Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 105893157

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Male

Age: 0 Year(s) 5 Month(s)

Date of Death: 01/07/2022

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: Keys,Karter

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 11/04/2021

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after an unresponsive child had been taken to the hospital. The deceased child's mother reported that the child had been co-sleeping with another adult the previous day and then the child was stiff and not interactive the following day. The deceased child's mother took the child to the hospital while he was actively seizing; the child was intubated and medicated. The computerized tomography scan shows abusive head trauma and subdural hematomas and multiple skull fractures. The deceased child's seizures were believed to be related to the head trauma. The deceased child did not survive his injuries and passed away at the hospital.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child and two siblings were in the care of their mother prior to the deceased child's hospitalization. The deceased child's mother took the child to the hospital after she noticed the child was not eating, crying or sitting up; the deceased child's eyes were reportedly not following the mother's movements. The medical staff discovered that the child sustained abusive head trauma with subdural hematomas and multiple skull fractures. The deceased child did not recover from his injuries and passed away after two months in the hospital. The deceased child's older sibling witnessed his mother hitting the deceased child on various parts of his body. The deceased child's older sibling recalled how the deceased child fell back when he was spanked by his mother and cried; he reported that his mother would leave the child after he fell. The deceased child's

older sibling described how his mother slammed the deceased child in his crib. The deceased child's mother made no admissions of abuse or neglect. The deceased child's father was out of town when the mother was abusing the deceased child prior to his hospitalization. The surviving siblings were initially placed in a Parental Child Safety Placement before they were reunited with their father. The mother was arrested and charged with injury to a child. The two surviving siblings remained with their father and were not having contact with the mother after she was released from jail on bond.

The law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. The deceased child's mother was arrested and charged with injury to a child.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy and the final report was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. The cause and manner of death had not been determined in the preliminary autopsy report.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The deceased child sustained numerous injuries indicative of abusive, blunt force trauma to his head. The sibling witnessed his mother hitting the deceased child on various parts of his body and recalled how the deceased child fell on two occasions after the mother hit the child. The deceased child had been in the care of the mother prior to his passing, and she failed to provide the needed care and was not protective.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
11/05/2021 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe;
02/24/2022 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe;
03/04/2022 - Safety Assessment - Closure - Safe;
02/24/2022 - Risk Assessment - High;

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The parents were provided with grief counseling resources. The father was provided with general protective daycare.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The two surviving siblings remained with their father who remained protective.

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:

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 04/22/2006

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns that the deceased child's sibling was found asleep at the bus stop. A friend noticed the sibling sleeping and took the child home. The deceased child's mother does not have her own residence and usually stays with friends. It is believed that the deceased child's mother may be prostituting and using marijuana and cocaine.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's sibling and mother did not have stable housing. The school had difficulty in contacting the deceased child's mother to confirm her home address. The deceased child's sibling disclosed that his mother often left him alone at the bus stop for several hours; she would also leave him home alone and he did not always have food to eat. The mother made no admissions of abuse or neglect. A safety plan was implemented with the deceased child's mother willing to allow the sibling to reside with his grandmother. The mother agreed to participate in services offered.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child's sibling. The deceased child's mother would leave the young sibling at the bus stop for several hours without adult supervision. She would also leave the sibling home alone without making the necessary arrangements for his care and supervision.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
8/16/2006 - Risk Assessment - Risk Indicated;

Case Action:

A safety plan was completed with the mother and relative who agreed to monitor the child around the mother.

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The mother was referred to Family Based Safety Services.

Other Services:

The parent was offered services with the Conservatorship department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The sibling was placed with a relative caregiver and the mother agreed not to have unsupervised access to the child.

Note: This report was prepared on 03/02/2023 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.