Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 98634522

County of Child's Residence: FANNIN

Gender: Male

Age: 2 Year(s) 10 Month(s)

Date of Death: 05/09/2022

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: Holman,Liam J

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 5/9/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report of a fatal event after law enforcement officials responded to a 911 call and discovered a deceased child who drowned in a backyard swimming pool.

The Department's investigation found the deceased child's father asked a home member to watch the deceased child while he went inside the home to do laundry. The home member was in a hot tub in the backyard while she was watching the child. The home member got out the hot tub when she heard a bucket fall into the pool and started looking for the child. The pool was green in color and cloudy. When home member could not find the child, she called father on the phone requesting he start to assist with locating efforts. The home member denied hearing any cries for help after she heard the bucket fall. The home member could not recall if she was on her phone at the time of caring for the child. The home member admitted to possibly falling asleep in the hot tub while being under the influence of several medications that cause drowsiness and tend to alter her state of mind, and interfere with her judgment and ability to ensure the child's safety. Upon law enforcement responding, the child was found a short time later in the swimming pool. There were no precautionary measures in place or being used to protect the child from the body of water.

The medical examiner listed the cause of death as drowning and the manner of death as accidental.

A law enforcement investigation was completed and no charges were filed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the home member committed Neglectful Supervision against the deceased child, which led to his death. The home member consumed medication that alters her state of mind; interferes with her judgment and ability to ensure the child's safety; and there were no precautionary measures in place to protect the child from the body of water.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Only child died

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

This was an only child died investigation.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

This was an only child died investigation.

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:

None.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/12/2019

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the deceased child's mother is diagnosed with Schizophrenia, bi polar and reactive attachment disorder. Mother delivered the decedent on 6/11/2019 at a local hospital. There is a concern that father and unrelated home member are registered sex offenders. Mother is aware. There is concern that mother, father and unrelated home members all share the same bed. Mother has said that she will go visit a relative that sexually abused mother as a minor.

During the investigation it was found the mother left the deceased child with a household member while having a mental health crisis. The child was not placed in danger during the incident. Mother continued to leave the child with the family member to prevent future issues and to keep him safe. Mother sought treatment for her mental health. The father denied the allegations and stated he had not reoffended since his original offense. Collaterals did not have concerns for current sexual abuse. The unrelated home member had not been left alone with the child nor had the opportunity to sexually abuse him. The unrelated household member denied the allegations and he had no offenses since his original offense.

Investigation Findings:

The department was not able to confirm Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child by the mother.

The department was not able to confirm sexual abuse of the deceased child by the father and unrelated home member.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Parent/Caregiver Training,Basic Needs Support,Medical Resources/Assessment,Housing

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family received services through Family Base Safety Services from 9/9/2019 until 4/23/2020 The mother demonstrated the ability to maintain treatment for mental health issues and taking her medication. Her therapist reported she met her treatment goals and continued therapy on a as needed basis. All the mothers drug screens were clean. Both parents completed parenting classes and improved their parenting skills as well as co-parenting skills. Both parents appeared to be concerned for the safety and wellbeing of the deceased child upon closure.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 01/07/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the mother is smoking marijuana in the home and caring for the deceased child. The deceased child is with the mother and others in the home when they are smoking marijuana.

During the investigation the Person List had the deceased child as age 7 years, but the narrative describes the child as age 7 months. During the stage it was found the child was 7 months' old, so the alternative response

investigation was closed, and a regular investigation was opened.

Investigation Findings:

There were no findings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

There were no services or referrals provided to the family.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 1/7/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

Mother is smoking marijuana in the home and caring for the deceased child. The deceased child is with mother and others in the home when they are smoking marijuana.

During the investigation it was found there is no evidence to support the allegations. The mother is willing and able to protect the deceased child from future dangers. Mother denied using marijuana. She stated she last smoked marijuana in September and it was synthetic marijuana. The family denied treating the unrelated home member inappropriately or taking her medications. The unrelated home member was observed to have a good connection with the mother and child.

Investigation Findings:

There were no findings, as the investigation was close administratively.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

ADMIN - Anonymous Report

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

There were no services or referrals provided to the family.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 05/27/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the mother and her paramour were using drugs while the deceased child is in the room.

During the investigation it was found the mother refused to drug test and denied drug use other than marijuana. The deceased child was negative on a hair follicle drug test and the Judge granted custody to the deceased child's father due to concerns for the mother's substance use. The mother's paramour also refused drug testing.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to confirm Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child by the mother and her paramour.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Fam refusal/No legal interven poss-Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Parent/Caregiver Training,Basic Needs Support,Medical Resources/Assessment,Legal Services

Other Services:

There were no services or referrals provided to the family.

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.