Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 106736568

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Male

Age: 15 Year(s) 7 Month(s)

Date of Death: 01/18/2022

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: Burns,Hayden

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 01/19/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after three adolescents were found deceased in the same home by law enforcement. The preliminary investigation indicates that the 15-year-old male shot the 17-year-old sibling and her 17-year-old friend. The 15-year-old male adolescent then shot himself. It is believed that 15-year-old male and the 17-year-old female sibling's mother purchased the two firearms for the 15-year-old. It was unknown what security measures were put in place after purchasing the firearms. The deceased 15-year-old male and the 17-year-old female sibling's mother was on a cruise at the time of the shootings and there was no known adult person responsible for the children's supervision.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased 15-year-old male and the 17-year-old female sibling had access to two firearms and ammunition purchased by their mother. The deceased children's mother did not implement any safety measures to secure the two firearms and ammunition in the home. The mother allowed the deceased 15-year-old male child to keep the firearms and ammunition in his bedroom. The deceased 15-year-old male and 17-year-old female sibling had been left home alone without any adult caregiver when the mother went on a cruise. The mother was not present when the deceased 15-year-old male child shot and fatally injured his older sibling and the older sibling's adolescent friend. The adolescent friend had been shot multiple times. The deceased 15-year-old male child then shot himself with the same firearm used to shoot his sister and her friend. All three

adolescents did not survive and passed away at the home. There were no surviving siblings of the deceased 15-year-old male and 17-year-old female sibling.

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

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy. The final report listed the cause of death for the 15-year-old male child was self-inflicted gunshot wound, and the manner of death was suicide.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to his death. The deceased child had access to two firearms and ammunition when he fatally shot his older sibling and her adolescent friend before taking his own life with the same firearm. There was no adult caregiver responsible for the child's supervision while the mother was on a cruise and the child was allowed to keep the two firearms and ammunition in his bedroom.

The Department confirmed allegations that the mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child's older sibling, which led to the child's death. The mother did not take the necessary safety measures to secure the firearms in the home when she allowed the younger sibling to keep the firearms and ammunition in his bedroom. The adolescent child was shot once in the head by the younger sibling and passed away at the home from her injuries.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
A Safety and Risk Assessment were not required in this investigation as the only children in the household died.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Only child died

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The parent was provided with grief counseling resources.

No Service Referrals and deceased child was an only child.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The only children in the home passed away.

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):

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 02/24/2023 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.