Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 94059628

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Male

Age: 5 Year(s) 5 Month(s)

Date of Death: 12/12/2022

On the date of the fatality, the child was not in DFPS conservatorship and was living with the child's parent, a managing conservator, a legal guardian or other person entititled to the child's possession.

Child's Name: King,Mateen

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 12/03/2022, 12/03/2022, 12/06/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received multiple intakes that were merged into a single investigation notifying of concerns after an unresponsive child arrived at a local hospital with a gunshot wound. The unresponsive child was reportedly shot in the head by his young friend. According to the mother, there was a firearm in the bedroom closet and the firearm was not within eyesight. The father was at work at the time of the shooting. The father left the hospital and later arrived with the young friend that committed the shooting. The young friend was covered in blood with a gash on his forehead after being punched by the father's adolescent son. The young friend found the firearm behind the sofa and shot the child.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child resided in the home with his parents and three siblings. The parents had allowed another young friend to spend the night with the deceased child. The mother and siblings were in the bedroom while the deceased child and his friend were in the living room area of the home. The young friend gained access to a firearm that was kept behind the couch and accidentally shot the deceased child in the head. The deceased child was transported to the hospital by the mother and father where lifesaving measures were attempted. The deceased child did not recover from his injury and passed away at the hospital days later. The mother and father were giving different statements regarding the firearms in the home and they made no admissions of abuse or neglect. The older siblings had to be temporarily detained by law enforcement to prevent them from

compromising the scene or tampering with the evidence. Law Enforcement found the firearm used in the shooting hidden underneath a pile of clothes in the parents' bedroom closet. A second rifle was found by law enforcement during their search. The young friend disclosed that he had observed the two firearms by the couch in the living room and had seen them in previous visits to the home. The mother and father of the deceased child failed to properly secure the firearms and ammunition which were accessible to the young children in the home. The parents were felons and were not supposed to have possession of any firearms. The younger surviving sibling was removed from the parents' care and placed with paternal relatives to ensure his immediate safety. The two adolescent siblings remained with the parents as they were not receptive to leaving the home and they had the capacity to remove themselves from a potentially dangerous situation.

The law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy but the final results were not available when the Department completed it's investigation. The preliminary results indicated that the cause of death as perforated gunshot wound to the head with a manner of death as a homicide. The toxicology and additional testing was pending.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The deceased child's parents failed to properly secure the firearms and ammunition in the home. The deceased child's young friend gained access to a rifle and accidentally shot the deceased child while handling the firearm.

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision of the sibling. The parents were aware that the firearms were in their home and did not take the necessary precautions to secure the firearms and ammunition in the home. The firearms and ammunition were easily accessible to young children in the home.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 12/05/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 12/20/2022: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The parents will have the opportunity to participate in services offered by the Conservatorship program.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The youngest sibling was removed from the parents and will only have supervised visits with the parents.

If one or more children were previously removed from the home, for each conservatorship episode, summarize dates of conservatorship and type of placement at the end of conservatorship:

10/11/2011 Relative placement for sibling
07/10/2013 Adoptive placement with relative for sibling

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 01/10/2019, 03/10/2019

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received multiple intakes that were merged into a single investigation notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's cousin being on runaway status. The deceased child's cousin's grandmother, mother and aunt assaulted the cousin when they attempted to pick her up after she was found. The deceased child's mother reportedly grabbed the cousin and held her down when she was choking her with both hands. Law enforcement arrested the deceased child's mother for the aggravated assault of the deceased child's cousin.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's cousin had a history of running away and was engaging in high risk behaviors. The deceased child's cousin made a disclosure that the deceased child's mother had choked her to prevent her from leaving. The deceased child's cousin did not have any injuries as a result of the incident. The deceased child's mother denied any abuse or neglect, and claimed that she was attempting to restrain the deceased child's cousin when she was assaulting another relative. The deceased child's mother was not a caregiver to the child. The deceased child's cousin and her parents were provided with community resources to help them manage the cousin's behaviors. The school and other relatives agreed to help monitor and report concerns in the future.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to confirm or refute the allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child's cousin. The deceased child's cousin made reported that the deceased child's mother choked her, but the cousin did not have any injuries and the deceased child's mother denied assaulting the cousin.

