Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 110745906

County of Child's Residence: WISE

Gender: Female

Age: 2 Year(s) 4 Month(s)

Date of Death: 04/26/2023

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: King,Scarlett A

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 04/26/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns the deceased child was found by her father in her crib not breathing, stiff, and discolored. The deceased child's father moved the child from her crib in the back area of the home to his bedroom before calling emergency services. The deceased child's father did not call 911 for 10 minutes after finding the child. Law enforcement responded the home and emergency services confirmed the child was deceased. The deceased child's mother was not home when law enforcement responded but arrived to the home after they arrived. The deceased child's mother said she last saw the child and her sibling on Monday (2 days prior) due to her work schedule and other things she had to do. The deceased child's mother said she did not check on the children when she arrived home from work. The child appeared to be a generally healthy child with no physical injuries or bruising. The sibling was seen with no physical injuries and generally healthy when law enforcement arrived at the home.

The Department's investigation determined the child and her 1-year-old sibling resided in the home with their mother and father and the parents were the primary caregivers to the children. The parents reported the children ate several meals and snacks daily however the child lost weight prior to her death and at the time of her death she had no food in her stomach and very little urine in her bladder. The deceased child's sibling was evaluated by medical staff and was admitted to the hospital with severe dehydration and concerns for his kidneys. The sibling had gross motor development delay and it was attributed to neglect. The sibling was delayed for his age, and he weighed 23 pounds

at the time he was admitted to the hospital. The sibling was seen by his doctor at two months, and he was low birth weight and formula needed to be fortified. There were no additional visits to the primary doctor. The deceased child's mother and father were positive for cocaine and the father admitted to daily marijuana use. Law enforcement had concerns the condition of the home was unsanitary and unsafe. There were infestations of flies and bugs throughout the home. The home had trash, stacks of dirty diapers, garbage, and old food throughout the home.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy and the cause of death was complications of neglect including malnutrition and hypernatremic dehydration. An upper respiratory viral infection contributed to the death; the manner of death was homicide. The child did not have any food in her stomach and her organs were dry, her eyes were sunken, and skin had poor turgor and ketones were detected by postmortem toxicology. A medical consult with the Forensic Assessment Center Network was completed which concluded the child's death was the result of physical neglect.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation and the mother and father were arrested and charged with injury to a child.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed Physical Neglect to the child, which led to her death. The child was malnourished and had no food in her stomach at the time of her death and the mother and father were her primary caregivers.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed Neglectful Supervision to the child and the child's sibling. The mother and father tested positive for cocaine and the father admitted to daily marijuana use. The mother and father were the children's primary caregivers.

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed Physical Neglect to the child's sibling. The home was observed to have safety and sanitary concerns for the children.

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed Medical Neglect to the sibling. The sibling was hospitalized for severe dehydration and concerns for his kidneys and neither parent sought medical care for the sibling.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessments
1.) 04/26/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 04/27/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe
3.) 07/26/2023: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe
4.) 12/12/2023: 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:

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

Other Services:

The family accepted services offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the sibling, who was placed in foster care. Services will be provided by the Department and monitored through the legal 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:

Not applicable.

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.