Critical Incident Review Team
Final Report

A Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT) is convened by the Department Director when the Department becomes aware of a critical incident resulting in a child fatality that was reasonably believed to be the result of abuse and the child, child's sibling or another child living in the household with the child has had contact with the Department (ODHS). The reviews are called by the Department Director to quickly analyze ODHS actions in relation to the critical incident and to ensure the safety and well-being of all children within the custody of ODHS or during a child protective service assessment. The CIRT must complete a final report which serves to provide an overview of the critical incident relevant Department history and may include recommendations regarding actions that should be implemented to increase child safety. Reports must not contain any confidential information or records that may not be disclosed to members of the public. The CIRT report is created at a specific time as required by statute and does not account for events occurring after posting of the report. Versions of all final reports are posted on the ODHS website.

CIRT information

CIRT ID: SUORFNXF36

Date of critical incident: June 12, 2025

Date Department became aware of fatality: June 13, 2025

Date Department caused an investigation to be made: June 13, 2025

Date of CPS assessment disposition: September 5, 2025

Date CIRT assigned: June 18, 2025

Date Final Report submitted: September 26, 2025

Date(s) of CIRT meeting(s): July 14, 2025; August 21, 2025

Number of participants: 11; 18

Members of the public? No; No

Critical incident description

Date of report: June 13, 2025

Assignment decision: Within 72 Hours

Allegation(s): Neglect by the mother

Disposition(s): Founded

On June 13, 2025, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) received a report alleging neglect to the 2-month-old child, by the mother. It was reported the day prior, the child was found deceased, and it was believed unsafe sleep may have been a contributing factor. It was reported the mother woke to feed the child around 7 a.m. and dosed off. She was sharing a sleep surface with the child when she woke around 11 a.m. to tend to her 4-year-old child and let his personal support worker in the home. When she got back to bed, she noticed the child was laying on their back with a little bit of blood by the nose. The mother noted the child wasn't breathing and sought out the sibling's personal support worker who started CPR while the mother called 911. An ambulance took the child to a local medical center where life-saving efforts were attempted but were ultimately unsuccessful. Law enforcement noted blankets and pillows were on the bed where the child was found. The mother provided blood and urine samples for drug testing. There were marijuana buds noted in the home as well as marijuana in a pill form. There was also an open alcohol container in the home. This report was assigned to CPS for assessment.

On June 16, 2025, the assigned CPS caseworker made in-person contact with the mother and 4-year-old half-sibling at the family home. The mother indicated daily use of marijuana and weekly use of alcohol, but she did not feel her use impacted her parenting. When offered, the

mother declined a referral for supportive services. Additional contact with the family was attempted June 24 and 25, but there was no answer at the door.

On June 28, 2025, the CPS caseworker made contact with the mother and half-sibling at the ODHS office. The half-sibling was noted to have a cast on their leg due to a leg injury sustained while with a relative.

Over the course of several days, the CPS caseworker submitted three phone calls to a maternal relative. Phone contact was made on July 17, 2025, and subsequent in-person contact happened this same day with the half-sibling, mother and her relatives at the relative's home.

On July 18, 2025, the CPS caseworker along with a Recovery Support Team specialist (RST) met with the mother and half-sibling at the ODHS office. The CPS caseworker explained the need to confirm safe environments within the family home. Though initially hesitant, the mother was amenable to this, and a home visit was completed on July 22, 2025.

On July 31, 2025, the CPS assessment was reassigned to a different CPS caseworker per the mother's request.

On August 1, 2025, the CPS caseworker met with the half-sibling and the mother inside the family residence. The home was noted to smell slightly of marijuana and the mother showed where she stored her paraphernalia (in a cupboard above the stove and in the shed in the back yard). The mother shared that she was previously engaged in supportive services, but explained it wasn't a good fit and switched to a different provider. She was additionally accessing grief support services locally.

The CPS caseworker requested to have the half-sibling's hair drug tested and the mother was hesitant. She shared her parents smoke marijuana in their home; however, they don't do it in the same room as the half-sibling when the half-sibling is there. The mother shared she was concerned the half-sibling would test positive, but she would continue to consider a hair test.

