Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 110916438

County of Child's Residence: TARRANT

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 10 Month(s)

Date of Death: 05/15/2023

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: Houston,Zaveena

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 05/15/23

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that emergency services responded to a single vehicle accident involving the mother, the deceased child, and the deceased child's three siblings. The mother was intoxicated and driving between 70 to 80 miles per hour when she hit a tree. All four of the children were ejected from the vehicle and transported to the hospital. The deceased child was pronounced deceased at the hospital and the three siblings were critically injured and admitted into the intensive care unit. The mother was taken into police custody and transported to the hospital.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother was driving with the deceased child and the deceased child's three siblings. The mother lost control of the vehicle and hit a tree. The mother admitted to consuming alcohol prior to driving with the children. Law enforcement completed blood alcohol testing and the mother's blood alcohol level was twice the legal limit at 0.16; and the accident reconstruction determined the mother was driving 81 miles per hour when the vehicle struck the tree. The deceased child was transported to the hospital and died due to the injuries sustained in the accident. The deceased child was ejected from the vehicle and the medical examiner's preliminary findings concluded that the deceased child died of blunt force trauma. The deceased child's one year old sibling was seriously injured, suffering lacerations to the face and tongue; and had to be intubated in the pediatric intensive care unit for several days as a result of the injuries sustained in the accident. The

deceased child's two year old sibling was seriously injured suffering numerous abrasions and lacerations requiring stitches, a broken femur, a traumatic head injury, and was intubated in the pediatric intensive care unit as a result of a car accident. The deceased child's 10 year old sibling suffered a partial arm amputation, a fractured femur, a broken jaw, abdominal injuries, was intubated in the pediatric intensive care unit for several weeks, and had approximately seven surgeries with additional surgeries being scheduled in the future as a result of a accident. The 10 year old sibling remained in the hospital at the time the Department's investigation closed.

The final law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation was closed, but the mother was arrested for intoxicated manslaughter and three counts of intoxicated assault.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy and the preliminary findings concluded the deceased child died of blunt force trauma. The final autopsy results were pending at the time the Department's investigation closed.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessments:
1.) 05/15/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 05/18/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe
3.) 05/19/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe
4.) 06/19/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
5.) 07/17/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child, which led to her death. The mother was driving while intoxicated with the children in the vehicle, the mother lost control of the vehicle and hit a tree which resulted in deceased child's sustaining injuries that led to her death.

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child's three siblings. The mother was driving while intoxicated with the children in the vehicle, the mother lost control of the vehicle and hit a tree which resulted in the sibling sustaining serious injuries.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family accepted services

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's youngest two siblings were legally removed and placed with a relative. The deceased child's oldest sibling remained in the hospital and was in the care of his father at the closure of the Department's investigation. Services will be provided and monitored through legal.

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): 07/21/18, 08/26/18, 09/03/18

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns for the deceased child's sibling. There were concerns about domestic violence between the deceased child's mother and father, with the mother observed with bruising to her arms and legs at the hospital for the birth of the deceased child's sibling, and concerns the mother tested positive for marijuana several months prior to the sibling's birth. A second report was received with concerns that the deceased child's father assaulted the mother in front of the deceased child's sibling, and concerns the mother and father used marijuana in front of the child. A third report was received with concerns that the deceased child's father assaulted the mother in front of the deceased child's sibling.
The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's sibling was present during the domestic violence between the mother and father. The deceased child's sibling was not harmed during the domestic violence incident, and he was not observed with any marks or bruises. The sibling's meconium was also positive for marijuana. The deceased child's mother admitted to using marijuana and was positive for marijuana and cocaine. The deceased child's mother denied using cocaine. The deceased child's sibling was placed in the home of a family member.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/24/2018: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 08/27/2018: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child's sibling. The mother admitted to drug use, the child's meconium was positive for marijuana, and there were concerns the child was present during the domestic violence between the parents.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The family agreed to services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's sibling was placed in the home of a family member and the family agreed to services through Family Based Safety Services to further mitigate safety and risk factors.

During the Family Based Safety Services case, the parents did not engage in services, an altercation occurred between the father and the relative, and the sibling was legally removed and placed in the relative's home.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 07/20/20

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns for the deceased child's sibling. The deceased child's mother had a baby and had an open case with the Department. There were concerns the mother tested positive for marijuana during the open case and concerns with a history of violence by the mother and father.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother and father were negative on drug tests, the verbal child in the home was interviewed and denied abuse or neglect, and the family had support of friends and family.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/20/2020: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 08/19/2020: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm allegations the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child's sibling. The parents were negative on drug tests and the verbal child in the home denied abuse or neglect.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No additional services

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

No additional action was taken.

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 10/24/2023 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.