Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 114526342

County of Child's Residence: TARRANT

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 2 Month(s)

Date of Death: 08/01/2024

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: Juarez,Elena

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/01/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report after emergency services were called to the family's residence after the deceased child was found unresponsive by the deceased child's mother upon waking. The deceased child's mother and child were not co-sleeping. The deceased child was already deceased when emergency responders arrived at the home. The home condition was reported to be in disrepair, with trash everywhere and a strong offensive odor.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother and the mother's paramour were caregivers to the deceased child and her two older siblings, ages 2 and 5. The deceased child's mother and children had been visiting the paramour's residence for a few days at a time. At the time of the deceased child's death, the 2-year-old sibling was at the maternal grandmother's residence, but had also been at the paramour's residence.

The deceased child's mother, her paramour, and several others at the paramour's residence admitted to using methamphetamines on the evening prior to the deceased child's death and on the morning of the deceased child's death. The deceased child's mother was sleeping with the deceased child and 5-year-old sibling on a sofa at the paramour's residence. The paramour observed the sibling on top of the deceased child during the early morning hours and woke up the deceased child's mother. She moved the child to a car seat and then went back to sleep. Several hours later the mother woke up and found the child deceased. The deceased child's mother left the paramour's residence with the deceased child and 5-year-old sibling and returned to the grandmother's residence. She then called emergency services.

The deceased child's two siblings were drug tested and tested positive for methamphetamines and amphetamines during the investigation. The condition of the home and the drug environment were unsafe for the children.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy, The results were pending at the time the Department's investigation closed.

Law enforcement completed an investigation that was still pending at the time the Department's investigation was closed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child which led to her death.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother's paramour committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and the mother's paramour committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child's two siblings.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child's two siblings due to their positive drug tests.

The Department was unable to determine if the deceased child's mother committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child as the autopsy was still pending at closure. It is not known if deceased child was positive for illegal drugs.

The Department was unable to determine if the deceased child's mother committed Physical Neglect of the deceased child and the deceased child's two siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/01/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The family agreed to services offered as part of the legal case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the surviving siblings, and they were placed with a kinship caregiver.

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.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 05/22/2019

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns of prenatal drug exposure as the deceased child's mother tested positive for marijuana on January 3, 2019, and then positive for barbiturates on April 11, 2019, while pregnant with the child's older sibling. The mother was not given a prescription for marijuana or barbiturates. The mother was negative for any drugs on April 25, 2019, and May 9, 2019. The mother reported eating a brownie that was laced with marijuana to help with her nausea. There was no information about how mother would have tested positive for barbiturates. The mother denied taking any medications other than prenatal vitamin. The mother was not tested for drugs upon delivery.

The Department's investigation determined the mother had tested positive for marijuana and barbiturates at the birth of the older sibling. The mother stated she ate some sweets that were laced with marijuana but does not remember what it was. The siblings drug screen was negative at birth.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child's sibling.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 05/22/2019: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 06/13/2019: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family agreed to accept services provided by the Department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family agreed to a Safety Plan in which she would refrain from drug use and submit to drug testing.

The Investigation case was closed and case opened to Family-Based Safety Services from 7/31/2019 to 06/22/2020. During the Family-Based Safety Services case, the mother participated in services to include parent training and substance abuse treatment and remained negative on her drug tests. At the close of the case, the mother and sibling remained in the maternal grandmother's home.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 05/27/2024

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns of prenatal drug exposure to the deceased child due to the mother and child testing positive for amphetamines on a urine test.

The Department's investigation determined the child's meconium came back positive for methamphetamines and amphetamines. The mother's urine drug test came back negative, but her hair strand drug test came back positive for methamphetamines and amphetamines and had been a caregiver to the child's two older siblings. The mother agreed to be supervised with her children and resided with the children's maternal grandmother and maternal uncle.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child and her two siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 05/28/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 07/09/2024: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother agreed to accept services provided by the Department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family agreed to a Safety Plan in which the mother would be supervised with all three children.

The Investigation case was closed and case opened to Family-Based Safety Services on 06/28/2024. The mother was completing services at the time of the deceased child's death. The Family-Based Safety Services case was closed as the surviving siblings were removed from the home and services would continue to be provided as part of the legal Conservatorship case.

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.