The following week, the CPS caseworker made contact with the half-sibling and mother at their residence. The mother explained that grief was really hard for her this week, and her family has

been around to help. The mother wanted to consider hair testing for the half-sibling a bit longer.

The CPS caseworker attempted to generate an in-home safety plan with the family, however, the mother was not in agreement. Another safety plan was generated, which included court oversight, and a hair test for the half-sibling was completed. Collateral information collected at this time indicated the deceased child was often cared for by different neighbors at different times. The morning of the child's death, a neighbor's ring camera showed mother going into a neighbor's home and the two return to the mother's apartment for about 30 minutes. About 12 minutes after the neighbor leaves, law enforcement arrived.

At the closure of the CPS assessment, the allegations of neglect to the children by the mother were coded as founded. The mother admitted to using alcohol and marijuana the night of the child's death.

Of note, hair test results for the half-sibling were received by the Department on September 12, 2025, and documented in a case note on September 18, 2025. The half-sibling tested positive for methamphetamine and THC. Upon presentation of this information, the mother admitted to regular methamphetamine use.

Relevant case history

Date of report: November 9, 2020

Assignment decision: Within 24 Hours

Allegation(s): Neglect by the mother; Neglect by the father

Disposition(s): Unfounded; Unfounded

On November 9, 2020, ODHS received a report alleging neglect to the half-sibling of the child, who was 4 months old, by the mother and father. It was reported on November 8, 2020, the parents were living in their car, were under the influence, and throwing items at each other.

Law enforcement responded but there was no basis for arrests or criminal charges to either of the adults as there were no physical altercation or injuries reported. Law enforcement noted the parents were still under the influence and not in any condition to drive, though law enforcement felt they were sober enough to care for the half-sibling. There was concern about the half-sibling's well-being and the parent's ability to maintain a warm environment through the night as the weather was 28 degrees Fahrenheit with a forecast indicating a drop in temperature. The mother agreed to take the half-sibling to a shelter for the night, and law enforcement would assist with transportation. It was unclear if the father went. This report was assigned to CPS for assessment.

Upon being assigned this case, the CPS caseworker reviewed the criminal history and child welfare history for the parents, the police report was requested and a phone call to the mother was placed.

On November 12, 2020, the CPS caseworker called the mother and left a voicemail. The CPS caseworker contacted the father who reported willingness to meet and stated the mother and half-sibling would also be present. Later this day, the CPS caseworker met with the family in the parking lot of a department store. It was noted the vehicle environment had many of the family's belongings inside of and strapped to the vehicle. The half-sibling was observed napping in the vehicle laying on a blanket placed on the stomach with pillows surrounding. The CPS caseworker discussed safe sleep practices with the family and discussed safe sleep options given their limited space and resources. They reported typically sleeping in the back of their SUV with the half-sibling between them for warmth. The parents were receptive to safe sleep information and indicated it was new information to them. The parents described having moved to the area recently and were unable to secure stable housing, though they were on a waitlist. The CPS caseworker spoke to the family at length about their housing circumstances.

Regarding the reported concerns, the parents stated they both drank two beers a piece and were outside of the vehicle preparing food while the half-sibling slept in the vehicle. The parents engaged in a verbal dispute which escalated. The mother threw an empty can at the father, took a couple swings at him, and the two mutually put hands on each other. The situation de-escalated after law enforcement was contacted. The police report associated with

this incident is referenced in the CPS assessment and noted to be consistent with what the parents reported to ODHS. The parents denied that they drank to excess the night of the incident, though the police report documents concern they were under the influence. The parents acknowledged that their alcohol consumption might have contributed to the altercation.

The CPS caseworker staffed the case with their supervisor on November 16, 2020, and contact with the family occurred again on November 17, 2020. The CPS caseworker met them in the community and provided a "co-sleeper" to the family who needed a safe sleep space for the half-sibling. The parents signed releases of information so they could be referred to services.

On January 20, 2021, a courtesy caseworker made contact with the father's three older children from a different relationship, who were all being cared for by their mother in another county. No safety concerns were noted, and their mother did not report parenting concerns for the half-sibling's parents.

