Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 93392599

County of Child's Residence: TRAVIS

Gender: Male

Age: 6 Year(s) 7 Month(s)

Date of Death: 05/12/2022

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: Jones,Belton

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 5/12/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report regarding the shooting of the deceased child on May 12, 2022. The allegations were that the deceased child had Autism, was home with his 16 year old brother, and the deceased child shot himself while his brother was asleep in the same room.

The Department's investigation found that the deceased child suffered a fatal self-inflicted gunshot wound to the face. The deceased child was home alone with his 16 year old brother. They were in the brother's bedroom when the incident occurred. The brother had purchased a stolen handgun and was storing the weapon on a shelf in his bedroom. The deceased child's brother was asleep and awoke when he heard the gun discharge. He then contacted law enforcement. The deceased child's mother was unaware that there was a firearm in her home.

Law enforcement investigated the fatality, but no criminal charges were pursued.

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

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the brother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child, which led to the deceased child's death. The brother left a firearm on a shelf, where the deceased child was able to access it. According to the mother, the deceased child often climbed on chairs to reach the shelves to look for candy.

The Department did not confirm allegation that the mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child. The mother was unaware that there was a firearm in her home.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 05/13/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 06/01/2022: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

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): 4/13/2019, 4/14/2019

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report regarding concerns for domestic violence between the deceased child's parents. The allegations were that the parents were in a physical altercation and the deceased child's brother and sister attempted to intervene. The deceased child's father then began to assault the deceased child's sister and she sustained a knot on her forehead, a swollen left cheek, and a bite to her finger. The deceased child' mother then hit the deceased child's father with a metal object.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child's father was physically assaulting the deceased child's mother. The deceased child's sister went into the room where the incident was occurring and attempted to pull the father off the mother. The father bit the sister's finger and hit her in the face with his fist. When this occurred, the mother hit the father with a metal towel holder. The deceased child and his brother were in a separate room. The father denied hitting the mother or sister. The father was no longer residing in the home after the incident.

Law enforcement responded to the incident and arrested the deceased child's mother, however, the criminal charges were later dropped.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father committed neglectful supervision and physical abuse of the deceased child's sister. The sister reported being hit several times by the father.

The Department could not confirm allegations that the deceased child's father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child or his brother. The deceased child and his brother were in a separate room and not in the direct vicinity of where the incident took place.

The Department could not confirm allegations that the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child, brother, or sister. The criminal charges against the deceased child's mother were dropped and the mother and sister reported that the mother hit the father in self defense and to defend the sister.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 04/15/2019: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 05/19/2019: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
3.) 05/19/2019: Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Parent/Caregiver Training

Other Services:

The deceased child's mother was referred to community resources for anger management and parenting classes.

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.