Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 108132066

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Male

Age: 0 Year(s) 1 Month(s)

Date of Death: 08/02/2022

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: Gabriel,Santana

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/02/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after emergency medical services responded to a call of an unresponsive child found at a motel room. The first responders found the father standing over the unresponsive child and they initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation before transporting the child to the local hospital. The father declined to go to the hospital, and it was unknown if the mother was present at the motel room. The medical staff at the hospital found that the child had extensive bruising on his legs, abdomen and three abrasions on his right leg. There was blood noted on the outside of the child's right ear. The mother and father were later detained at the motel. The first responders reportedly noted an odor of marijuana in the room. The Department had been following the child since birth after the mother was found to be positive for marijuana and cocaine during her pregnancy.

The Department's investigation determined that the family had an open investigation as of June 2022 following the deceased child's birth. The mother was positive for marijuana at delivery and reportedly used drugs throughout her pregnancy. The deceased child was positive for syphilis at birth and had been discharged from the hospital in July. The deceased child and parents were residing in a motel room when they found the infant unresponsive. The emergency medical services and law enforcement responded to the motel room and administered life-saving measures before transporting the child to the local hospital. The child was declared deceased at the hospital. The mother declined to be interviewed during the investigation. However, she provided a statement to law enforcement

detailing how the father mistreated the deceased child by spanking him with an open hand repeatedly and how he shook him prior to his passing. The mother admitted that she and the father were using methamphetamines and cocaine while the child was in their care. The mother did not take any safety measures to intervene or remove the child from the abusive situation. The father made no admissions of abuse or neglect. The mother was homeless and her whereabouts were unknown. The parents did not have any other minor children in their care.

The law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. Law enforcement arrested the father and charged him with aggravated assault, injury to a child and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, and he remained in jail.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, but the final results were not available when the Department completed its investigation. The preliminary results found that the deceased child had sustained extensive bruising to his thighs, legs, chest and ankles. The medical examiner also discovered methamphetamines in the deceased child's blood and liver.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father and mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The child had methamphetamine in his blood and liver system and had extensive bruising on his body. The deceased child's mother and father were engaging in drug use in the child's presence. The mother described how father was mistreating the infant by physically striking him and shaking the child. The deceased child had been in the care of the mother and father prior to his passing, and both failed to provide the needed supervision and were not protective.

The Department confirmed the allegations that the deceased child's father committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child. The mother gave a statement to law enforcement describing how the father would physically hit the child and shook the child. The medical examiner found extensive bruising to the deceased child's body. The manner and cause of death were still pending.

The Department was unable to confirm or refute the allegations of Physical Abuse of the deceased child by his mother. The mother's role in the child's injuries could not be determined.

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

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Only child died

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The parents were provided with grief counseling resources.

No Service Referrals and deceased child was an only child.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The only child 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:

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/25/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's mother was positive for marijuana at the birth of the deceased child. The mother used marijuana throughout her pregnancy because of back pain. The deceased child's drug screen and meconium results are pending. The deceased child was positive for syphilis and is receiving treatment in the neonatal intensive care unit. The mother did not receive any prenatal care and it is unknown if the father uses drugs.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child was born positive for syphilis and exposed to illicit drugs during the mother's pregnancy. The mother admitted to using marijuana to help relieve back pain. The deceased child's urine drug screening was negative at birth. He remained in the neonatal intensive care unit while receiving treatment for the syphilis exposure. The mother initially expressed a willingness to participate in substance abuse services offered by a community provider. However, after the mother was discharged from the hospital, she and the father declined to complete the drug screening and the father declined to be interviewed. The mother and deceased child were residing in a motel with the father after the child was discharged from the hospital in July. A subsequent referral was received after the deceased child was found unresponsive in August.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child. The mother knew she was pregnant and used illicit drugs that were not lawfully prescribed by a medical practitioner. She admitted to using marijuana during her pregnancy and there is evidence that she used regularly and used close to the child's birth, she was positive at the child's delivery. The infant was at substantial risk of immediate harm as a result of the mother's substance abuse addiction.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
06/26/2022 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother was provided with substance abuse resources that were available in the community.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

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 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.