

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

Case Tracking Number: 110909DSP-Outag-147 Agency: Outagamie County Dept. of Health & Human Services

Child Information: Age: 1 year Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian  
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 9/9/11

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

The agency received a report alleging neglect to the child, who was 14 months old and weighed 10 lbs., 14 oz. The child was not developing properly and could not sit, crawl, cruise or speak any words. At 4 months old, the child's doctor began discussing concerns about the child's weight with the parents. The parents were encouraged to increase the child's calorie intake and work with a nutritionist. The parents had been heard to say that they "don't want obese kids." It was determined that the child was failing to thrive due to not receiving sufficient calories at home. Medical professionals have reported that the child might not fully recover developmentally. Both parents have been criminally charged with Neglecting a Child - Consequence is Great Bodily Harm.

### Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated neglect to the child by both parents. The child was determined unsafe in her parents' care. The child was born healthy, weighing 8 lbs, 2.8 oz. Concerns about the child's weight were identified at four months of age. At 6 and 9 months, medical tests were conducted with normal results, ruling out organic causes. The parents allowed the child to be admitted to the hospital so her eating could be monitored, but took her out of the hospital in less than 24 hours, complaining that the hospital staff were overfeeding her. The father has health problems, and it is suspected that the entire family, including the baby, was placed on a "heart healthy" diet. The other children in the home appear to be healthy, but the infant was not receiving sufficient calorie intake for a child of her age. When the child was provided with a healthy range of calories, she developed Refeeding Syndrome, a metabolic disturbance that is life threatening and develops as a result of reinstating nutrition to patients who are severely malnourished. The parents continue to deny that they were causing physical harm to their child, stating that the child was under medical care and blaming the pediatrician.

### Additional information for children in home:

#### Description of the child's family:

The child lived with her parents and three older siblings.

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:

See 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:

In November 2008, the agency screened in a report alleging physical abuse to one of the children. Maltreatment was unsubstantiated, the children were determined safe and the family was referred to community services. The case was closed following the initial assessment.

#### 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 substantiated neglect to the infant by her parents, determining her unsafe in their care. The infant's siblings were determined safe. The parents were informed numerous times concerning the infant's nutritional needs, but would not provide the infant with the calories and nutrition needed for her age and developmental level, resulting in severe malnourishment, Refeeding Syndrome and failure to thrive. The other children in the home were assessed to be healthy. The infant was taken into custody and placed at the hospital for treatment and foster care upon discharge from the hospital. The parents and child's siblings have supervised visits with her. The infant and parents have been referred to community services; the family also receives in-home services.

On 11/4/11, the agency received a report that the parents were arrested and charged with child neglect. The agency worked with the family, unsubstantiating neglect to the child's siblings. They were determined safe in their parents care. The family's case is open with the agency 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 alleging neglect to the infant. Maltreatment was substantiated, and the infant was determined unsafe in her parents' care. The child's siblings were determined safe with the parents. The agency took the infant into temporary physical custody and placed the child at the hospital for continuing treatment and into foster care. Initially, there was a no contact order between the parents and infant, which was later changed to supervised visits. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the assessment. The family continues to receive Ongoing Services.

**\*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.