Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 79520595

County of Child's Residence: CASS

Gender: Female

Age: 9 Year(s) 6 Month(s)

Date of Death: 07/30/2022

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: Robinson-Olive,Zi'Ariel L

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 07/30/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report after the deceased child and two siblings were found dead in a pond near their residence. The children had been reported missing. Law enforcement and others were searching for the children when they were found in the pond.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child and five siblings were left in the care of a family member of the deceased child when the mother of the deceased child went to work. The child suffered physical injuries and died while in the care of the family member. The deceased child's mother was aware of the family member's history of substance abuse and violence behavior but continued to use the family member as a babysitter when she was working.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, but the final cause and matter of death was not available when the Department's investigation closed. The preliminary findings indicate the cause of death will be homicide violence including drowning and the manner of death will be homicide.

Law enforcement is continuing their investigation, but no charges had been filed when the Department's investigation closed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's family member committed physical abuse of the deceased child which led to the child's death. The autopsy showed the child had significant injuries and was drowned.

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's family member committed sexual abuse of the deceased child. The autopsy showed the child had injuries to her vagina.

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's family member committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child. The family member was the only caregiver for the child when she was reported missing.

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child. The mother was aware of the family member's criminal background which included possession of an illegal substance and other crimes. She was also aware of the family member's incarceration, but allowed the family member to babysit her six children regularly.

The Department did not confirm allegations the deceased child's mother committed physical neglect of the deceased child. The family relocated to a different location as their home was considered a crime scene. The Department was unable to access the family's home for safety.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/31/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 07/31/2022: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan
3.) 10/03/2022: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The court ordered the mother to participate in the Family Preservation stage and the mother agreed to follow the orders.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The mother and surviving siblings moved in with the deceased child's maternal grandfather. The mother is not allowing any contact with the family member.

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:

05/10/2017 - 05/11/2017 (3 siblings) - case was non-suited - ending placement with mother
05/10/2017 - 11/03/2017 (1 sibling) - ending placement with mother
05/26/2017 - 11/03/2017 (3 siblings) - ending placement with mother

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 10/30/2019; 12/04/2019

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report on 10/30/2019 regarding the deceased child's younger sibling being severely underweight and the deceased child's mother was not following-up with medical care.

The Department received another report in 12/04/2018 when the deceased child stabbed another child on the school bus and stabbed the sibling of the deceased child at home. The deceased child's mother took the child to the hospital for evaluation.
The hospital recommended the child be admitted to a psychiatric facility. The local psychiatric facility was full, and the mother refused to transport the child to another facility. The mother took the child and left the hospital against medical advice (AMA).

The Department's investigation determined the mother did follow-through with medical attention for the deceased child and the sibling. The sibling was found not to be underweight and is on target developmentally. The child was connected with the Local Mental Health Authority to address her mental health.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm allegations of Medical Neglect of the deceased child and the deceased child's sibling by the deceased child's mother. The mother sought services for her children. The child is receiving services through the Local Mental Health Authority.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 11/22/2016: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The case was referred to Family Preservation Services to assist the mother in accessing services and the mother accepted the services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A Family Team Meeting was held with the mother's support system.

The Family Preservation stage closed 01/27/2020 after it was determined the deceased child's mother was meeting the needs of her children.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 10/15/2018

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child's sibling was observed at school to be filthy and smelled strongly of feces. The sibling talked about seeing her parents physically fight in her presence.

The Department' investigation determined the family's home had working utilities, food in the home and clothing for the children. All the children were observed to be clean and odor-free. It was learned the domestic violence happened in Arkansas where it is being investigated.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the allegation of Physical Neglect of the deceased child's sibling by the deceased child's mother. The family has working utilities, ample food and clothing.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/15/2017: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The case was referred to Family Preservation Services to assist the mother in accessing services and the mother accepted the services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's sibling's father was arrested and for a probation revocation and remained in jail when the case closed.
There is extended family support who help with the children.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 10/15/2018

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child's sibling was observed at school to be filthy and smelled strongly of feces. The sibling talked about seeing her parents physically fight in her presence.

