



Critical Incident Rapid Response Team

Kai'el Kincaid

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Kai’el Kincaid

Central Region

Circuit 5

Sumter County, Florida

2023-319825

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Executive Summary

On October 11, 2023, the Department was notified of the death of 9-month-old, Kai'el Kincaid, that occurred while bedsharing with his mother, 33-year-old Kacy Kincaid (Swanson). At the time of the incident, the decedent's twin sibling was sleeping in the bassinet.

The children's aunt, Donna Kincaid, discovered Kai'el unresponsive when she checked on the mother and infants. There are concerns that the mother may have been under the influence at the time, as it was difficult waking her; and once she was awake, she would struggle to keep her head up. The mother reported that Kai'el had been cranky as he was teething and had a fever which was causing him not to sleep. In response, she gave him Tylenol and brought him in the bed with her.

An autopsy was conducted, and the cause of death is Combined Drug Toxicity and the manner of death is Homicide. The mother was arrested on charges of manslaughter of a child, as the toxicology results found the same drugs that the mother had in her possession were the same found in the child's blood during the autopsy.

Due to the family being involved in a verified investigation within 12 months of the fatality incident, DCF Secretary Shevaun Harris deployed a Critical Incident Rapid Response Team to Sumter County. The review team consisted of representatives from DCF's Office of Quality and Innovation, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health from the Northeast Region, Children's Legal Services, and Associate Statewide Child Protection Team (CPT) Medical Director.

The team reviewed case records involving all key case participants. Interviews were not necessary as part of the review, as documentation and decision making were thorough and supported, and no gaps in information were identified.

This report presents the team's findings, a summary of the family's child welfare history, the family's composition, and an analysis of Sumter County's child welfare service providers. The team reviewed the family's prior interventions in the child welfare system to assess for any potential systemic matters within the local system of care.

Case Participants

Name	Age at Time of Incident	Relationship
Kai'el Kincaid	10 months	Decedent
[REDACTED]	10 months	Sibling
[REDACTED]	4	Sibling
[REDACTED]	10	Sibling
[REDACTED]	12	Sibling
[REDACTED]	13	Sibling
Kacy Swanson Kincaid	33	Mother
Donna Woods	37	Maternal Aunt
Jimmie Woods Jr.	46	Uncle by marriage

Child Welfare Summary

Between 2014 and 2022, the family was involved in 14 reports with regard to the decedent's older siblings. Neither the decedent nor his twin sibling were involved in any prior reports. [REDACTED]

In 2014, two reports were received. [REDACTED]

In 2015, a report was received in March [REDACTED]

In 2016, there were four reports were received, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In 2017, three reports were received [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In 2021, two reports were received. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In 2022, two reports were received [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

System of Care Review

This review is designed to provide an assessment of the child welfare system's interactions with the Kincaid family and to identify items that may have influenced the system's response and decision-making. The areas of the review were focused on practice assessment, organizational assessment, and local service array. The team determined that the prior history had no impact, and had no correlation, to the current fatality incident.

A summary of the team's findings are as follows:

- The assessment of present and impending danger properly aligned with the Department's policies and procedures. The case documentation and family functioning assessment clearly outlined how the children were safe in the aunt's care, and the actions she initiated. These actions included obtaining an injunction, cooperating fully with law enforcement and the department, and eventually relocating to another county. The child protective investigator provided detailed documentation of the interviews to include [REDACTED].
- The relationship with local law enforcement partners was instrumental in the proper safety determination and demonstrated excellent partnership with child protection investigative staff. Forensic interviews were completed timely by both law enforcement. CPT referrals were completed timely as required.
- The hotline's decision to screen-out the intake that was received at the time of the twins' birth in January 2023 was appropriate. The intake was screened out by the reviewing intake specialist at the Florida Abuse Hotline, citing that the mother and children tested positive for [REDACTED]. Field staff requested that the hotline review the screen-in decision, which demonstrated knowledge of the substance exposed newborn criteria. [REDACTED] A screen-in would not be met per the CFOP 170-4 definition of "Substance Exposed Newborn," as the mother and children tested positive for a prescribed substance, and there were no allegations that the mother was mis-using [REDACTED]. While the mother had a noted drug use history, there were no current allegations of drug use outside of the prescribed [REDACTED]. The last alleged illicit drug/alcohol use by the mother was in August of 2022, five months prior to the birth of the infants. Therefore, no "Substance Misuse" code could be supported.