Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 99853179

County of Child's Residence: BOWIE

Gender: Male

Age: 5 Year(s) 0 Month(s)

Date of Death: 09/27/2024

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: Robinson,Zaydon T

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 09/27/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating that law enforcement was called to the home at about 2:30pm and found that the deceased child was unconscious and cold to the touch. The child's mother and father stating the child had found the child that way two hours earlier. The child was taken to the hospital and found to have signs of trauma including bruising from his abdomen to his legs. The injuries looked like the child was struck with something, possibly an extension cord. The child was pronounced deceased at the hospital, but it was unknown if he had passed away at the hospital or beforehand. The mother and father were transported to be interviewed at the police department, and it was believed they would be arrested. The deceased child's three younger siblings (ages 22 months, 2 years, and 3 years) were with an aunt at the time of the report.

The Department determined from the evidence gathered and statements that were made that the deceased child was brutality beaten and medical care was never given. There was evidence of blunt force trauma to his head that resulted in brain bleeds, blunt force trauma to his abdominal area resulting in several fatal internal injuries, and bruises from his abdomen to his feet. The mother and father called the paternal relatives when the child was found unconscious and cold. The paternal grandmother stated the father told her that he had "gone too far". The mother admitted to law enforcement that the abuse had been taking place over the last three years, and at no time did she remove herself or any of the children away from the abuse or attempt to stop any of the abuse from occurring. The three surviving siblings all received full medical examinations, and all were found to have the same linear injuries from physical abuse. One of the siblings was also found to have several broken ribs all various stages of healing. When law enforcement entered the home latches were found on the outside of the children's doors, keeping them

locked in their bedrooms. The carpet was urine and feces soaked because the children were using the bathroom on the floor. There was feces spread all over the walls. The deceased child was left in a room alone with only a small thin cushion and a pair of black tennis shoes. The three siblings were found to have been locked together in another room, with mattresses on the floor and some toys. While the home did have food, the child and his siblings were still starved as evidenced by their medical exams and the physician noting their eating behaviors were consistent with children that have not had consistent access to food.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, and the final report stated the child died as a result of blunt force injuries with the manner of death being homicide.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation, and the mother and father were arrested and remained incarcerated at the close of the Department's investigation. The father was charged with Capital Murder with a bond of $5 million. The mother was charged with Failure to Protect by Omission with a bond of $1 million. The mother and father are also facing several other charges due to the injuries on the surviving siblings.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed physical abuse of the deceased child, which led to his death.

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed physical abuse to the three surviving siblings.

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed physical neglect of the deceased child and three surviving siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/27/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe
2.) 12/11/2024: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Medical Resources/Assessment

Other Services:

No services or referrals provided to the mother or father during the investigation. Any services will be provided as part of the legal case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the three surviving siblings who were placed into foster care.

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:

The deceased child was previously removed from the home on 06/27/2020. The Department was dismissed on 02/09/2022 with the deceased child residing back in the home with the mother and father.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 11/05/2019

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report regarding the deceased child having been discharged from the Arkansas Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) on 10/13/19 but had missed the past three scheduled appointments regarding monitoring for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). ROP is a potentially blinding condition seen in premature infants and it cannot be diagnosed without the eye exams. It is imperative that these screenings continue at the time increments that the provider requests as a delay can result in worsening disease, potentially to a level that cannot be reversed or repaired.

The Department determined that there was difficulty with transportation for the family and they needed help. The child's mother and father reached out for Medicaid transportation but since it was out of state (Arkansas) it would take 30-45 days. The Department confirmed the family was able to make their December appointment and no concerns were noted.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother or father committed medical neglect of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 11/09/2019: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 01/03/2020: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family accepted services offered to include transportation assistance.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 01/23/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that the deceased child had missed previous appointments at Arkansas Children's Hospital and a medical neglect report was filed. The child's mother had brought the child in for one appointment while the investigation was open on 12/18/19 but had since missed 12/31/19, 1/8/20, and 1/22/20. The child required medical evaluations by a pediatric ophthalmologist and if he does not receive the appropriate care/treatment, this could result in pain or even blindness.

