

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: [REDACTED]

County: Polk

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Death: 08/20/2022

Report Number: 2022-190825

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
[REDACTED]	4 months old	Child Victim
[REDACTED]	21 years old	Mother
[REDACTED]	21 years old	Father
[REDACTED]	2 years old	Cousin/Child to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	4 years old	Cousin/Child to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	11 years old	Cousin/Child to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	33 years old	Maternal Aunt
[REDACTED]	50 years old	Maternal Grandmother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On August 20, 2022, the 4-month-old passed away after being found face-down and unresponsive in his crib.

At the time of the receipt of the death investigation (03 report sequence) on August 20, 2022, the family had an open investigation (01 report sequence) that was received on June 22, 2022, involving concerns for failure to thrive/malnutrition dehydration as to the decedent.

On June 23, 2022, the child was diagnosed as failure to thrive while at his primary physicians visit and this was confirmed while subsequently hospitalized at Lakeland Regional Medical Center. The child was also assessed due to broken blood vessels observed in his eyes. A CT scan and Skeletal Survey were performed and were negative. The ophthalmologist had no concerns for any trauma or physical abuse. Bloodwork was completed and there were indications the child had high levels of antigens for Von Willebrand Disease (a bleeding disorder in which your blood does not clot properly), which could explain the broken blood vessels. On July 12, 2022, the Child Protection Team (CPT) returned verified findings for failure to thrive - nutritional neglect. On July 14, 2022, enhanced safety management with Neighbor to Family (NTF) was initiated with the family to address CPT's recommendations. Neighbor to Family checked feeding logs, completed weekly visits, and the mother became engaged with the Healthy Start program Parenting and Early Steps were declined during NTF involvement. On August 17, 2022, NTF closed out services because impending danger

was being identified but they indicated the family had been cooperative during their involvement. On August 18, 2022, Heartland for Children assigned a Case Manager and completed a joint visit with the Child Protective Investigator. The case transfer was pending at the time of the child's passing.

According to the parents, on August 20, 2022, they fed the infant in the early morning hours. At 7:00 a.m. the father attempted to feed the infant and placed him back in the Pack n' Play. The infant fell back to sleep. At 8:30 a.m. the father woke up the mother. At 9:00 a.m. the mother checked on the infant and then they asked the grandmother to watch the infant while they went to Wal-Mart. Fifteen to 20 minutes later the grandmother checked on the infant and the infant was fine. Sometime around 9:40 to 10:00 a.m. the parents returned home. The mother checked on the infant and found him unresponsive and not breathing. The mother called 911 at 10:14 a.m. Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services responded to the home. The infant was transported to Lakeland Regional Medical Center.

On August 20, 2022, [REDACTED] was pronounced deceased at 11:35 a.m.

The decedent/child was seen for multiple Child Protection Team (CPT) Medical exams throughout the initial investigation. The child was first seen on June 27, 2022, with CPT initially providing indeterminate findings for failure to thrive and nutritional neglect. On July 12, 2022, the child was seen for another medical exam at CPT, and they provided positive findings for failure to thrive and nutritional neglect as the child had poor weight gain, only gaining 0.5 oz per day. The child was seen for a third CPT Medical exam on July 26, 2022, and the child was documented to have his failure to thrive resolved, to include gaining 1 lb. 11oz in 14 days. CPT provided final findings of positive findings for failure to thrive/nutritional neglect and indeterminate findings for physical abuse due to the concerns of [REDACTED] having broken blood vessels in his eyes.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of [REDACTED] (22-34749). No arrests were made, nor charges filed.

The death certificate was received on May 9, 2023, and indicated District 10 Medical Examiner Stephen J. Nelson, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for [REDACTED] on May 2, 2023. ME# 23-10-FA-534.

Cause of Death: Positional Asphyxia

Manner of Death: Accident

On May 18, 2023, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- No Indicators of Death, Inadequate Supervision, and Failure to Thrive/ Malnutrition/ Dehydration as to [REDACTED].

Other Children in the Family:


Grief counseling information was provided to the family. The family refused further contact after the child was pronounced deceased.

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

At the time of the death the family had an open investigation received on June 22, 2022, and services were open and active at the time of death.


Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The family does not have any prior abuse report history. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

5/22/23
Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection

5/22/23
Date