Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 114588521

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Male

Age: 0 Year(s) 3 Month(s)

Date of Death: 10/25/2024

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: Porter,Julius

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 10/27/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the deceased child had passed away on 10/25/2024. It was found that the child had a skull fracture, old, healed wounds to the ribs, and an internal laceration to the liver. At time of the child's passing, the child's father was present in the apartment with the child's mother. The mother and father both stated the child was drowsy and out of it and after feeding, the child began to convulse and was unresponsive. They both said no when asked about a fall or traumatic injury. The child's 2- and 3-year-old siblings were with their mother and maternal grandfather.

The Department's investigation determined that the Department was currently involved with the family though a Family-Based Safety Services case due to prior incidents of domestic violence in the home. The mother was receiving services however the father was not responding to the Department or engaging with services. At the time of the fatal incident, the mother and the father were the only caregivers present when the child became unresponsive. She reported that the father had not seen the children for 4-6 weeks, so she allowed him to come over. The mother denied that the child had a fall or other medical event prior to becoming unresponsive. The father did not make himself available to be interviewed at the onset of the investigation. He was later arrested by law enforcement and declined to provide any statements claiming he had legal counsel. Forensic interviews were conducted with both of the child's siblings, however provided no additional information due to their limited verbal skills.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy and issued the manner of death as a Homicide with the cause of death as Blunt Force Trauma of the Head and Torso. The acute blunt force head trauma included a left parietal skull linear

fracture consistent with impact to the left side of the head occurring at or around the time of death per the autopsy report. The child's injuries included bilateral acute subdural hematomas of the brain, optic nerve sheaths and spinal cord; severe diffuse cerebral edema with bilateral uncal & tonsillar herniation; global acute hypoxic/ischemic neuronal damage; acute bilateral petechial retinal hemorrhages. The child had injuries to the torso to include bilateral rib fractures consistent with a minimum of two events of compression of the chest with one occurring weeks prior to the death and one occurring days to weeks prior to the death. A liver laceration was also noted. According to the anthropology consultation report, the blunt force trauma was present on the left parietal bone and ribs consistent with an acute injury of the head and a minimum of two remote injury events affecting the torso. The linear parietal fracture was consistent with an impact to the left side of the head occurring at or around the time of death.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation was ongoing at the time the Department's investigation closed. They arrested the father and charged him with Injury to a Child-Serious Bodily Injury.

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 neglectful supervision of the deceased child's two siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 10/28/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 11/26/2024: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
3.) 12/30/2024: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan
4.) 12/30/2024: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe with plan
5.) 12/30/2024: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Day Care,Counseling and Evaluation,Medical Resources/Assessment,Legal Services

Other Services:

The mother agreed to continue accepting services offered by the Department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A safety plan was initiated at the start of the investigation which required the mother to have no unsupervised contact with the siblings and for the father to have no contact. The mother's contact would be supervised by the maternal grandfather. Due to the grandfather's need to attend to family matters out of state and no other possible supervisors, the Department filed and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the siblings. The children were with the maternal grandmother at the time, and she refused to turn over the children. The Department reassessed the grandmother's home and an aunt was willing to move in to assist, and the legal case was non-suited, and the Family-Based Safety Services case continued. A safety plan regarding the mother not having any unsupervised contact was in place however this was violated. At that time, the Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the siblings, and they were placed into a foster home.

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): 08/09/2024

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report regarding a domestic violence incident that occurred on 02/19/2024 when the deceased child's father assaulted the child's mother. The father was arrested and issued a Temporary Emergency Protective Order for Pretrial Supervision and Bond Conditions that restricted him from going within 200 feet of the residence of the mother and for the mother and father not to live together. The mother was now requesting the charges to be dropped, and there was concern for the deceased child, and his two older siblings.

The Department's investigation determined there were concerns of continuous domestic violence between the mother and father as there had been several incidents of domestic violence since 2018. The father was recently released on bond on 08/06/2024 for assaulting the mother but she wanted to drop the charges against him. There was a protective order and bond conditions in place, that prevented the father from having any contact with the mother, but the mother allowed the father to reside back in the home. When caseworker made contact with family there was an unknown male observed at the home, and although he declined to provide his information, it was believed that he was the children's father. The male was also observed walking in and out of the home with a baggie of marijuana in his hand. Law enforcement was called to the home to help identify the unknown male and ensure that he was not the father and violating the protective order, but the male would not exit the home and identify himself, and the mother left the home with the children. The children were observed and no concerns noted. The father was unable to be located.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and his oldest sibling.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/11/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A safety plan was initiated with the maternal grandmother in which the mother and the three children would reside in her home and there would be no unsupervised contact between the mother or father and the children. The mother agreed to work services provided and the case was opened to Family-Based Safety Services on 08/14/2024. During this case, the mother's supervised contact was lifted in September as the father was incarcerated and the mother wanted to return to her own home with her children. The mother engaged in individual counseling and had completed this prior to the fatal incident. On the day of the fatality, the caseworker had visited the mother and the children in the morning, and the mother informed the worker at that time that she had no plans on having a relationship with the father and would contact 911 if he were to come to the home.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 01/08/2024

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the deceased child's mother went to the police station to make a report that the child's father had just gotten out of prison and tried to break into her home. The father was in prison for domestic violence. The mother stated that the father did not hit her that day but did try to take the mother?s vehicle while she had the child's two older siblings were in the vehicle. The children were observed to be very hungry. The maternal grandmother was contacted to pick up the two children from the police station as the mother was arrested on felony charges that she had pending.

The Department's investigation determined the mother was at home preparing dinner when the children's father knocked on the door. She reported she and the father had broken up over two years ago and he was sentenced to two years of prison for domestic violence against her. She said when she saw him her first instinct was to grab the children and run out of the back door and into her vehicle. She said her children had on onesies and were waiting to be fed when she had to leave abruptly. She said while at the police station she asked the officer if she could order the children food because they had not eaten. She said the officer denied her request and informed her that she was being arrested for an outstanding warrant. She said she had no idea she had a warrant for her arrest. She denied her children were malnourished and prepares breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Professional and personal collaterals had no concerns of abuse of neglect and would continue to act as safety monitors to ensure the children were safe. Immediately after being released, the mother relocated to a new apartment but within the same apartment complex and had no plans on having contact with the father. She stated she endured his abuse for the four years they were together, and after being apart for the last two years she has been able to build up her confidence and focus on moving forward with registering for college to finish her nursing degree. The children were observed with no concerns noted. The father could not be located.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child's two older siblings.

The Department did not confirm the mother committed neglectful supervision or physical abuse of the deceased child's two older siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 01/13/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 01/24/2024: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother accepted referral information for counseling services provided.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The Department's 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.