At the conclusion of the CPS assessment, the allegation of neglect to the half-sibling by the parents was unfounded. When law enforcement responded, they determined the parents to be sober enough to provide adequate care to the half-sibling; the dispute occurred outside of the vehicle while the half-sibling slept. Of note, this CPS assessment was closed using the documentation protocol.

Date of report: October 6, 2021

Assignment decision: Within 24 Hours

Allegation(s): Neglect by the mother

Disposition(s): Unfounded

On October 2, 2021, ODHS received a report alleging neglect to the child's half-sibling, who was 1 year old, by the mother. It was reported the mother woke at 1 a.m. to the sound of the half-sibling screaming and discovered the half-sibling with blue lips, stiff and unresponsive.

Emergency services were contacted; the half-sibling was noted to go back and forth between being lethargic and snoring and waking and screaming. The half-sibling went to the emergency room and was thought to be having seizures; however, the CT scan was within normal limits. Toxicology results came back positive for THC, and the mother admitted the half-sibling may have accessed marijuana paraphernalia from her bong. The attending doctor consulted with poison control who reported the type of seizure presentation by the half-sibling was normal for children at that age who ingest THC. The half-sibling would likely return to normal within 1-3 days and was admitted to the hospital for monitoring. This report was assigned to CPS for assessment.

The CPS assessment was assigned to the CPS caseworker on October 6, 2021. On this day, the CPS caseworker reviewed child welfare history and criminal history for the parents, called the reporting party, and spoke with a hospital social worker. It was learned the half-sibling would be transferring hospitals. In-person contact with the mother and half-sibling occurred at the local hospital where the mother disclosed that she and the father use marijuana, never at the same time, and never around the half-sibling. The mother stated before the incident, she was in the kitchen while the half-sibling was watching TV in her room. When she checked on the half-sibling, she noted paraphernalia on the floor while he sat on the bed and knew he found it because she usually kept it in a box on her dresser behind the TV. She washed the half-sibling's hands and face and monitored for any symptoms. The half-sibling appeared fine, with a few naps throughout the evening, and falling asleep for the night by 8 pm.

On October 7, 2021, the mother informed the CPS caseworker that the half-sibling, though ill with a virus, would be discharged from the hospital as the seizure-like episodes had stopped. Medical providers contacted the CPS caseworker reporting some concern for the half-sibling's gross motor skills as well as other developmental milestones.

On October 13, 2021, the CPS caseworker made contact with the half-sibling and parents in the family's apartment, which appeared clean. A lockbox was provided to the parents and a referral for services was made. The father explained he knew of the incident and was home, helping the mother monitor the half-sibling throughout the night. The father checked on the half-sibling at 1 a.m. and that's when he noted the half-sibling's condition and screamed for the mother.

This case was staffed with a CPS supervisor. It was determined the allegations of neglect to the half-sibling by the mother would be unfounded. Though the half-sibling was hospitalized for ingesting TCH, it appeared to be a one-time incident. The mother acted appropriately following the incident when the half-sibling's health was noted to be affected. The marijuana paraphernalia was moved to a high closet shelf and stored in a lock box.

Date of report: March 27, 2022

Assignment decision: Within 24 Hours

Allegation(s): Threat of Harm by the mother

Disposition(s): Founded

On March 27, 2022, ODHS received a report alleging threat of harm to the child's half-sibling, who was 1 year old, by the mother. It was reported on March 26, 2022, law enforcement responded to a domestic disturbance at the home of the parents. Upon arrival, law enforcement found the mother to be unclothed and clearly under the influence of alcohol. She was unsteady on her feet and slurring her words. When law enforcement entered the home, they noted several items throughout the home appeared to have been thrown around, the TV was broken, and there was blood smeared in various locations of the apartment including on the father and half-sibling. The father told law enforcement the mother hit him with the TV on the back of the head and chased him out of the apartment. The mother explained she did this because the father's three older children from a different relationship only watch TV when they come over, so she destroyed it. The mother admitted she didn't remember much of the incident. The father explained all of the children were present for this incident. The mother was charged with harassment but was not taken into custody. Law enforcement was reported to return to the home later in the day due to continued arguing, however, details were unknown. The father arranged for the mother of his older children to pick them up and the half-sibling would remain home with the parents. This report was assigned to CPS for assessment. A companion CPS assessment for the older children and their mother was assigned to CPS.