The Department' investigation determined the family's home had working utilities, food in the home and clothing for the children. All the children were observed to be clean and odor-free. It was learned the domestic violence happened in Arkansas where it is being investigated.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the allegation of Physical Neglect of the deceased child's sibling by the deceased child's mother. The family has working utilities, ample food and clothing.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 12/14/2017: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Risk Assessment not required by Policy.

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Household items and food were offered by the Department and accepted by the mother.

Other Services:

none

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's sibling's father was arrested and for a probation revocation and remained in jail when the case closed.
There is extended family support who help with the children.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/09/2018; 04/03/2018

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report on 03/09/2018 when the deceased child's sibling was seen with a bruise under her right eye. The sibling indicated the bruise was happened when the deceased child's mother spanked her with a switch. There are concerns the deceased child and sibling are not getting enough food at home, smells, comes to school dirty, and the child's clothes do not fit. There is also concern the family does not have running water.

The Department received another report on 04/03/2018 when the deceased child and her sibling said the deceased child's grandmother hits them. The grandmother may have mental health diagnoses. Other concerns include a lack of food in the home and the children not having clothing and shoes.

The Department's investigation determined the bruise under the child's right eye was from the deceased child's younger sibling scratching the child. No other bruising was observed on the child or siblings when they were seen throughout the case. The family's home had working utilities and food in the home. There were lots of clothes in the children's bedroom.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the allegation of Physical Abuse of the deceased child by the deceased child's mother or grandmother. The bruise to the child's eye was determined to be from a younger sibling and no other bruises or fresh marks were observed.

The Department did not confirm the allegation of Physical Neglect of the deceased child by the deceased child's mother. The family's home was found to have working utilities, food and clothing for the child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/10/2018: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother was provided with homemaker and preventative resources to help the family, but the mother declined.

No Service Referrals and deceased child was an only child.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A Family Team Meeting was held during the investigation with the family's support system.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

Investigation Findings:

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 10/19/2018: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 12/19/2018: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 05/10/2017

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child was admitted to the hospital for failure to thrive. The child was seen by a doctor in February due to spitting-up but the deceased child's mother did not follow-up with additional appointments. In February the child weighed 10.38 pounds and in May the child weighed 10.13 pounds.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's lack of weight gain was due to not being fed enough food. Medical confirmed there was adequate weight gain with supervision and proper feedings. The child's diagnosis was Malnourishment due to Neglect.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did confirm allegations the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision and physical neglect of the deceased child. The child was not feed enough food and suffered from Failure to Thrive. The mother did not follow-up with medical personnel after an initial appointment to address the child's eating.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

NA

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child was placed in foster care where she received appropriate physical and medical care.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 05/22/2014; 06/10/2014

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report on 05/22/2014 the deceased child and siblings are living at an unsafe location where there is drug activity. Empty vials of PCP and a grinder used to grind marijuana were observed. Another report was received on 06/10/2014 the children were living with the deceased child's grandmother without working utilities or food. The grandmother is disabled.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother and the grandmother have pooled their resources and the home the family lives in has working utilities. It appears the rental company rented the family a home before it was ready to be lived in and the electricity could not be turned on until repairs were made. This has been resolved. The mother and the grandmother completed a drug test and was negative. No concerns were noted regarding the children.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child. The family's home is safe and appropriate. The mother tested negative for drugs.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/05/2015: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Risk Assessment not required by Policy.

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

NA

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family is able to access community resources and services to meet the needs of the children.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/04/2015

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child's grandmother only feeds the deceased child and sibling one time a day resulting in weight loss. The deceased child's grandmother drinks alcohol and takes prescription pills to the point of intoxication daily. The grandmother drives with the children in the car while she is intoxicated. The grandmother hit the children with a plastic coat hanger for getting water on the floor after taking a bath.