Case Action: Close

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 01/13/2019: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The deceased child's cousin and her family accepted and were provided with community resources for counseling.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The school and relatives agreed to continue monitoring and report concerns in the future.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/24/2011

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns of the deceased child's mother giving birth to her fifth child and both were positive for marijuana at delivery. The mother was reportedly positive for marijuana during her prenatal care. The deceased child's father was described as aggressive and was angry when asked to provide his identification in order to sign the birth certificate.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother had given birth to the deceased child's sibling and the mother and sibling were positive for marijuana at delivery. The deceased child's father was on probation for drugs and was smoking marijuana. The deceased child's parents have history of maltreatment in Louisiana where the older siblings were removed from their care. During the investigation, law enforcement raided the deceased child's parents' home and found numerous drugs along with a firearm. The parents were believed to be selling drugs out of the home and were subsequently arrested. The deceased child's sibling was removed and placed with the paternal relative.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child's sibling. The mother and sibling were positive for marijuana at delivery. The mother admitted to smoking marijuana and was arrested for possession of numerous drugs during the investigation.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
07/18/2011 - Safety Assessment - Conditionally Safe-Safety Plan Completed.
09/20/2011 - Risk Assessment-Risk Indicated.
10/11/2011- Removal/Subcare

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The deceased child's parents were referred to services offered by the Conserveratorship program. However, they declined to participate in the services offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's sibling was removed from the parents' care. The sibling was subsequently adopted by a paternal relative.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 01/17/2018

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child and sibling being in the care of parents that were selling drugs from the home. There was reportedly marijuana and pills on the living room table that were accessible to the deceased child and sibling. The deceased child's father discharged a firearm in the direction of the mother while she was holding the deceased child's sibling.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child resided with the mother and father. The sibling was residing with his father in a separate residence. The deceased child's father was on probation and denied having any firearms. The deceased child's mother and father completed a hair test and both were positive for marijuana and cocaine. They agreed to secure a parental child safety placement of the deceased child with the paternal grandmother. The deceased child's father was arrested during the investigation. The mother agreed to participate in services offered by Family Based Safety Services.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child. The deceased child's parents were positive for marijuana and cocaine.

The Department refuted the allegations that the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision of the sibling. The deceased child's sibling was found to be in the care of his father and all of his basic needs were being adequately addressed. The deceased child's parents were not found to be caregivers to the sibling.

Case Action: Family Preservation

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 01/18/2018: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 03/06/2018: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother of the deceased child agreed to participate in services offered by Family Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's mother participated in services offered by Family Based Safety Services and was reunited with the deceased child. The deceased child's father was incarcerated and was unable to participate in services offered.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/31/2019, 08/31/2019

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received multiple intakes that were merged into a single investigation notifying it of concerns that the deceased child's sibling was taken to the hospital after informing law enforcement that the mother was beating him. The deceased child's sibling was running away from home and when he was returned home, the mother spanked him with a belt. The deceased child's sibling ran away after he was spanked with the belt and then his father picked him up and punched him in the chest. The deceased child's sibling has slight swelling to the temple area where the father reportedly punched him in the face. The sibling also had welt marks on his arm and leg and old scars on his back. The deceased child's father was observed bleeding from his arm. The deceased child's mother claimed that the old scars were inflicted by a relative caregiver in Louisiana. The deceased child's parents do not want the sibling to be released to the grandmother and want an uncle to care for him when he is discharged from the hospital.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child was residing with three older siblings and his parents. The deceased child's sibling disclosed that his mother spanked him with a belt and struck his back, legs and arms. The deceased child's mother was struggling with managing the adolescent sibling's behaviors and sent the deceased child and two other siblings to Louisiana. The deceased child's sibling went to stay with the paternal grandmother. The school confirmed that the deceased child's sibling was engaging in disruptive behaviors at school too. The paternal relative agreed to continue to care for the siblings in Louisiana and there were other relatives in Texas willing to help monitor the deceased child's sibling that remained in Texas. The deceased child's sibling was receptive to the counseling that was offered.

Investigation Findings:

The Department refuted the allegations that the deceased child's mother and father committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child's sibling. The deceased child's sibling initially said that his father had punched him, but the parents denied abusing the sibling. There appears to be conflict between the parents and their adolescent son.

Case Action: Close

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/02/2019: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The deceased child's parents and sibling agreed to the community resource offered for counseling after the school holidays.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's sibling remained in the care of the paternal relatives and the deceased child and other siblings were in Louisiana with relatives. The relatives agreed to continue to monitor and offer support to the family.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 12/08/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns when the deceased child's sibling made an outcry of father making inappropriate comments. The deceased child's sibling had screenshots of text messages between the sibling and deceased child's father. The deceased child's sibling is upset that the mother is ignoring her disclosure. The deceased child's mother claimed she did not know why the father and sibling were not getting along. She was planning to move to Louisiana.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's sibling had runaway from home and was refusing to return home. The deceased child's sibling made a disclosure to law enforcement about the deceased child's father sending her sexually inappropriate text messages. The deceased child was residing with three siblings and their mother at a local motel. The deceased child's father had recently been bonded out of jail after he assaulted the paternal grandmother. He was not residing with the children and mother. The father did not make any admissions of abuse or neglect and denied engaging in inappropriate communication with the sibling. The deceased child's siblings were upset that the family was planning to move back to Louisiana. The deceased child's mother expressed concerns that the sibling was running away from home and engaging in high risk behaviors. The deceased child's other sibling was compliant with mental health treatment and no concerns were noted with the children. The mother was connected with resources and services available in the community to meet her children's medical needs.

