

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

Case Tracking Number: 110922DSP-Walw-149 Agency: Walworth County Dept. of Health & Human Services

Child Information: Age: 11-month-old twins Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: African American
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 9/22/11

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

The children were found unresponsive in the bathtub by a roommate of their parents. CPR was attempted, and they were transported by ambulance to the local hospital where they were pronounced deceased. Reportedly, the mother had placed one of the twins in the bathtub with his older sibling. She ran some bathwater into the tub, then turned it off. She took the other twin with her into the bedroom where she sat down with the child. The mother fell asleep and awoke to the cries of the roommate who found both twins in the bathtub. The mother explained that she was exhausted and intended to lay down briefly, but not fall asleep. The mother has been criminally charged with two counts of Neglecting a Child - Consequence is Death.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated neglect to all four children in the home by their mother and the father of three of the children. The two surviving children were determined unsafe in the care of the mother and father. The mother was working 3rd shift and described herself as extremely exhausted. She also explained that the condition of the home deteriorated after she began working these hours. The father of the twins and a roommate also lived in the home. At the time of the incident, the father was at work, an older sibling was at school and the roommate was away. Reportedly, the mother fed and then briefly napped with the twins in the morning while another sibling watched television. After awaking from the nap, she intended to give two of the children baths but fell asleep shortly after running a small amount of water into the bathtub. The roommate returned to the home and found the twins in the filled bathtub with the water running. When law enforcement and CPS responded to the report of the children's deaths, they found the condition of the home environment unsafe for the children. The mother and father are also charged with two counts of Neglecting a Child due to the condition of the home at the time of the incident.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

At the time of the incident, the twins resided with their pregnant mother, father, sibling, half-sibling and an adult friend of the parents. Another half-sibling of the twins resides at a separate residence and has regular visits with their father. Another child was born to the couple following the children's deaths.

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:

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Division of Safety and Permanence

The agency substantiated neglect to all four children by the mother and father living in the home. The surviving children were determined unsafe in the care of these parents and placed with relatives. While assessing the family, the agency found the condition of the family's home to be unsafe for the children. Visits with the children by the twin's parents and the half-sibling's father are supervised at this time. The two older children and their parents have been referred to services. The mother gave birth to another child, which was taken into custody by the agency and placed with relatives. The family and relatives are receiving Ongoing Services case management from the agency.

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 the children's deaths, collaborating with law enforcement during the initial assessment. Neglect to all four children was substantiated, and the surviving siblings were determined unsafe. The siblings were taken into temporary physical custody and placed with relatives. Following the birth of another child, the agency took custody of the baby and placed it with relatives. The agency is working with the mother and fathers of the siblings to provide services and assure visitation, which is supervised. The children, parents and relatives have been referred to services. They continue to receive Ongoing Services from the agency.

***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.