Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 107247488

County of Child's Residence: FORT BEND

Gender: Female

Age: 1 Year(s) 2 Month(s)

Date of Death: 05/26/2023

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: Wilks,Kamryn

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 05/20/2023, 05/24/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received multiple intakes that were merged into a single investigation notifying it of an unresponsive child found in the bath tub while in the care of her mother. The deceased child's sibling informed emergency medical services that two of the children were in the bath tub together and one was found unresponsive. It was believed the children were unsupervised while taking a bath. The home was described as having feces and rotting food on the floor. The home was very unkempt and dirty. One sibling was running around the home without any clothes on. There were knives and broken glass on the floor. The garage door was open and accessible to the children. The unresponsive child was transported to the hospital. Additional intakes described how the children were very dirty, thin and with body odor. The children were always hungry and asking for food. One of the siblings was reportedly eating paper towels and Kleenex tissues, but it appeared to be attention seeking behavior. The children have missed several days of school. One sibling is responsible for getting the younger children up and ready for school.

The Department's investigation determined that the mother of the deceased child shared the home with the deceased child, six siblings and deceased child's father. The father was working while the mother was the primary caregiver to the children. The mother allowed the 11-year-old sibling to be responsible for bathing the deceased child and 2-year-old sibling. The 11-year-old sibling recalled how she left the two young children in the bath tub with water and went to watch television with the 10-year-old sibling in the mother's bedroom. The bathroom was adjacent to the mother's

bedroom. The mother was on her phone in the same bedroom while the siblings watched television and the two youngest children remained in the tub. The mother did not check on the children in the tub or ensure that she was in the bathroom directly monitoring their bath time. The 2-year-old sibling left the bathroom without assistance and the 11-year-old sibling was prompted to go check on the deceased child. According to the 10-year-old sibling, she and the sibling had watched at least three television shows before the 11-year-old went to check on the deceased child. The 11-year-old sibling discovered the deceased child was unresponsive in the tub and the water had drained from the tub. She took the unresponsive child to the mother and the 16-year-old sibling was alerted to contact 911. The emergency medical services arrived at the home and transported the unresponsive child to the local hospital. The 11-year-old sibling did not have the capacity or maturity level to provide adequate supervision to the younger siblings. The parents left the siblings with the neighbor while they remained with the deceased child at the hospital. The child did not recover from the drowning and passed away at the hospital days later. The deceased father did not play a role in the fatal event as he was working at the time of the drowning. The maternal grandmother traveled to Texas from Tennessee to be part of the Safety Plan to monitor the parents' contact with the children in the home. However, the parents and siblings returned to Tennessee with the maternal grandmother after the child's passing. Social Services in Tennessee made contact with the family including the newborn that was delivered out of state. The family was planning to remain in Tennessee where they have additional family support.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy, but the final results were still pending when the Department's investigation closed. The preliminary results indicated there was no trauma on the deceased child.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation, but was still pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. They did not make any arrests and were waiting on the final autopsy report before pursuing child endangerment charges,

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The child was left in a bathtub without direct supervision and subsequently drowned. The child had been in the care of the mother prior to her passing, and mother failed to provide the needed supervision and was not protective.

The Department confirmed that the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision of the two youngest siblings. The parents did not maintain a clean and hazard-free home. The children were susceptible to being injured as a result of being exposed to dangerous household objects left within their reach. The mother also allowed one sibling to be in the bathtub without being directly monitored by an appropriate caregiver. The sibling was susceptible of drowning as a result of mother's actions.

The Department confirmed that the deceased child's mother and father committed Physical Neglect of the deceased child and two young siblings. The mother and father did not maintain a clean and hazards-free home environment for the young children. The home had trash and other dangerous household items that were accessible to the young children.

The Department did not confirm that the deceased child's mother and father committed Physical Neglect of the three older siblings. The siblings did not appear to have been impacted by the condition of the home and had the capacity to remove themselves from dangerous objects.

