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Governor Tony Evers  
Secretary Emilie Amundson  
  
Secretary's Office

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June 11, 2020

Jeffrey Renk  
Senate Chief Clerk  
State Capitol, B20 SE  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Patrick Fuller  
Assembly Chief Clerk  
Risser Justice Center  
17 West Main Street, Suite 401  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Renk and Mr. Fuller,

In compliance with the 2009 Wisconsin Act 78, the Child Welfare Public Disclosure Act, please accept the attached summary report prepared by the Department of Children and Families on June 11, 2020.

In accordance with Wisconsin Statutes section 48.981(7) (cr) 3.b., the Department is required to "transmit to... the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s 13.172(3)" summary reports prepared by the Department concerning incidents of death or serious injury to a child that results from suspected abuse or neglect or incidents of egregious abuse or neglect of a child. The summary reports are also made available to the public on the Department's public website.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Melfi".

Danielle Melfi  
Assistant Secretary

cc: Governor Tony Evers

Attachments

# 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:** 200330DSP-Milw-990      **Agency:** Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

**Child Information** (at time of incident)

Age: 3 months      Gender:  Female  Male

Race or Ethnicity: Black/African American

Special Needs: None

**Date of Incident:** 03/30/20

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

On March 30, 2020, the agency received a report regarding a 3-month-old infant pronounced deceased in his home. Law enforcement was contacted and initiated a criminal investigation. The Medical Examiner's Office noted signs of trauma to the infant; toxicology results are pending. As a result of law enforcement's investigation, the mother was criminally charged with Chronic Neglect of a Child (Consequence is Great Bodily Harm). A criminal charge is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

**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. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate neglect of the infant by the mother and to substantiate physical abuse to the infant by an unknown maltreater. The Medical Examiner's Office noted signs of trauma to the infant. The infant's siblings were deemed unsafe, taken into Temporary Physical Custody, and placed with relatives. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

Yes  No Criminal investigation pending or completed?

Yes  No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The infant's 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 infant resided with his mother, his 7-year-old sibling, and his 12-year-old sibling. Paternity had not been established for the infant.

**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:**

At the time of the incident, the agency was assessing the March 16, 2020 CPS Report. The last attempted contact by the agency was on March 23, 2020.

**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.)

On March 16, 2020, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant, the infant's 7-year-old sibling, 11-year-old sibling, and 12-year-old sibling by the mother. The infant died during the assessment period and an additional report was made to the agency regarding the infant's death on March 30, 2020. An assessment of the allegation was completed by the agency and the initial allegation of neglect to the infant was substantiated; the initial allegations of neglect to the infant's 7-year-old sibling, 11-year-old sibling and 12-year-old sibling were unsubstantiated.

On July 22, 2019, the agency screened-in a Services Report. The agency provided the family with a referral to community-based early intervention services.

On April 9, 2019, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling and now

12-year-old sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The case remained open to provide in-home services voluntarily.

On January 18, 2019, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On February 23, 2017, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 11-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother and an unrelated adult living in the family home. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On July 26, 2016, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother and sexual abuse to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by a non-caregiver. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegations of neglect and sexual abuse were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

**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 March 16, 2020, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant, the infant's 7-year-old sibling, 11-year-old sibling, and 12-year-old sibling by the mother. The infant died during the assessment period and an additional report was made to the agency regarding the infant's death on March 30, 2020. An assessment of the allegation was completed by the agency and the initial allegation of neglect to the infant was substantiated; the initial allegation of neglect to the infant's 7-year-old sibling, 11-year-old sibling and 12-year-old sibling was unsubstantiated.

On July 22, 2019, the agency screened-in a Services Report. The agency provided the family with a referral to the community-based early intervention services.

On April 9, 2019, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The case remained open to provide in-home services voluntarily.

On January 18, 2019, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On January 8, 2019, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On February 23, 2017, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 11-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother and an unrelated adult living in the family home. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On July 26, 2016, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother and sexual abuse to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by a non-caregiver. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegations of neglect and sexual abuse were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On May 19, 2015, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On February 21, 2014, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling, now 11-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother and the infant's now 7-year-old sibling's father and alleging physical abuse to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling, now 11-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegations of neglect and physical abuse were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On July 2, 2013, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling and now

12-year-old sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community resources and the case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On May 16, 2013, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging sexual abuse to the infant's now 12-year-old sibling and now 11-year-old sibling by a relative. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of sexual abuse was substantiated. The family was referred to community resources and the case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On February 18, 2013, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 7-year-old sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency with the determination of services not needed. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On May 19, 2012, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 11-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency with the determination of services not needed. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On September 28, 2009, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the infant's now 11-year-old sibling and now 12-year-old sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegations of neglect and medical neglect were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On March 25, 2008, the agency screened-in a Services Report. The agency provided referral information to the family.

**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 professionals to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate neglect of the infant by the mother and to substantiate physical abuse to the infant by an unknown maltreater. The Medical Examiner's Office noted signs of trauma to the infant. The infant's siblings were deemed unsafe, taken into Temporary Physical Custody, and placed with relatives. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed and the case remained open to provide ongoing 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 or other actions that constitute 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 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 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):   |

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**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:**

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 will conduct a further review in this case.

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

None at this time.

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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.