**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**
Division of Safety and Permanence

# 6 Month Final 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:** 140723DSP-Milw-465 **Agency:** Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

**Child Information** (at time of incident)
Age: 11 Years Gender: ☒ Female ☐ Male
Race or Ethnicity: African American
Special Needs: None

**Date of Incident:** 7/23/2014

**Description of the incident, including the suspected cause of death, injury or egregious abuse or neglect:**
On July 24, 2014 the agency received a report regarding an 11-year old girl and a ten-year-old boy who were admitted to the hospital the previous day with gunshot wounds. The children were released from the hospital the following day. During the course of their investigation, law enforcement determined that the living conditions of the family home were poor. As a result of the law enforcement investigations of both the father of the 11-year-old and his girlfriend, the mother of an additional five children residing in the home, were charged with misdemeanor counts of child neglect. 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 personnel to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found insufficient evidence to substantiate neglect by the father of the 11-year old girl and the father's girlfriend living in the household. While the agency found that the caregivers had remediated or attempted to remediate concerns related to the living conditions, the children were determined to be unsafe due to the conditions of the household, and the ten-year-old boy and the 11-year-old girl, a six-year-old boy, a four-year-old girl, a three-year-old girl and a two-year-old girl were taken into protective custody and placed in out-of-home-care. The mother's nine-year-old daughter was visiting the home at the time of the incident and was returned to her father's household.

☒ Yes ☐ No Criminal investigation pending or completed?
☒ Yes ☐ No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The father and the father's girlfriend.

**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):
The household was comprised of the father and his 11-year-old daughter, and the girlfriend of the father and her five children; a ten-year-old boy, a six-year-old boy, and four, three, and two-year old girls. The father in the household was also the father of the six-year old-boy. A nine-year-old daughter of the mother was also visiting the home for the summer.

☒ **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:**

The case was open in Ongoing Services and the family was receiving post permanency support services. Ongoing case management services workers visited the family home twice per month from the onset of trial reunification of two of the children in June of 2013. The Ongoing Services worker had last seen the parents and all of the children at the family home on July 18, 2014.

The case was also open for Initial Assessment related to a referral of January 3, 2014, alleging physical abuse by the

mother. The Initial Assessment Specialist last contacted four of the children at their school on February 6, 2014.

**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 February 28, 2013 the agency screened-in a referral alleging physical abuse to the nine (now 11)-year-old daughter and her 11-year-old-brother by their biological mother. The Initial Assessment conducted by the agency found a preponderance of evidence to substantiate physical abuse by the mother. All of the mother's children were determined to be unsafe, taken into protective custody, and placed in out-of-home-care. The nine (now 11)-year-old was placed in the custody of her biological father in January of 2014.

The 11-year-old female's biological mother had a CPS history prior to the February 28, 2013 referral. The CPS referral history for the mother included an episode of out-of-home care for the 11-year-old female and her siblings between August of 2008 and January of 2011.

**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, 2013 the agency screened-in a referral alleging physical abuse to the nine (now 11)-year-old daughter and her 11-year-old-brother by their biological mother. The Initial Assessment conducted by the agency found a preponderance of evidence to substantiate physical abuse by the mother. All of the mother's children were determined to be unsafe, taken into protective custody, and placed in out-of-home-care. The nine (now 11)-year-old was placed in the custody of her biological father in January of 2014.

The 11-year-old female's biological mother had a CPS history prior to the February 28, 2013 referral. The CPS referral history for the mother included an episode of out-of-home care for the 11-year-old female and her siblings between August of 2008 and January of 2011.

On August 15, 2006 the agency screened-in an allegation of neglect by the father's girlfriend of her children. The Initial Assessment found insufficient evidence to substantiate for neglect and the children were assessed as safe. The father's girlfriend was offered services, but declined.

On August 7, 2007 the agency screened-in an allegation of neglect by the father's girlfriend of her children. The Initial Assessment found insufficient evidence to substantiate for neglect and the children were assessed as safe. The father's girlfriend was offered and accepted in-home case management services. In-home services provided through August of 2008.

On January 7, 2008 the agency screened-in an allegation of sexual abuse by an unknown maltreater. The Initial Assessment found insufficient evidence to substantiate for abuse. The family continued to be served through in-home case management services.

On August 9, 2012, the agency screened-in an allegation of physical abuse and neglect by the father's girlfriend of her children. The Initial Assessment conducted by the agency found a preponderance evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse by the father's girlfriend. The Initial Assessment found insufficient evidence to substantiate neglect. The children were determined to be unsafe, taken into protective custody and placed in out-of-home care. The seven-year-old female was placed with her biological father. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed with the court for the other six children. The children were later reunified with their mother (the father's girlfriend) and the case remained open in Ongoing Services for post-permanency support services.

On January 31, 2014 the agency screened in an allegation of physical abuse by the father's girlfriend. The Initial Assessment found insufficient evidence to substantiate for abuse.

**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 insufficient evidence to substantiate neglect by the father and the father's girlfriend. While the agency found that the caregivers had remediated or attempted to remediate concerns related to the living conditions, the children were determined to be unsafe due to the conditions of the household, and the ten-year-old boy and the 11-year-old girl, a six-year-old boy, a four-year-old girl, a three-year-old girl and a two-year-old girl were taken into protective custody and placed in out-of-home-care. The nine-year-old daughter of the father's girlfriend was visiting the home at the time of the incident and was returned to her biological father's household.

The case remains open for ongoing services.

**B. Children residing in out-of-home care (OHC) placement at time of incident:** No

**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.)

- ☒ 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:**

Under Child Welfare Disclosure Act (Section 48.981(7)(cr),Stats.) the DSP completes a 90-Day summary of the agency's practice in each case reported under the Act. In accordance with the DCF Memo Series 2010-13, dated December 7, 2010 pertaining to the Child Welfare Case Review Protocol, the Bureau of Performance Management (BPM) completed an on-site review of case 140723-Milw-465.

In order to ensure compliance with standards, BMCW made adjustments in staffing patterns at Access and has undertaken staff training initiatives in Access and Initial Assessment. The Ongoing Services agency has undertaken staff training initiatives and updated a case staffing protocol.

**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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable This 6 month final 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.