The Department's investigation determined the grandmother takes prescription medication for her diabetes and seizures. The grandmother denied drinking alcohol and the children appeared to be healthy with no marks or bruises observed. The deceased child's mother allows the children to stay with the grandmother.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's grandmother committed neglectful supervision or physical abuse of the deceased child. The grandmother takes prescription medication for her health diagnoses, the home meets the children's needs and there is no indication of abuse or neglect of the children.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

none

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

none

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 07/15/2016

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child and siblings do not have clothing or shoes, and the children have rashes from being unclean. The deceased child had to have cysts removed from her buttocks, always has a diaper rash and is usually dirty, and has fecal matter on her. The deceased child's mother's paramour holds an older sibling of the deceased child by her legs and hits the sibling with a belt buckle and belt. The deceased child's mother is aware of the abuse. There are concerns of sexual abuse of the child and the siblings by the mother's paramour because he allegedly got a 13-year-old unrelated girl pregnant.

The Department's investigation determined the older sibling had healing injures on her back and stomach, but the child and other sibling did not have any marks or bruises. The deceased child's grandmother made the mother aware of the abuse, but the mother denied this happened. The mother stated the older sibling had fallen. The oldest sibling confirmed the mother's paramour had hit the older sibling and confirmed domestic violence between the mother and the mother's paramour.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to confirm allegations the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and siblings. The mother denied knowing any abuse or neglect of her children was present.

The Department did not confirm allegations the deceased child's mother committed physical neglect of the deceased child.
The child was observed as clean and dressed appropriate. In the past the child had cysts removed, but there was no concern of neglect by medical.

The Department did not confirm allegations the deceased child's mother paramour committed physical neglect of the deceased child. The child was observed as clean and dressed appropriate.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family was referred to Family Based Safety Services and the mother agreed to participate.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Family Based Safety Services worked with the family from 09/01/2016 till 06/15/2017. The deceased child's mother completed 6 sessions of individual counseling, but she did not want to participate so her sessions were stopped by the counselor. Due to mother not participating, the children were removed and placed in foster care.

Conservatorship worked with the family from 05/10/2017 till 11/08/2017. The mother participated in counseling, parenting, doctor's appointments and random drug testing. The children were returned to her care and there was an open Family Preservation case when this investigation was initiated and remained open with the investigation closed. The family continued to receive services through the Family Preservation stage.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 11/20/2016

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the home, where the deceased child lives with the deceased child's mother, grandmother siblings and cousins, is unsafe and there is inedible food, dirt and junk everywhere.

The Department's investigation determined the home had some clutter and trash, but the conditions were not unsanitary. There were groceries in the kitchen for the family. The school age children made no outcry of abuse or neglect. There was an open Family Preservation stage of service, and the caseworker had no concerns for the children's welfare.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm allegations the deceased child's mother committed Physical Neglect of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/05/2015: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Risk Assessment not required by Policy.

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Referred the mother to resources which provide car seats and she agreed to contact the resources.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

There was an open Family Preservation case when this investigation was initiated and remained open with the investigation closed. The family continued to receive services through the Family Preservation stage.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/10/2018; 04/03/2018

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report on 03/09/2018 when the deceased child was seen with a bruise under her right eye. The child indicated the bruise was happened when the deceased child's mother spanked her with a switch. There are concerns the deceased child is not getting enough food at home, smells, comes to school dirty, and the child's clothes do not fit. There is also concern the family does not have running water.

The Department received another report on 04/03/2018 when the deceased child and her older sibling said the deceased child's grandmother hits them. The grandmother may have mental health diagnoses. Other concerns include a lack of food in the home and the children not having clothing and shoes.

The Department's investigation determined the bruise under the child's right eye was from the deceased child's younger sibling scratching the child. No other bruising was observed on the child or siblings when they were seen throughout the case. The family's home had working utilities and food in the home. There were lots of clothes in the children's bedroom.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the allegation of Physical Abuse of the deceased child by the deceased child's mother or grandmother. The bruise to the child's eye was determined to be from a younger sibling and no other bruises or fresh marks were observed.

The Department did not confirm the allegation of Physical Neglect of the deceased child by the deceased child's mother. The family's home was found to have working utilities, food and clothing for the child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/15/2016: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 07/21/2016: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother was provided with homemaker and preventative resources to help the family, but the mother declined.

No Service Referrals and deceased child was an only child.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A Family Team Meeting was held during the investigation with the family's support system.

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 03/03/2023 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.