The Department determined that the child was finally taken to the needed medical appointment after the child's mother and father were provided with information for Medicaid transportation a second time. The parents continued to miss some follow-up visits for the child for weight checks and respiratory viruses and claimed it was due to a lack of transportation., even though they had been provided information for transportation services.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed medical neglect of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 01/24/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 03/02/2020: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother and father agreed to accept services provided by the Department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The case was transferred to Family-Based Safety Services on 03/09/2020. During this case, the mother and father were participating in counseling and evaluation services. During this case, a new report was received with an unexplained injury to the child's arm. The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the child on 06/27/2020 and the child was removed from the home and placed into foster care. The Family-Based Safety Services case was closed on 07/13/2020 as services would continue as part of the Conservatorship case.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/27/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the deceased child had been brought to the emergency room by his father and found to have a supracondylar fracture above the left elbow. The child otherwise appeared clean, appropriately dressed, and adequately fed. Father said that Zaydon was fine when he was put in the ?pack and play? to sleep. He was given a bottle and then father went back to sleep. When he woke up, Zaydon?s elbow area appeared swollen, and he would not move his elbow. There is concern that father?s explanation of how the injury occurred is not consistent with the injury he received. Immediate CPS assistance is requested to determine whether he should be allowed to go home with the mother and father.

The Department determined the child had an unexplained supracondylar fracture above his left elbow, a bruise on his upper left thigh, and bruises on the bottom of both feet. The mother and father both stated that they were unaware of how the child received the arm fracture and the mother claimed the child received the bruise on his thigh from one of them scratching him and that he received the bruises on the bottom of his feet due to bouncing on a rock outside while in his bouncer. Due to no plausible explanation, there was concern for abuse.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed physical abuse of the deceased child.

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

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 06/27/2020: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
2.) 06/28/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No additional services or referrals provided as the family was already accepting services by the Department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the deceased child and the case opened to Conservatorship. During the case, the mother and father did not make progress however the court ordered the child to be returned home. A monitored return continued until the legal case was dismissed and the case closed.

This investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/18/2022, 05/02/2022 - two reports merged into single investigation

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received two reports regarding the deceased child and his two younger siblings. The first report stated the deceased child has a ?chromosomal abnormality? and is described as medically fragile. The child was seen on 03/15/2022 with approximately 5 or 6 linear marks on his right thigh, each 6 to 8 inches long and approximately ½ inch wide. There is a concern an unknown caregiver may have inflicted the injuries. The room also smelled of marijuana suggesting the mother or others in the home are using the drug while supervising the child. A second report was received stating both the child and his younger sibling, age 4 months, had developmental delays. The child had a gross motor delay and was not walking. The child's x-rays were normal, so the walking delay was not due to a physical problem. He had also lost weight over the last two months and there was healed scarring on his bottom, but the cause of the scarring was not known and although medical staff asked for the child to be brought back in at the sibling's appointment, he was not. The sibling has torticollis which appears to be related to her not getting enough ?tummy time? needed strengthen and straighten her neck and had also lost some weight. The mother stated she bottle feeds the sibling every 5 to 7 hours and was advised she needs to be fed at least every 4 hours. The sibling also had diaper rash and the skin in the groin folds is excoriated. The rash is not fungal and appears to be caused by lack of hygiene. She was wearing a wet diaper, and the diaper area was not very clean. The mother was advised to change the sibling's diaper every two hours and to clean the diaper area with soap and water and not wipes every time.

The Department determined the children's father worked outside of the home and is only home at night leaving the mother to be the primary caregiver. A Forensic Assessment Center Network consultation was completed concerning the marks on the deceased and the findings stated no concerns for abuse as they looked more like scratches. The child was observed to be an active child and was seen climbing on a large toy firetruck while mother attempted to get him off of it several times. The home was observed to be appropriate with running hot and cold water, working electricity, and food. The sibling did lose one pound in three months, but the mother stated she was going through a picky eating stage and at a follow up weight check, she had gained two pounds. There were no concerns for the 1-year-old sibling. The mother and father completed drug testing and were negative for any drugs.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother or father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child.

The Department did not confirm and unknown individual committed physical abuse of the deceased child.

The Department did not confirm the mother or father committed physical neglect of the two siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/18/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 06/07/2022: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother and father agreed to accept services a referrals offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The investigation was closed.

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 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.