On March 28, 2022, the CPS caseworker was assigned this case outside the response timeline. The CPS caseworker reviewed the police reports associated with this incident as well as the family's child welfare and criminal history. A home visit was completed, but no one appeared home.

On March 29, 2022, the CPS caseworker made contact with the family home in their home. The mother attempted to recall the incident but could only recall bits and pieces. She had been drinking at a neighbor's house (including beer and hard liquor) and the father's older three children were being disrespectful. She recalled feeling frustrated and pushed down the TV. She remembered holding the half-sibling at one point, seeing blood from a cut on her hand, and law enforcement arriving shortly after. She recalled continuing to argue after law enforcement left. And when law enforcement arrived a second time, she was arrested and lodged for a night. The mother reported she typically would drink 1-2 alcoholic seltzers every couple of days, she denied any other substance use and appeared willing to participate in a drug and alcohol screen.

The father reported the day of the incident, the mother was drinking alcohol with a neighbor and when she returned and told his children to do something, their response upset her. The father said the next moment, the mother grabbed the TV and smashed it to the ground, it partly collided with the back of the father's head, though no injuries were reported. The father sent the children outside and had the older children picked up by their mother. Law enforcement was also contacted. The neighbor and the father attempted to get the half-sibling out of the home, in the midst of this the mother bit the father's arm. The father explained this was the first time the mother had been physical with him. Law enforcement was called to the home two times and the second time, the mother was arrested. The father explained he drinks a couple times a week. He was willing to participate in a drug and alcohol screen.

A nearby neighbor was contacted as a collateral for this assessment, and she reported she visits with the family a couple times a week in their home, and this incident was the first time she observed the mother to be angry and under the influence. She did not know how much alcohol the parents consumed regularly.

On March 30, 2022, the CPS caseworker referred the parents for supportive services.

On April 4, 2022, the CPS caseworker spoke with the half-sibling's pediatrician who confirmed the half-sibling was up to date on well child checks and immunizations. There were no concerns reported for the parents.

On April 20, 2022, the service provider closed her referral as she attempted to engage the parents via text and phone call with no responses. The CPS caseworker contacted the parents to inquire about their lack of engagement; both parents felt they did not need services at that time.

On May 18, 2022, the CPS caseworker spoke with the caseworker for the companion case. The two spoke again on June 8 and June 28, 2022, to provide updates and consider dispositions. It was learned the father's older three children provided disclosures of witnessing the reported incident. All three children had negative perceptions of the mother and did not appreciate their father's relationship with her. One of the children disclosed a previous incident where the mother hit the father on the knuckles with a baseball bat.

At the conclusion of this CPS assessment, the allegation of threat of harm to the half-sibling by the mother was determined to be founded due to the mother becoming under the influence and the physically violent incident the children were exposed to.

Date of report: February 24, 2024

Assignment decision: Within 24 Hours

Allegation(s): Neglect by the mother

Disposition(s): Unfounded

On February 24, 2024, ODHS received a report alleging neglect to the child's half-sibling, who was 3 years old, by the mother. The half-sibling was observed to be "passed out" and the mother stated this was due to him eating her gummies; the reporter believed she was referencing THC gummies. The half-sibling had a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. The

mother stated today was one of the easiest days she had with the half-sibling and did not seem to take his substance exposure seriously. There was also concern the mother had been seen smoking dabs in the car with the windows rolled up and the half-sibling present. This report was assigned to CPS for assessment.

On February 24, 2024, the CPS caseworker met the half-sibling and mother in the home. The CPS caseworker inquired about substance use and the mother reported occasionally drinking and smoking marijuana. She showed the CPS caseworker where she stored her paraphernalia (in a box on the top shelf of a shed in the backyard). Mother denied exposing the half-sibling to marijuana and offered to have them tested for THC.

On April 17, 2024, the CPS caseworker spoke with the father who reported only seeing the half-sibling over video calls, he has not noted any concerns.

