Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 111250854

County of Child's Residence: NUECES

Gender: Male

Age: 0 Year(s) 6 Month(s)

Date of Death: 06/22/2023

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: Overman,Zacharia

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 6/22/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

On 6/22/2023, the Department received a report indicating the deceased child was found not breathing and unconscious that morning. Paramedics performed life saving measures while transporting the deceased child to the hospital where the child was declared deceased.

The Department determined the deceased child's mother claimed she placed the child on an air mattress in a bedroom, separate from hers, because she was tired and needed to sleep. The 5-year old surviving sibling was also asleep on the same air mattress. The following morning, the deceased child was found unresponsive, stuck between the wall and the air mattress. The mother admitted to not checking on the deceased child for a period of about 8-9 hours prior to finding the deceased child unresponsive. The mother admitted to smoking marijuana earlier that day and tested positive for the substance after testing for the Department. The deceased child's father came to the home with the 2-year old surviving sibling shortly before 2:00 a.m. He observed the deceased child moving around in the middle of the air mattress prior to going to sleep in the same room as the mother and the 2-year old sibling. The father also admitted to marijuana use and tested positive for the substance after testing for the Department.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy and the preliminary report indicates the cause of death is undetermined. The final autopsy for the deceased child is pending.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation and will not be pursuing charges at this time.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child which led to the child's death. Mother placed the child on an air mattress and left the child there without appropriate supervision for an extended period of time.

The Department confirmed the father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
6/22/2023: Initial Safety Assessment - Safe with Plan
Final Risk Level: High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Legal Services

Other Services:

not applicable

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The mother agreed to a Safety Plan in which she would be supervised with the two surviving siblings. The father was also willing to be supervised with the 2-year old surviving sibling, who was his biological child. However, he was unable to provide an individual that the Department could approve. The family was referred to Family Based Safety Services, which they accepted.

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:

N/A

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 10/25/2023 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.