Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 107144194

County of Child's Residence: BELL

Gender: Male

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

Date of Death: 03/04/2022

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: Tarr,John E

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/04/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that law enforcement responded to a home where a child was found deceased. It was noted the deceased child was co-sleeping with his father. The deceased child's father last saw the deceased child alive at 8:00AM. The father and deceased child went back to sleep. When father woke up at 5:00PM, deceased child was discovered cold and unresponsive at 5:00PM.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child's mother and father both were positive for methamphetamines during the investigation while caring for the deceased child and his sibling. The father was co-sleeping with the deceased child while under the influence of illicit substances and had not checked on him in 9 hours. The mother was asleep for 13 hours without checking on the deceased child or his sibling and also was under the influence of methamphetamines.

The Medical Examiner completed an autopsy. At the time of DFPS case closure, the final autopsy had not been received.

A law enforcement investigation remains active and ongoing at case closure.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The deceased child's father was under the influence of methamphetamines and amphetamines at the time he chose to co-sleep with the deceased resulting in his death. The father did not check on the deceased for 9 hours at which point he was discovered deceased.

The Department confirmed allegations of neglectful supervision of the deceased child and his sibling by their mother due to her being under the influence of methamphetamines while being a caregiver to both children.

The Department confirmed allegations of neglectful supervision of the deceased child's sibling by her mother due to the fact she was under the influence of methamphetamines and amphetamines while being a caregiver to her daughter. She did not check on her for over 12 hours on the day the deceased child was found unresponsive.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
03/05/2022: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Initial Safe With Plan
03/17/2022: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Unsafe
Structured Decision Making Risk Assessment Final Level: High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

Not Applicable

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family will be offered services through conservatorship

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:

The deceased child's sibling was removed on 03/17/2022.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 11/01/2018, 11/01/2018

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received two reports that the deceased child's mother was observed with a black eye when she dropped deceased child's sibling off at school. Sibling was observed in clothing not appropriate for the weather. Sibling is often absent from school. A welfare check was sent to the home for mother and the home was observed to have several alcohol containers and boxes as well as laundry throughout the home.

The Department was unable to make contact with mother and father from November to January in order to address the allegations. At initial contact with parents, the Department was refused access to the home. A scheduled visit was set up, but parents did not answer on date and time they set up visit. They were interviewed two days later and denied any domestic violence between them. Both times the Department visited the home it was around 3pm and the mother was said to be asleep according to father. The deceased child's sibling indicated she has never witnessed any physical altercations between her parents. The home was observed to be clean. The Department spoke to an uncle who denied any concerns for child safety.

Investigation Findings:

This was an alternative response case which has no findings. The case was closed without services or referrals and no information was obtained to substantiate concerns of domestic violence.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
11/06/2018: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Initial Safe
01/08/2019: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Case Closure - Safe
Structured Decision Making Risk Assessment Final Level: Low

Case Action:

Case Closed without services

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Not applicable

Other Services:

Not applicable

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable

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