Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 111923075

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Female

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

Date of Death: 04/12/2024

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: Vasquez,Arabella

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/26/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after the deceased child's father found the child unresponsive. The father contact law enforcement and initially provided false identifying information for himself. The father was home watching the child and her siblings while their mother was at work. The father contacted the mother when the child was unresponsive and she contacted emergency medical services. The deceased child's mother arrived to the home and started cleaning the home with law enforcement present. There were concerns with the living condition of the home as there was trash, expired food and tobacco products left out that were accessible to the children. The home is being processed as a crime scene for a possible drowning as the bed and bathroom were wet.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child's mother shared the home with the father and five children (the child and her twin, 1-year-old twins, and a 3-year-old). The deceased child's father was the primary caregiver to the five children while the mother worked outside of the home. The father contacted the mother when the child became unresponsive while in his care. The mother contacted 911 and emergency medical services transported the child to a local hospital, where medical staff determined the child sustained subdural and retinal hemorrhages and facial bruising. The injuries were consistent with non-accidental trauma. There was also a concern with the child's increased head circumference. The child did not recover from her injuries and passed away at the hospital on 4/12/2024. The siblings were observed to be dirty, unkempt and did not appear to have been bathed. The siblings completed medical evaluations, and no injuries were noted. A forensic interview was attempted with the 3-year-old sibling after she made a statement to her family that "daddy hurt" the baby, referencing the deceased child. However, the sibling was unable to provide any detailed information given her young age. The mother and father did

not make any admissions of abuse or neglect. The mother claimed the father was responsible for cleaning the home when questioned about the unsanitary condition of the residence. The father was arrested on an unrelated charge and his attorney declined the Department's request for a formal interview at the jail. The mother agreed for a Safety Plan to be implemented for a relative to supervise her interactions with the siblings. The father remained in jail and did not have access to the siblings.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy, but the final report was not available when the Department completed its investigation. The child was found to have skull and wrist fractures consistent with blunt force impact. The preliminary findings noted the manner of death as a homicide.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation that was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. The father was arrested for not registering as a sex offender during the Department's investigation and law enforcement was waiting on the final autopsy report before pursuing upgrading the charges against the father.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the father committed physical abuse of the deceased child, which led to the child's death.

The Department was unable to determine if the father committed medical neglect of the deceased child.

The Department confirmed the father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and her four siblings.

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed physical neglect of the deceased child and her four siblings.

The Department was unable to determine if the mother committed physical abuse of the deceased child.

The Department was unable to determine if the mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and her four siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Mother's Household
03/27/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
05/27/2024: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe with plan
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Relative's Household
05/01/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
05/23/2024: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The mother agreed to accept the services offered by Family Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The mother agreed to a Safety Plan in which a relative would supervise her contact with the siblings. The father 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:

Not applicable

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 07/02/2023

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's cousin as the family was being evicted due to nonpayment and utilities had been off for the last month. The deceased child's older siblings, mother, and father also resided in the home. The grandmother is using marijuana in the home. The children are not being fed and it was unknown when they had their last meal. The cousin's aunt (deceased child's mother) has food stamps, but refuses to purchase food. The cousin has not taken a shower in weeks. The uncle (deceased child's father) is a sex offender and was supposed to have registered when he moved to the area.

The Department's investigation determined the cousin did not reside in the home. The cousin was observed to be residing with his mother in a separate residence. The cousin visits his father's home but does not spend the night at the residence. The cousin's mother did not have any concerns with the aunt, uncle or the other household members using drugs or being impaired around the children. The uncle had moved out of the home and was not a caregiver to the children. The grandmother admitted to smoking marijuana but denied using around her grandchildren. The caregivers were found to be providing the needed care to the cousin.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's father committed sexual abuse of the cousin.

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's mother, father, maternal grandmother and maternal uncle committed Neglectful Supervision of the cousin.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: 07/06/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
08/17/2023: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Closed

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The family accepted the community resources that were offered.

Other Services:

None

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

None

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 02/01/2016

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's father having inappropriate sexual contact with his adoptive mother's grandchild. The adoptive mother's grandchild was taken to the hospital and was being interviewed by law enforcement.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's father was residing with his adoptive mother as an adolescent when he sexually abused his adoptive mother's 7-year-old grandson. The adoptive mother was taking care of her grandson as a result of his parents' incarceration. The 7-year-old child made a full disclosure during the forensic interview detailing the sexual abuse by the deceased child's father. The father admitted to the sexual abuse and his adoptive mother failed to notify law enforcement or CPS at the time. The father was arrested by law enforcement for aggravated sexual assault of a child and was detained at a juvenile detention center.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's father committed sexual abuse of his adoptive mother's grandchild.

The Department confirmed the father's adoptive mother committed sexual Abuse and neglectful supervision of her grandchild.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: 02/03/2016: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with Plan
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Opened to Family-Based Safety Services

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The father's adoptive mother accepted the services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A safety plan was implemented with the family to ensure the father did not have unsupervised access to the 7-year-old in the home.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 07/02/2023

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's older sibling's as there was no food, electricity or gas in the home. The family was being evicted for non-payment of rent and the utilities have been off for a month. The grandmother, father and uncle are smoking marijuana around the children. The children are not being fed and it was unknown when they had their last meal. The father is caring for the children while the mother is working. He is also drinking while he supervises the children and has fallen asleep. The father is a sex offender and was supposed to have registered when he moved to the area.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother gave birth to deceased child and her twin sibling during the investigation. The mother and children were no longer residing with the maternal grandmother who had admitted to using marijuana. The mother claimed to not know the identity of the newborn twins' father and she had no contact information for the other siblings' father. The maternal grandfather and an aunt were available to offer support to the family after the mother moved out of the grandmother's home. The mother denied that the father was a caregiver to any of her children and did not know that he was a sex offender. The deceased child and four siblings were observed with no concerns noted.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother and father committed medical neglect of the older twin siblings.

The Department did not confirm the mother and father committed physical neglect of the three oldest siblings.

The Department did not confirm the father committed sexual abuse of the three oldest siblings.

The Department did not confirm the father, maternal grandmother and uncle committed neglectful supervision of the three older siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: 07/06/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
09/15/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
09/15/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
09/16/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate.

Case Action:

Closed

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The mother agreed to accept the community resources offered to her.

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

None

Note: This report was prepared on 05/12/2026 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.