On April 18, 2024, the CPS caseworker met with the mother who requested assistance in obtaining a safety lock box as well as drawer and cupboard safety locks. She indicated at this time she smokes marijuana throughout the day to ease anxiety and back pain, taking no more than four hits off her vape. The mother was adamant throughout the CPS assessment that she was not financially able to afford THC edibles.

At the conclusion of this CPS assessment, the allegation of neglect was unfounded. The mother denied giving the half-sibling a marijuana edible and was able to show how she kept her paraphernalia in safe storage out of the half-sibling's reach.

Date of report: July 2, 2024

Assignment decision: Within 24 Hours

Allegation(s): Physical Abuse by an unknown perpetrator

Disposition(s): Unfounded

On July 2, 2024, ODHS received a report alleging physical abuse to the child's half-sibling, who was 4 years old, by an unknown perpetrator. It was reported the half-sibling was observed with

injuries of unknown origin including bruising on the face and a swollen eye. The reporter stated the half-sibling may be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, ADHD and Erbs Palsy. This report was assigned to CPS for assessment.

On July 3, 2024, the assigned CPS caseworker made contact with the half-sibling and the mother. During the CPS assessment, the CPS caseworker also made contact with the father, reporting party, neighbors, witnesses, and service providers. It was learned the mother experienced significant anxiety, managed anxiety with medication, at times experienced disassociating, reported being stable in mental health therapy, and was challenged with parenting the half-sibling. It was also learned the mother used substances, was reducing the amount used, changed how she consumed alcohol to 1-3 beers a day over a longer period of time, accessed a support system to care for the half-sibling when intoxicated, and smoked marijuana outside and after the half-sibling was sleeping. The mother expressed looking forward to accessing respite care for the half-sibling.

Regarding the reported injury, information gathered indicated the half-sibling's injuries were sustained while playing.

At the conclusion of this CPS assessment, it was determined the allegation of physical abuse to the half-sibling by an unknown perpetrator was unfounded.

Date of report: August 27, 2024

Assignment decision: Closed at Screening

Allegation(s): Not Applicable

Disposition(s): Not Applicable

On August 27, 2024, ODHS received a report that outlined concerns for the child's half-sibling, who was 4 years old, by the father. Reportedly, while in the care of the father, the half-sibling was given Mucinex to help with sleep and was seen improperly restrained in the car with the father driving, despite having an invalid license due to driving under the influence.

It was reported the half-sibling was diagnosed with developmental delays, opposition defiance disorder, Erbs Palsy, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, speech delay disorder, and was in the process of evaluation for autism as well as access to services. The mother also acquired a disabilities case manager for the half-sibling and was being supported by a couple service providers. Both parents had a history of substance use and it was noted that the mother was using marijuana daily at the time of this report. The father was noted to be verbally aggressive towards the mother.

It was determined this report did not meet criteria for a CPS assessment and was closed at screening.

Date of report: November 15, 2024

Assignment decision: Closed at Screening

Allegation(s): Not Applicable

Disposition(s): Not Applicable

On November 15, 2024, ODHS received a report that outlined concerns for the child's half-sibling, who was 4 years old, by the mother. It was reported on October 31, 2024, the mother picked up the half-sibling under the arms, swung the half-sibling over her shoulder, causing the head to collide on the car door. There were no known injuries. Though the half-sibling's behaviors could be a lot to manage due to his autism spectrum diagnosis, there were no such behaviors observed prior to the mother doing this. The half-sibling was reported to be in Head Start and received in-home supports from a caretaker.

It was determined this report did not meet criteria for a CPS assessment and was closed at screening.

Date of report: January 23, 2025

Assignment decision: Closed at Screening

Allegation(s): Not Applicable

Disposition(s): Not Applicable

On January 23, 2025, ODHS received a report that outlined concerns for the child's half-sibling, who was 4 years old. Reportedly two times the half-sibling got upset, screamed, stabbed themself in the arm with a toy, and made threats of suicide. There were no injuries except red marks. The half-sibling has several diagnoses and was working with a personal support worker. The half-sibling was previously involved in supportive services, though the reporter was unsure if attendance was current and active. The half-sibling was said to yell, hit other children, and kick his teacher. The mother was reported to be on medication for depression, anxiety and PTSD. There was concern the half-sibling heard the mother make similar suicidal statements. Reportedly, the mother was likely to seek help if the half-sibling was suicidal.