Investigation Findings:

The Department refuted the allegations that the deceased child's father committed Sexual Abuse of the deceased child's two older siblings. The siblings did not provide sufficient information to corroborate the claims that their father was sending inappropriate texts to his children.

The Department refuted the allegation that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child's older sibling. The mother was not aware that the sibling was distressed over texts exchanged with the father. The mother was having difficulty managing the behaviors of her adolescent daughter who refuses to return home at curfew.

Case Action: Close

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 12/10/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 05/29/2021: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The deceased child's parent agreed to accept the community services for counseling offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child and siblings remained in the care of their mother. The father was not residing in the home. There were relatives and medical staff willing to help monitor and report concerns as they were identified.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 07/14/2021

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's father being discharged from a psychiatric facility. The father was reportedly abusing synthetic marijuana and Xanax pills that were not prescribed to him. The father had been very aggressive with the deceased child's mother and she feared for the children's safety. The mother sent the children to be with relatives while she hid all the knives and bullets to the firearms in the home. The father reportedly attempted to use the firearm on himself, but it was not loaded.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child was residing with his parents and four siblings when the father was threatening to harm himself. The deceased child's mother contacted medical services to have the father admitted into the psychiatric facility. The mother denied that the father brandished any firearms. The father was prescribed medication after his discharge from the psychiatric hospital. He admitted to having self-harming thoughts prior to his hospitalization and was willing to remain compliant with his mental health treatment. The father admitted to using marijuana and both parents declined to complete drug testing. The mother was participating in specialized training to learn how to care for a special needs child. The father claimed he moved to Louisiana and was no longer residing with the children. The older siblings were having issues with their school attendance and were facing expulsion. The paternal grandmother was still actively involved with the family and was willing to help monitor. The mother was willing to continue to allow the deceased child's older sibling to participate in mental health treatment and remain compliant with her medication. No other concerns were identified with the children.

Investigation Findings:

The Department refuted the allegations that the deceased child's father committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child and his four siblings. There was not sufficient evidence found to suggest that the father's mental health impacted the children's safety and wellbeing. The father was reportedly no longer residing in the same home.

Case Action: Close

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/15/2021: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 10/28/2021: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The deceased child's mother was connected with and utilizing community resources to ensure her children's medical and therapeutic needs were addressed.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child and siblings remained in the care of their mother. The father was reportedly not residing in the same home. There were relatives and medical staff willing to help monitor and report concerns.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 02/18/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's mother hitting the deceased child's sibling. The sibling sustained a scratch on her hip area and reported having a busted lip when she was struck in the face. The mother had kicked out the sibling from the home and then reported that she ran away to be with an older man. The mother did not file any runaway report, but expressed interest in filing a sexual assault report on the unrelated male. The sibling denied the sexual assault allegations.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's sibling left the mother's home following an altercation. The sibling had a history of running away from home. The sibling reported that the mother slapped her and injured her lip. The siblings did not make any disclosures to support the older sibling's claim. The school was concerned with the older siblings engaging in altercations with peers and had to be suspended. The deceased child's father was not residing with the children and mother. He was not located during the investigation. The mother declined to allow her home to be assessed or for her younger children including the deceased child to be observed. The paternal grandmother continues to visit with the family and did not have any concerns. A legal staffing was completed and there were insufficient grounds to justify any other legal intervention to gain access to the younger children.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to confirm or refute the allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child's older sibling. The adolescent sibling reported having been slapped by the mother, but she was not observed with any injuries to support her claim. The mother was not willing to be fully cooperative and there were insufficient grounds to intervene with the family for further exploration.

Case Action: Close

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/14/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 06/01/2022: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The deceased child's mother did not agree to participate in any community services offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The children remained with their mother and she declined any services or resources offered.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

Investigation Findings:

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Note: This report was prepared on 10/20/2023 and does not include corrections or updates, if any, that may be subsequently made to DFPS data on or after the date this report was prepared.