Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 108006166

County of Child's Residence: WASHINGTON

Gender: Female

Age: 9 Year(s) 11 Month(s)

Date of Death: 06/13/2022

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: Sorrells,Khylie

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/08/2022, 06/13/2022, 06/14/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received multiple intakes that were merged into a single investigation. The first intake notified the Department that the mother smokes marijuana frequently using a vape pen. The sibling was mimicking the mother using the vape pen and ended up choking. The mother was leaving the children home alone at night when she works at a strip club. Two of the children are staying with relatives and do not want to go home. One child fell and broke her arm while the mother was inside the home and children were unsupervised. The children have bleeding rashes or eczema between their legs and arms. Mother is not believed to be treating the rashes. The subsequent intakes were received after law enforcement responded to the home when a child was shot twice in the head by mother's former paramour. The mother was shot in the shoulder and is being treated at a local hospital. The mother and children were reportedly at home watching a movie when the former boyfriend walked into the home. The mother's former paramour was yelling at the mother about other men and wanted to see mother's phone. The former paramour ripped the television from the wall and started carrying out of the bedroom. The former paramour walked back into the bedroom where the children were in and executed deceased child by shooting her two times in the face. He then started shooting at the mother who then ran into the bedroom. The former paramour fled the home when law enforcement was called to the scene. The mother and child were transported to a local hospital where the deceased child was pronounced deceased.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child was residing with the mother, two siblings and mother's cousin. The deceased child disclosed that mother was using marijuana in the children's presence and was leaving them home alone. The mother admitted to using marijuana, but denied using when the children were in her care. She would leave the siblings in the care of the deceased child for a brief period and felt that the child had the maturity level to babysit. The mother made no other admissions of abuse or neglect. The mother ended her relationship with the former paramour and had filed complaints with law enforcement for harassment and threats. The former paramour gained access into the mother's home when the cousin left the front door unsecured. The former paramour shot the deceased child twice before shooting the mother in the shoulder area. The mother and deceased child were transported to the local hospital and the deceased child did not survive her injuries. The two younger siblings were in the home at the time of the shooting and were not injured. The former boyfriend fled the scene and was later arrested by law enforcement. The mother and surviving siblings moved in with a relative. The family declined Family Based Safety Services and the mother was connected with services offered by the women's shelter. The sibling's father and numerous relatives were available to offer support and continue monitoring.

The law enforcement investigated the fatality and mother's former paramour was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and capital murder of a person under ten years old.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy but the final results were not available when the Department completed it' investigation.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother's former paramour committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The deceased child sustained two gunshot wounds to the head and torso and did not survive her injuries. The mother's former paramour was arrested and charged with capital murder of the deceased child.

The Department confirmed the allegations of Neglectful Supervision and Physical Abuse of the two siblings by the mother's former paramour. The siblings were in the same room when the former paramour discharged his firearm and fatally shot the deceased child. The siblings were in danger of being fatally injured as a result of the former paramour's violent actions.

The Department refuted the allegations of Medical Neglect of the two siblings by their mother. The siblings are diagnosed with eczema and the mother was treating the condition with ointment as prescribed by the pediatrician.

The Department was unable to refute or corroborate the allegations of Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child and two siblings by the mother. The mother filed complaints of domestic violence against her former paramour. However, she continued to communicate with him after he exhibited threating behaviors towards her family. Department is unable to determine if mother knowingly placed her children in immediate harm since mother did not allow her former paramour into her home; rather he entered the home without permission. The deceased child disclosed that the mother would use marijuana in the children's presence and would leave them home alone prior to her passing. The mother admitted that she used marijuana, but denied using around the children. It was difficult to ascertain if the children were impacted by their mother's drug use. Mother also admitted to having left the children home alone for brief period, however the children had access to a phone in case of an emergency.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The family was provided with grief counseling, substance abuse and domestic violence resources.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The relatives and father of the sibling agreed to continue to monitor and were willing to intervene in the future should any concerns arise. The former paramour remained in jail and did not have access to 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:

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 03/03/2023 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.