It was determined this report did not meet criteria for a CPS assessment and was closed at screening.

Date of report: February 6, 2025

Assignment decision: Closed at Screening

Allegation(s): Not Applicable

Disposition(s): Not Applicable

On February 6, 2025, ODHS received a report that outlined concerns for the child's half-sibling, who was 4 years old, by the mother, as well as concerns for the mother's unborn child. Reportedly, the mother did not follow through with prenatal care and wanted a natural delivery.

It was determined this report did not meet criteria for a CPS assessment and was closed at screening.

Date of report: April 9, 2025

Assignment decision: Closed at Screening

Allegation(s): Not Applicable

Disposition(s): Not Applicable

On April 9, 2025, ODHS received a report that outlined concerns for the mother's unborn child. It was reported the mother was 37 weeks along in her pregnancy and had limited prenatal care consisting of one visit and it was unclear where she intended to labor and deliver the unborn baby. On April 8, 2025, the mother tested positive for methamphetamine and THC. It was unknown how often the mother used substances and if she was caring for the half-sibling while using. The mother was not seeking services or treatment for substance use. The reporting party did not have information related to the half-sibling's father, the father of the unborn child, or the mother's management of mental health concerns such as bipolar, anxiety, and depression.

It was determined this report did not meet criteria for a CPS assessment and was closed at screening.

Date of report: April 17, 2025

Assignment decision: Within 72 Hours

Allegation(s): Threat of Harm by the mother

Disposition(s): Unfounded

On April 17, 2025, ODHS received a report alleging threat of harm to the half-sibling of the child, who was 4 years old, by the mother who was pregnant. It was reported the mother was using marijuana and tobacco daily. Two days prior, the mother was found unresponsive and had to be shaken. Due to pregnancy, she stopped taking bipolar and anxiety medication and substituted marijuana. It was unknown if she continued or was engaged in any services. The

mother reportedly punches herself in the face when frustrated, and the half-sibling had started to do the same. The half-sibling's behaviors had escalated recently including hitting others, kicking, screaming, and throwing rocks at cars. The half-sibling was diagnosed with oppositional defiant disorder and has a direct support professional in the home a few hours daily. This report was assigned to CPS for assessment.

While this CPS assessment was open, ODHS received another report alleging threat of harm to the newborn child by the mother. The mother delivered the child who tested positive for THC. Additionally, the mother tested positive for methamphetamines on April 9, 2025, while she was pregnant. This report was assigned to CPS for assessment and was assessed with the screening report from April 17, 2025. Details of this report and all CPS assessment case related activities for both reports are summarized below.

At the conclusion of this CPS assessment, the allegation of threat of harm to the half-sibling by the mother was determined to be unfounded.

Date of report: April 29, 2025

Assignment decision: Within 24 Hours

Allegation(s): Threat of Harm by the mother

Disposition(s): Unfounded

On April 29, 2025, ODHS received a report alleging threat of harm to newborn child by the mother. At time of delivery, the mother had not received prenatal care and the child tested positive for THC. She also tested positive for methamphetamine on April 9, 2025, when pregnant. It was unknown whether she had engaged in or completed any substance use treatment. The child was not identified as substance affected. The mother did not identify a father for the child, and it was unclear what baby supplies and equipment she had at home. Safe sleep information was provided to the mother while in the hospital. This report was assigned to CPS for assessment and assessed together with the April 17, 2025 report.

On April 19, 2025, the CPS caseworker made contact with the mother and the half-sibling and observed the home, including the sleep arrangements. During the CPS assessment, the CPS caseworker also made contact with the child, the half-sibling's father, the neighboring state child welfare agency and law enforcement. It was learned the mother at times stored marijuana paraphernalia in her purse, disclosed using marijuana daily, sometimes in the evening and sometimes throughout the day, used methamphetamines once in April and denied using alcohol. The mother explained the lack of prenatal care was due to a conflict with her provider and challenges scheduling with another provider. She further explained being diagnosed with anxiety and bi-polar disorder, stopping medications when pregnant, and denied hitting herself in the face. She stated interest in continuing with services but identified time as the barrier. Additionally, she reported being in constant need of financial support.

