Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 110638856

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 7 Month(s)

Date of Death: 04/15/2023

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: Pineda Manuels,Catalina M

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 04/15/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after emergency medical services responded to the deceased child being found unresponsive by the deceased child's mother and father. The child and the mother and father were sleeping in the same bed. The previous night the mother and father were drinking at a party and the child was last seen alive when they went to bed. It is believed that the father rolled over on the child while sleeping. It was unknown if the child had any preexisting condition. The child had discoloration which may suggest she passed away earlier than when the parents discovered she was unresponsive. There was no bruising observed and the child appeared to be well-fed. There were no concerns reported for the deceased child's two older half-siblings in the home.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child's mother and father admitted to consuming an excessive amount of alcohol while they were the primary caregivers to the three young children. The deceased child's mother described herself as "pretty inebriated" after drinking ten to eleven beers and the father drank twelve to thirteen beers prior to going to bed. The mother and father co-slept with the deceased child while the two older half-siblings slept in a separate bedroom. The deceased child's father described how he woke up the next morning and went back to bed, but he did not fall asleep while he remained in the same bed with the mother and child. The deceased child's mother stated that she woke up around noon and went back to sleep only to wake up three hours

later. The mother woke up when a relative stopped by the home and it was then that the deceased child's mother and father found the child unresponsive in their bed. The deceased child's mother and father could not provide an explanation to account why they did not check on the child after they woke up earlier in the day and did not notice that the child was unresponsive for several hours. They contacted emergency medical services, but the child could not be revived. The deceased child's mother and father were the sole caregivers to the three young children while they were both drinking excessively. The deceased child's three young siblings did not have the capacity or maturity level to care for themselves and the mother and father did not make the necessary arrangements to designate an appropriate and sober caregiver while they were under the influence of alcohol. The deceased child's mother tested positive for alcohol during a urine screening, but the child's father did not maintain communication with the Department after the initial home visit. The Department pursued legal intervention and the mother agreed to accept the court ordered services offered by Family Based Safety Services. The deceased child's mother allowed one of the surviving half-siblings to be in the care of his biological father. The mother and the second half-sibling's father agreed to designate a Parental Child Safety Placement for the half-sibling with a maternal relative. The mother would have supervised visits with the two surviving half-siblings while she participated in the services offered.

The medical examiner completed the autopsy, but the final results were still pending when the Department's investigation closed. The preliminary results found no trauma on the deceased child. The cause and manner of death remained undetermined pending completion of the final autopsy report.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation that was still ongoing when the Department closed its investigation. They were not pursuing any criminal charges and the investigation would remain open until they received the final autopsy results.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The mother and father admitted to consuming an excessive amount of alcohol and were under the influence when they co-slept with the child.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child's two older half siblings. The mother and father were the primary caregivers to the half-siblings while they were drinking excessively.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
04/16/2023 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe with plan.
04/16/2023 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe
04/18/2023 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe
05/22/2023 - Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Safe with plan.
08/01/2023 - Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Safe with plan.
08/21/2023 - Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Safe with plan.
09/13/2023 - Safety Assessment - Case Closure - Safe with plan.
04/20/2023 - Final Risk Level - Moderate.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Parent/Caregiver Training

Other Services:

The mother accepted the court ordered services offered by Family Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The mother agreed to allow one half-sibling to remain in the care of his biological father and the second half-sibling was in the care of a relative caregiver. The mother's contact with the children was supervised by the caregivers.

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:

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.