Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 103391371

County of Child's Residence: TOM GREEN

Gender: Male

Age: 3 Year(s) 11 Month(s)

Date of Death: 01/18/2024

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: Limuel,Josiah

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 1/18/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report of a fatal event after law enforcement responded to a 911 call and discovered the deceased child unresponsive and not breathing. The deceased child was observed with bruising to the forehead and arms and elsewhere. The home was observed in disarray with lots of toys cluttering the residence. Deceased child was taken by emergency medical services to the hospital where he died.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother, deceased child and two other siblings resided in the home. Deceased child's mother is the primary caregiver to all children. Deceased child's mother's boyfriend was residing in the home about two weeks prior. Per collaterals, the deceased child was often in trouble and did not attend family functions with the family. It is believed he was left home alone. According to medical records, deceased child had not gained weight in approximately two years and appeared very thin and malnourished. At the time of his death, the deceased child weighed 23 pounds and was almost 4 years old and his sibling, who is almost 2 years old, weighs 25 pounds. The older sibling was interviewed and reported deceased child was locked in the bathroom at night by his mother and no one else was. Law enforcement found the locks on the bathroom door were on the outside of the door. On the night prior to his passing, the deceased child was in the bathroom floor with no warm pajamas, no blankets or pillows for warmth. The home's heater was in working condition but was turned off. The temperature of the child's body when brought to the hospital was 71 degrees and the temperature inside the bathroom was 62 degrees. Both surviving siblings were removed from the care, custody and control of the deceased child's mother.

The medical examiner listed the cause of death as hypothermia due to environmental exposure. Other significant finds are neglect; malnourished, child's weight is in the less than one percentile among children his age at time of death.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation but no charges or arrests had been made by the time the Department's investigation closed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed physical neglect against the deceased child which led to his death.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed physical abuse against the deceased child.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother's paramour committed neglectful supervision against the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
1/18/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe
Risk Assessment: Final Risk Level - High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals provided during the investigation but will be offered in the Conservatorship case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the surviving siblings who were placed into foster care.

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:

Not applicable.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 1/29/2021

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report from law enforcement regarding a domestic violence incident that took place in the home. The deceased child's older sibling's father broke in to the home through a window and took the sibling. Mother attempted to get the sibling back and was assaulted by him. Both children where present and could have been seriously harmed. The sibling's father held a cigarette to mother's head. There is a pattern of domestic violence in the home.

The Department's investigation determined that the siblings father had assaulted the mother in the presence of the children. There has been ongoing domestic violence throughout the relationship. There have been some aggressive behaviors demonstrated by the sibling at daycare. At the conclusion of the investigation, the children's mother separated from the siblings father.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed that the siblings father committed neglectful supervision of deceased child and sibling. Paramour physically assaulted the mother in the presence of her young and vulnerable children. He broke into the home through a window, and took the sibling from the apartment and ran with him, while continuing to assault the mother, placing the children in substantial risk of harm.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
1/30/2021: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe (mother's household)
3/5/2021: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan (sibling's father household)
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Legal Services

Other Services:

The mother acceppted services and referrals offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 11/29/2021

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received an anonymous report regarding bruises to the deceased child. The child was observed with bruises to his thigh, buttocks, right lower leg and calf, right arm near his wrist, and to the center of his lower back. The child had missed one week of daycare prior to the bruises being observed. The child's

mother denied that he had bruises.

The Department's investigation determined that the mother admitted to using a belt on the child, and it was the first time this type of discipline was used. The mother agreed that due to his age and developmental capacity this type of discipline would not be considered appropriate and she would utilize other discipline methods. The child's older sibling in the home did not have any marks or bruises. The mother agreed to participate in parenting services in the community and the children were attending day care.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother committed physical abuse of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
11/29/2021: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Parent/Caregiver Training,Basic Needs Support

Other Services:

The mother acceppted services and referrals offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 8/15/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns of physical abuse towards the deceased child, who was observed with two large bruises to his upper right thigh.

The Department's investigation determined that the injury to the child appeared to be a bruise from normal day to day play and did not rise to the level of abuse. The child was noted to appear tall and thin for his given age. He was observed running around the living room, jumping and playing. His back, belly and chest were observed without clothing and there were no marks or bruises at that time.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother committed physical abuse of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
8/22/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
9/7/2022: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close - Abbreviated INV

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals provided.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 11/21/2023

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report regarding the deceased child's mother's paramour's 10-year-old child who was stated to have been chocked by his father, hit by the deceased child's mother, was left home alone, and was not being fed.

The Department determined that there had been a recent investigation regarding the same concerns and case was closed with no abuse or neglect being found. The 10-year-old's father did not allow the Department to see the 10-year-old as there had just been an investigation. Collaterals were contacted who confirmed the 10-year-old was still receiving mental health services in the community. The case was closed without further investigation or contacts with the family.

Investigation Findings:

The Department administratively closed concerns of physical abuse and neglectful supervision of the 10-year-old by his father, the deceased child's mother's paramour).

The Department administratively closed concerns of emotional abuse of the 10-year-old by the deceased child's mother.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Not applicable as case was Administratively Closed.

Case Action:

Closed

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Not applicable as case was Administratively Closed.

Other Services:

None

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

None

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 9/27/2023

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report after the deceased child's mother's paramour's 10-year-old child reported the deceased child's mother would punch him in the chest all the time and it hurt.

The Department's investigation determined that the 10-year-old had no marks or bruises on him and stated that only his father disciplines him, and the deceased child's mother did not. School personnel stated that they did not have concerns for the 10-year-old's safety. Recently, the 10-year-old was diagnosed as bipolar as well as ODD, and was in counseling and taking medication.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's mother committed physical abuse of her paramour's 10-year-old child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: 10/11/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Closed

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

No services or referrals provided as the 10-year-old was already receiving services in the community.

Other Services:

None

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

None

Note: This report was prepared on 05/12/2026 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.