The mother named a potential father of the child. It was also learned the child was not breathing when born, was resuscitated, went home three days later, was observed to be healthy and was seen for medical check-ups.

Regarding the half-sibling, it was learned they were receiving learning and behavioral supports, was in the process of being diagnosed, was connecting to additional services and supports, and was reported by the mother to have behaviors that overwhelm caregivers. The half-sibling's father reported only having video calls since mid-June with the half-sibling. He was also denied an attempt for emergency custody, concerned for the half-sibling's safety, had a hostile relationship with the mother and was not currently using substances.

The CPS caseworker engaged the Recovery Support Team to work with the mother and made attempts to educate the mother on the safety concerns of marijuana use while parenting (impaired judgment, impacts to sleep and functioning). The mother stated she didn't smoke past her limit.

On May 5, 2025, an infant safety staffing was completed, and it was recommended the CPS caseworker revisit safe sleep information with the mother and try to connect her with supportive services.

On May 6, 2025, the CPS caseworker reviewed safe sleep practices with the mother and provided safe sleep brochures. The CPS caseworker cautioned her on the dangers of sharing a sleep surface while using substances.

The CPS caseworker observed the infant child multiple times during the CPS assessment including sleeping in a crib and being carried in a wrap on the mother's chest. The CPS caseworker provided a baby box from Every Child, diapers and baby clothes, and was asked for formula. The CPS caseworker documented the mother appeared to be meeting her children's needs.

On June 13, 2025, ODHS received a report of the death of the infant child with concerns that unsafe sleep practices may have been a factor. There was marijuana paraphernalia noted in the home as well as an open bottle of alcohol. See report dated June 13, 2025.

At the conclusion of this CPS assessment, the allegation of threat of harm to the infant child by the mother was determined to be unfounded.

Concerns regarding actions taken or not taken

During the course of this review, the CIRT engaged in in-depth conversations concerning parental substance use and identified opportunities within the case history to more thoroughly assess the nature and impact of the parent's substance use on child safety. This review noted that marijuana was the primary substance used by the child's parent (though after the review it became known to the department the mother engaged in polysubstance use). Participants highlighted the persistent challenges experienced by the workforce in evaluating parental use of a substance that is socially accepted and legally available for recreational use. The CIRT also noted concerns in over-relying on parental self-reports of substance use. Specifically, the CIRT expressed concern that the increasing normalization of marijuana use may have contributed to bias and minimization in the case documentation and CPS assessment history.

To that end, the CIRT noted opportunities to engage Recovery Support Team (RST) leads in supporting the workforce in their engagement of the parent, assessment of their substance use and in accessing sobriety supports. Local leadership expressed concern about limited access to

RSTs within their county, noting that coordinating with an RST from a neighboring county requires advance planning, which hinders the ability to conduct spontaneous or urgent home visits.

Plans of Care (also known as Family Care Plans) were also a topic of discussion during this review. Local leadership emphasized the ongoing need to educate medical professionals about their critical role in the development of Plans of Care. Currently, the responsibility for initiating and implementing these plans often falls disproportionately on Child Welfare professionals, with minimal collaboration or engagement from local medical partners. This gap highlights the need for stronger interdisciplinary coordination to ensure comprehensive and effective care planning for the infant and their family.

Recommendations for improvement

The CIRT recognized that many of the identified improvement opportunities in this review align with themes identified in recently completed CIRT reviews. This consistency underscores the importance of maintaining focus on current recommendations that are already underway in addressing several of these areas.

Key related recommendations include:

- Required completion of 5 modules of Substance Use Disorder training for child welfare professionals
- Expanding substance use disorder training within the caseworker academy model
- Implementing a standardized supervisory framework for Recovery Support Team leads to promote statewide consistency
- Improving Safe Sleep resources and materials, particularly focusing on impacts of cannabis use

- Developing a comprehensive plan to strengthen caseworker knowledge and capacity in initiating Plans of Care as required by the Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act
- Implementation of UNCOPE framework (screening tool for identifying dependence on alcohol and substance use)
- Development of Substance Use Disorder guidelines for staff

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