Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 110758683

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 3 Month(s)

Date of Death: 04/27/2023

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: Maglitto,Margaret A

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 04/27/2023, 04/27/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received multiple intakes that were merged into a single investigation notifying it of a father having a psychotic episode and an infant child was having difficulty breathing. Emergency medical services arrived at the home to find the infant with obvious signs of trauma and bruising all over her body. The infant had severe head trauma and was unresponsive. The infant was transported to a local hospital where she was pronounced deceased. The deceased child's father claimed he had a psychotic episode and did not know what happened. He was taking care of the infant and sibling at the time of the incident. The deceased child's mother was not home and the father was detained at the scene.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child resided with the mother, father, two siblings and step-paternal grandfather. The mother had left the deceased child and sibling in the care of the father while she worked. The older sibling was in school and the step-grandfather was at work. The father had recently quit his job and did not want the children to remain in daycare and wanted to be their caregiver in mother's absence. The father had been displaying concerning behaviors in the days leading up to the fatal event. The paternal aunt had expressed concerns with the father's bizarre behaviors and she did not believe that the children should be in the father's care. The mother disclosed that the father had shared that God had been talking to him, but she did not explore the issue further as the father did not want to speak about it to her. The father was previously diagnosed with mental health

issues and was prescribed medication. He also had a history of substance abuse and had been using marijuana. The father had called the paternal aunt to the home and then became agitated by her presence and the aunt left the home. The aunt contacted the mother to express concerns with the father's behaviors as he was caring for the deceased child and sibling. The mother did not take any actions to protect the children and allowed them to remain in the father's care. The father contacted emergency medical services three times with the last time being when the deceased child was found unresponsive. The father was holding the unresponsive child in his arms when law enforcement and medical services arrived to his home. The unresponsive child did not recover from the injuries and was declared deceased at the hospital. The father was detained and transported to the psychiatric hospital. The medical staff found that the deceased child had sustained contusions to her head and torso and abusive head trauma consistent with non-accidental trauma. The father made no admissions of abuse or neglect. He recalled details surrounding the day of the fatal event, but claimed he did not remember what happened to the deceased child to account for the numerous injuries. The sibling in the home did not sustain any injuries. The two surviving siblings were removed from the home and placed in a foster home to ensure their immediate safety. The father remained in the hospital and was subsequently arrested when he was discharged from the hospital. The mother and father were willing to accept the services offered by the Conservatorship department. The father remained in jail and he did not have access to the siblings.

The law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. They charged the father with Injury to a Child and detained him once he was released from the psychiatric hospital.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, but the final report was not available when the Department completed its investigation. The preliminary report indicates that the deceased child sustained contusions to the head and torso with subscapular hemorrhages, skull fractures and subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhages consistent with non-accidental trauma.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The child sustained serious head trauma and injuries to her body consistent with non-accidental trauma. The child had been in the care of the father prior to her passing, and he failed to provide the needed supervision and was not protective.

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father and mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child and two siblings. The mother was aware of the father's high-risk behaviors related to his mental health and she still allowed the children to remain in the father's care unsupervised. The father admitted to using marijuana and did not address his mental health issues. He did not want the children in the daycare and wanted them to remain in his care while the mother worked. The children were young and vulnerable and did not have the capacity or maturity level to protect themselves or remove themselves from a potentially dangerous situation.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
04/28/2023 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Unsafe
05/31/2023 - Safety Assessment - Case Closure - Unsafe
05/31/2023 - Risk Assessment -- Moderate

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The parents were provided with grief counseling resources and they agreed to accept the services offered by the Conservatorship department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The surviving siblings were removed and their contact with the parents was going to be supervised. The father remained in jail and did not have contact with 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:

04/28/2023 Foster Home placement
05/26/2023 Relative placement

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 10/24/2023 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.