuse. Physical abuse to the child by the mother's boyfriend was substantiated, and the child was determined unsafe. The agency took temporary physical custody of the child, later returning custody to the mother. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the investigation. The agency worked with the family to arrange in-home care with relatives with whom the mother and child are residing. The case remains open, and the family continues to receive Ongoing Services case management from the agency.

***Summary of policy or practice changes to address identified issues:**

The initial assessment is not in compliance with the CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards and the CPS Safety Intervention Standards. The DSP is working with the agency to address identified issues.

***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.