Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 114794081

County of Child's Residence: HIDALGO

Gender: Female

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

Date of Death: 09/03/2024

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: Wheatley,Kaylani Y

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 09/03/2024, 09/03/2024, 09/03/2024 - three reports merged into single investigation

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received three reports regarding the deceased child, the deceased child's twin sibling, and the deceased child's older sibling. The reports stated the deceased child's father called emergency services after the deceased child was throwing up and acting weird. The deceased child was noted to have pressure wounds and rectal bleeding. The deceased child's father claimed to have fed the deceased child between 2am and 6 am and was breathing when emergency services arrived. Medical staff felt the child may have been deceased for 24 hours. There were also noted concerns with the deceased child's siblings being malnourished, the deceased child's twin sibling having wounds, and the deceased child's siblings' clothes were dirty, had a foul odor, and their diapers were unchanged.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child, and her siblings all suffered from malnutrition related to the failure of the deceased child's mother and father to provide adequate nutrition. The deceased child and her twin had not seen a pediatrician since their birth and discharge home. A consult was completed by the Forensic Assessment Center Network (FACN) who noted at death, the deceased child weighed 4 pounds, 9 oz. and was found to have features consistent with malnutrition, dehydration, and chronic stress including body weight less than her birth weight, visible ribs, essentially no subcutaneous fat, marked atrophy of the thymus gland, absence of glycogenation of liver hepatocytes, and a vitreous urea consistent with dehydration. The consult stated the malnutrition could have been managed or prevented had the deceased child received regular medical care with weight and feeding evaluations.

The deceased child's two surviving siblings were taken for immediate medical care and received consults with FACN. The deceased child's oldest sibling was seen with dry lips, dry oral mucosa, diaper rash, and thin subcutaneous tissue. He was able to gain adequate weight with a standard toddler diet and supplement (PediaSure) while hospitalized. The deceased child's twin sibling was also able to gain weight by receiving regular formula feeds. These consults confirm the deceased child's mother and father failed to provide adequate nutrition and care in the home. The deceased child and her twin were noted to have notable effects of physical neglect to include skin maceration and pressure ulcers from being left laying down and not being moved for significant amounts of time. The deceased child's surviving siblings remained in the hospital from 09/06 until 09/17. It was also determined the deceased child's parents waited 2 hours and 25 minutes after finding the deceased child not breathing before contacting emergency medical services. The home environment was noted to have health and safety hazards that also impacted the well-being of the children.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, and the cause of death was noted to be malnutrition and dehydration exacerbated by complications of gastroesophageal reflux disease, including pneumonia. The manner of death was determined to be homicide.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation and arrested both of deceased child's parents for murder and injury to a child.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed medical neglect and physical neglect of the deceased child, which led to her death.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's =mother and father committed medical neglect and physical neglect of the deceased child's two siblings.

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's mother and father committed physical abuse to the deceased child.

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's mother committed physical abuse to the deceased child's twin sibling.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/03/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 09/16/2024: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

Drug Testing

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought immediate medical care for the deceased child's two surviving siblings. The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the deceased child's two surviving siblings who were placed into foster care upon their discharge from the hospital.

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):

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.