Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 101609366

County of Child's Residence: TARRANT

Gender: Male

Age: 6 Year(s) 3 Month(s)

Date of Death: 08/19/2022

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: Gonzales Fuent,Jose

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/19/2022, 08/23/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report about an event where the six year old deceased child was found unresponsive in his home while in the care of his mother. Emergency services were called to the home and law enforcement was the first to arrive. The mother, the mother's paramour, and the two siblings were in the home. The deceased child had already been removed from the bathtub and the water had been drained. Law enforcement began CPR on the deceased child. The deceased child had a faint pulse and coughed up water. The deceased child appeared to have red scalding burns to his upper extremities on his chest and mouth areas and was transported to the hospital. It was believed the deceased child drowned in the bathtub possibly due to a seizure and had been under water for 5-10 minutes before being found. The emergency room doctor could not tell how the deceased child sustained the burns. The family reported they had been at the lake the day before, but no other information was provided because of the language barrier. The deceased child did not have any burns on his lower body areas. The deceased child died after arriving at the hospital. The Department received a second report with the same concerns.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother was the sole caregiver to the deceased child at the time of the incident. The deceased child's two siblings, ages 15 and 10 were home when the incident occurred. The oldest sibling, age 16, was with the mother's paramour at the the time and neither of them were present when the deceased child was injured. The deceased child had burns on his lower face, neck, chest, and back. The mother

reported the deceased child came home from school and she told the deceased child he needed to take a bath. The mother reported she put the deceased child in the bathtub with a little bit of water inside. The mother reported the deceased child called for the dog and he added toys to the bath. The mother then went to the kitchen to get something and returned after a short period of time and found the deceased child face-down in the tub. The mother reported she believed the deceased child had an epileptic seizure. Law enforcement contacted the deceased child's teacher and he was not observed to have any injuries or burns at school on the day of his death. The Department consulted child abuse medical professionals with the Forensic Assessment Center Network. The deceased child's pattern of injury which included a spill pattern from face down, burns to tongue and airway was most consistent with hot liquid being poured onto him/down his throat. It was not consistent with a submersion burn from being in a bathtub. As the provided history did not explain the findings, the deceased child's death was highly concerning for inflicted injury and child physical abuse. Law enforcement verified through cell phone data the mother's paramour and the oldest child were not at the home at the time of the incident. The deceased child's siblings were removed and the Department obtained temporary managing conservatorship of the children.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy and the child's cause of death was determined to be a scalding injury and manner of death was ruled undetermined.

A final law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed but the mother was arrested for injury to a child.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child, which led to his death. The mother was the sole caregiver to the child and he sustained scalding injuries which caused his death. The injuries were consistent with physical abuse.

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child's two siblings. Two of the deceased child's siblings were in the home when the deceased child was injured, which resulted in his death.

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child. The incident was determined to be physical abuse due to the nature of the deceased child's injuries.

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's mother's paramour committed Neglectful Supervision and Physical Abuse of the deceased child. The mother's paramour was not home at the time of the incident.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/20/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 08/23/2022: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Services were accepted

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The siblings were removed, the Department obtained temporary managing conservatorship of the siblings, and the family was provided with services through the legal court system.

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): 07/05/2021, 08/03/2021, 10/08/21, 10/21/2021

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns about the deceased child. Law Enforcement responded to a call due to the deceased child being out in the street. There were concerns the mother works and leaves the deceased child and the 9 year old sibling alone. There were concerns the home had bed bugs and the deceased child had bed bug bites up and down his legs, along with scraped feet.
The Department received a second report with concerns the deceased child was seen running around the apartment complex naked and ran into a neighbor's apartment. A 15 year old sibling was present and was supposed to be watching the deceased child.
The Department received a third report with concerns the deceased child had five seizures a day since the beginning of the school year and the mother was not responding in a timely manner. There were concerns the mother took him to the doctor but she ignored directives to have him stay home and monitor him while transitioning onto a new medication.
The Department received a fourth report with concerns the deceased child's medication was not being properly administered by the 15 year old sibling, who is often left to be the caregiver.

The Department's investigation determine the child was seen by a neurologist and the deceased child's medication was seen. The mother reported she administered the deceased child's medication. The mother reported she had the 15 year old sibling watch the children until she returns home from work. The 15 year old sibling reported he cared for his siblings while his mother worked and he knew the deceased child could not be left unsupervised. The family's home was observed to be clean and well-stocked with food and supplies for the children. The deceased child was observed to be clean, dressed in clean clothes, and free of any visible marks or bruises.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Medical Neglect of the deceased child. The mother sought medical care for the deceased child and the Department observed the medication.

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision

of the deceased child and the deceased child's sibing. The mother left the children in the care of their 15 year old sibling until she returned from work.

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's 15 year old sibling committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child. The sibling was aware the deceased child needed supervision and watched the child until his mother returned from work

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Physical Neglect of the deceased child and the deceased child's two siblings. The home was observed to be clean with no concerns.

Safety Assessment:
10/18/2021: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

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): 11/25/2020, 01/08/2021

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns of the deceased child and the deceased child's three siblings. There were concerns a domestic violence altercation occurred between the mother and father and concerns the home was unsanitary and roach infested.
The Department received a second report with concerns for the deceased child. There were concerns the deceased child attended special education classes and had other issues including a seizure disorder, speech impairment, and intellectual delays. There were reported concerns the mother might also be learning impaired and the mother missed the deceased child's medical appointments. There were concerns with roaches in the family's home.

The Department's investigation determined the father was arrested for assaulting the mother. The deceased child was present in the home and heard the altercation. The other children were aware of the violence but did not witness the violence. The mother was struggling financially and was the sole provider to the children. The mother was meeting the children's needs.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child. The father assaulted the mother. The deceased child was in the home. The father was arrested.

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision

of the deceased child and the deceased child's three siblings. Although the deceased child was in the home, the mother was a victim of violence. The other three children were aware of the violence but did not witness the violence.

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Physical Neglect of the deceased child and the deceased child's three siblings. The mother was the sole provider for the children and was meeting the children's needs.

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's father committed Physical Neglect of the deceased child and the deceased child. The child was in the care of the mother and the mother was meeting the child's needs.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessments:
1.) 11/25/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The family was given counseling and domestic violence services in the community.

Other Services:

Services accepted

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

No additional action was taken.

Note: This report was prepared on 05/05/2023 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.