Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 108494252

County of Child's Residence: JEFFERSON

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 4 Month(s)

Date of Death: 08/13/2022

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: Canida,Kalayah

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/13/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report of the deceased child had been found not breathing and 911 was called. The deceased child's parents fell asleep with the child in-between them. When they awoke, they found the child in a crevice between the bed and the wall. When Emergency Medical Responders arrived, they confirmed rigor mortis had already set in the child's body. Marijuana was found lying loose on the nightstand.

The Department's investigation determined the child was co-sleeping with both parents and the deceased child's twin sibling. Typically, the twins slept together in one crib. Both the twin sibling and the parents tested positive for marijuana on a hair strand test.

Law Enforcement investigated the fatality but had not closed their investigation when the Department's case closed.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy of the deceased child. The final autopsy lists the cause of death as asphyxia due to occlusion of nose and mouth due to co-sleeping/wedging and the manner of death as accident.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother and father both committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child. Both parents were under the influence of marijuana and there were multiple persons co-sleeping with the child creating overcrowding on the sleep surface which led to the child's death.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/14/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 10/20/2022: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan
3.) 11/08/2022: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe with plan

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Day Care,Counseling and Evaluation,Parent/Caregiver Training,Basic Needs Support

Other Services:

The parents were offered substance abuse treatment, counseling, mental health assessment and the parents accepted the services

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family was referred to Family Preservation Services. When the investigation closed, the deceased child's parents had a Family Plan of Service which included substance abuse treatment, grief counseling, mental health treatment, parenting classes and on-going FPR case management.
During the FPR stage, the parent's contact with the deceased child' twin sibling was supervised.
When the investigation closed, the deceased child's older sibling was living with her other parent who is 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:

NA

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.