

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: 140105DSP-Milw-402 **Agency:** Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 21 months Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: Black/African American, American Indian

Special Needs: Chronic Eczema

Date of Incident: January 5, 2014

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

On January 5, 2014, the agency received a report regarding a 21-month-old girl admitted to the hospital with suspicious injuries. Medical professionals assessed the child sustained numerous injuries from non-accidental trauma, including: bruises to her arms, torso and face; bilateral subdural hematomas and small subdural hemorrhages; a 2- to 3-inch burn on her forehead; a burn to her right hand between her fingers; multiple scars or burns on her chest; a liver laceration; multiple rib fractures with hemothorax; and a fracture to her sacrum. The child was also diagnosed with failure to thrive, which medical personnel indicated was highly concerning for nutritional neglect. It was further determined the child's skin lesions were infected and the child developed sepsis because medical attention was not sought in a timely manner. The mother told hospital staff the child recently visited the father for a week, and the mother believed he caused the child's injuries. The child was admitted to pediatric intensive care for treatment. Law enforcement was notified of the child's suspicious injuries and serious condition, and a criminal investigation was initiated.

When interviewed by law enforcement, the mother gave multiple explanations for the child's injuries but ultimately admitted she caused the injuries intentionally. As a result of law enforcement's investigation, the mother was arrested, criminally charged and convicted of four felony counts of Child Abuse - Intentionally Cause Great Bodily Harm 948.03(3)(a) and one felony count of Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Great Bodily Harm) 948.21(1)(b).

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

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals to complete the assessment. Based on the information gathered for the Initial Assessment, the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse to the child by the mother. Medical personnel determined the child sustained numerous and severe injuries from non-accidental trauma. The mother admitted to law enforcement she caused the child's injuries by grabbing, squeezing, shoving, punching, burning, or biting the child when she was frustrated or angry with the child. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency also found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate maltreatment of neglect to the child by the mother. The mother failed to seek medical attention for the child's injuries, which led to the child developing infected skin lesions and sepsis. Additionally, the child was diagnosed with failure to thrive from likely nutritional neglect. The agency determined the child unsafe and Temporary Physical Custody was taken and the child was placed into out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection and Services petition was filed and a case was opened for ongoing case management services.

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

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 child resided with the mother. The child's adjudicated father lives in the same city at a separate residence with paternal relatives. The father reported his last contact with the child was approximately one year ago. Then the mother ceased all contact with the father.

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.)

The mother had six other children prior to the child's birth; the older children are currently age 9, 7, 6, 5, 4, and 3 years old. All six of the older children were subjects of Termination of Parental Rights /Adoption or Transfer of Guardianship proceedings prior to this incident.

In February 2009, the newborn (now 4-year-old) half-sibling of the child was taken into Temporary Physical Custody by the agency and placed in out-of-home care. Due to concerns regarding the mother's untreated mental health issues and her inability to meet the newborn half-sibling's basic needs, a Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed in juvenile court regarding this half-sibling. The case remained open with the agency for On-going case management services. The mother's parental rights to the 9-year-old, 7-year-old, 6-year-old and 5-year-old were terminated in January, 2010.

In February 2010, another newborn (now 3-year-old) half-sibling to the child was determined unsafe. Due to the mother's untreated mental health issues and inability to meet the newborn half-sibling's basic needs the (now 3-year-old) half-sibling was placed in out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed on behalf of the newborn (now 3-year-old) half-sibling in juvenile court. The case remained open and the agency continued providing On-going case management services to the family.

In November 2011, guardianship of the 4-year-old and 3-year-old half-siblings was transferred and the agency closed the case as there were no remaining children in the mother's care or guardianship.

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 February 28, 2005, the agency screened out a CPS Report.

On August 9, 2007, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging neglect by the mother to three of the child's older half-siblings (age 2 years, 1 year, and 5 months at the time). While the agency was completing an Assessment, another CPS Report was received and screened in (see below for further details).

On September 12, 2007, the agency screened in a Services Report when the agency was court-ordered to complete a home study on the mother after private petitions for guardianship were initiated for the child's three older half-siblings.

On November 28, 2007, the agency received another CPS Report during the Assessment regarding the report received in August, 2007. The agency screened in the second report, which alleged neglect by the mother to the child's then-two-year-old half-sister. An Assessment addressing both CPS Reports was completed which determined the three older half-siblings unsafe. The three half-siblings were taken into Temporary Physical Custody and placed with a relative who petitioned for legal guardianship. The agency opened the case to provide the family with On-going case management services.

On March 28, 2008, while the case was open for On-going services, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleged neglect by the mother to another half-sibling of the child, when the half-sibling was a newborn. An Assessment was completed and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. However, the agency determined the newborn half-sibling unsafe in the mother's care. The half-sibling was taken into Temporary Physical Custody and placed into out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed in juvenile court regarding this half-sibling, and the case remained open with the agency for On-going case management services.

On February 27, 2009, the agency screened in a report alleging neglect by the mother to another half-sibling as a newborn

(now 4 years old). An Assessment was completed and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The agency determined the newborn half-sibling unsafe so the half-sibling was taken into Temporary Physical Custody and placed in out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed in juvenile court regarding this half-sibling, and the case remained open with the agency for On-going case management services.

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 professionals to complete the assessment. Based on the information gathered for the Initial Assessment, the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse to the child by the mother. Medical personnel determined the child sustained numerous and severe injuries from non-accidental trauma. The mother admitted to law enforcement she caused the child's injuries by grabbing, squeezing, shoving, punching, burning, or biting the child when she was frustrated or angry with the child. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency also found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate maltreatment of neglect to the child by the mother. The mother failed to seek medical attention for the child's injuries, which led to the child developing infected skin lesions and sepsis. Additionally, the child was diagnosed with failure to thrive from likely nutritional neglect. The agency determined the child unsafe and Temporary Physical Custody was taken and the child was placed into out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection and Services petition was filed and a case was opened for ongoing management services.

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:

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placement into foster home | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case remains open for services |
| <input 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. 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.

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