05/21/2023 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe with plan.
05/23/2023 - Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Safe with plan.
08/17/2023 - Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Safe with plan.
Final Risk Level - High.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Moved After Investigation-Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The parents accepted the community resources offered by Tennessee Social Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family moved out of state to reside with the maternal grandparent. The grandparent was willing to continue to allow the mother and siblings to remain in her home and helped care for the siblings.

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): 03/16/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child having 8% weight loss. The mother missed the doctor's appointment and stopped answering calls. The mother was described as argumentative and does not believe anything is wrong with the child. The father reportedly works out of state and mother claims this is why she cannot make it to the medical appointments. The mother and seven children reside in a shelter.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother and children were residing in a shelter for victims of domestic violence. The family had moved to Texas from Tennessee in the last two months. The medical staff confirmed that the mother did not show up for the deceased child's follow up appointment to monitor the child's weight. The child was at risk for developing jaundice and dehydration. The shelter staff were willing to help with transportation with advance notice of the medical appointments. The deceased child and six siblings were observed and the verbal children did not make any disclosures of abuse or neglect. The mother completed the needed medical appointment for the deceased child. The deceased child's father was in Texas visiting for two weeks and was not aware of the child's weight-loss. One father was incarcerated out of state and did not have contact with the family. The mother and children moved to a new home during the investigation. The mother did not accept the counseling that was offered to the children that were having disruptive behaviors at school.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm that the deceased child's mother committed Medical Neglect of the deceased child. The mother was homeless and did not have transportation readily available. She scheduled the needed medical appointment for the child during the investigation.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
03/17/2022 - Safety Assessment - Safe
Final Risk Level - Moderate.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother was accepting the services from the shelter but refused other services offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family moved out of the shelter and secured a home in a different area.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 10/04/2022, 10/04/2022, 10/27/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received multiple intakes that were merged into a single investigation notifying it of deceased child's siblings being observed playing outside at all hours of the night. One sibling had been reported missing by the mother and was found by law enforcement at a friend's home. There were concerns with the condition of the home. The floor was described as slippery with human feces and mattresses were stacked up. It was unknown if the electricity was on. The deceased child was constantly crying. Law enforcement had received numerous calls to the home for welfare checks and neighbors complaining about the young children being unsupervised. The neighbors have fed the children and given them coats to wear when it's cold outside. The children miss the bus and do not go to school. Some of the children are stealing items from the neighbors.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's school-aged siblings had an unpleasant body odor while they were at school. The three older siblings did not make any disclosures of abuse or neglect. The school staff expressed concerns with the school-aged siblings wearing the same clothing and having an odor. The deceased child and sibling were observed at the home and no concerns were noted with malnourishment. The deceased child's father was employed and was the primary wage earner for the family. He confirmed that the water was shut off temporarily due to an unpaid bill, but the water was reportedly turned back on. He and mother did not make any admissions of abuse or neglect. They denied allowing the young children to be left unsupervised outside. The mother was not employed and was the primary caregiver to the children when father is working. The home was observed to be dirty and cluttered, and the parents were asked to clean the home and make appointments for the pediatrician to assess the children's health. A follow up home visit found the condition of the home had improved. The pediatrician's office confirmed that the deceased child and two siblings were behind on their well child checks. The parents agreed to schedule the well child checks for the children. The children remained in the care of the parents. The school agreed to continue to monitor and report concerns in the future.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm that the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision of three siblings. The parents denied leaving the children unsupervised and the older siblings denied that the younger children are left outside without adult supervision.

The Department did not confirm that the deceased child's mother committed Physical Neglect of the oldest sibling. The home had plenty of food available and the sibling has the capacity and maturity to care for himself.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
10/05/2022 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe.
Final Risk Level - Moderate.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services were offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The parents cleaned the home during the investigation. The school was willing to continue to monitor and report concerns in the future.

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 06/24/2024 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.