Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Cheyenne Myers

County: Marion

Date of Birth: 11/20/2021

Date of Death: 01/18/2022

Report Number: 2022-016216

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Cheyenne Myers	1 month, 29 days old	Child Victim
[redacted]	9 years old	Half Sibling
[redacted]	10 years old	Half Sibling
[redacted]	15 years old	Half Sibling
Laura McBride	24 years old	Mother
Brett Myers	33 years old	Father of Cheyenne

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On January 18, 2022, the nearly 2-month-old passed away being found unresponsive by the father.

According to the family, the following information was provided.

According to the parents, both of them woke up and conducted their normal routine on January 17, 2022. The mother went to work from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the paternal aunt came to the home to watch the children. The father was in and out of the home during the day. Both parents were home at approximately 7:00 p.m., and bathed and fed the children. They put the infant to bed at approximately 9:00 p.m. in her crib in the bedroom.

The parents indicated they put the infant on her back, side, or stomach to sleep. The infant woke up at approximately 1:00 a.m. on January 18, 2022, and both parents woke up with her; the father fed her and put her back to sleep in the crib. At approximately 7:00 a.m. the infant woke up and the father took her with him to the living room, fed her and laid her beside him on the trundle bed in the living room. The father slept on and off until approximately 10:00 a.m. The mother woke up at approximately 10:15 a.m. and got ready for work. The mother left at approximately 10:40 a.m. The infant was awake when she left, and the father indicated he and the child continued to sleep on and off throughout the morning/early afternoon. At 1:00 p.m. the father and mother spoke on the phone. The father then fed the infant and laid her on her stomach on the bedroom bed, on an adult blanket and covered her with a thin feeding blanket. Her head was facing left toward the wall. The father indicated the child had been having issues with

the formula and spitting up, and that is why he laid her on her stomach. He then laid down beside her and fell asleep for approximately 5 to 10 minutes. The older children came into the room and asked if they could play outside. He told them they could. He looked at the child victim and saw she was half awake and sucking on her pacifier. The father indicated he fell back asleep for another 5 to 10 minutes when the older children came back inside and asked to play down the street. The father saw that the infant was unresponsive and pale in color. The infant was still on her stomach at that time and one of her arms was out of the blanket. Between 2 to 2:30 p.m., the father called the mother at work and the 10-year-old called 911. The mother then called 911 from her job. The father moved the child victim to the living room floor and began CPR as instructed by dispatch. EMS arrived at the home and transported the infant to Advent Health Ocala.

On January 18, 2022, Cheyenne Myers was pronounced deceased at 3:01 p.m.

Law enforcement found a pipe next to the bedroom bed, a bundle of small unused baggies, a small scale next to the bag, and a cigarette pack with drug baggies with residue in them in a nightstand drawer. There was also a needle in a box in the parent's closet. There was a crib in the parent's bedroom with bumpers, blankets, pillows, and stuffed animals. The parents reported they were actively using the crib.

According to the mother, she is aware of the father's ongoing drug use, and denied any use around the children or at the home. She did indicate the paternal aunt left a water bong out after watching the children on the 17th. The mother reported the father uses Suboxone that he buys off the street, and his drugs of choice are heroin and meth. She stated the father keeps his drug paraphernalia in a book bag in the parents' bedroom. The last time she saw the father under the influence was on January 17th. She knew he had taken a Suboxone pill and can tell by the way he looks when he has used.

The mother was drug screened and was negative for all substances. The father refused a drug screen. He admitted to smoking marijuana after the incident occurred. He denied ongoing drug use.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of Cheyenne Myers (22-001155). No arrests were made, nor charges filed.

On March 24, 2022, the Death Certificate for Cheyenne Myers was received and indicated the autopsy was completed by District 5 Medical Examiner Shanedelle Norford, M.D. ME# 22-05-00130.

Cause of Death: Positional Asphyxia; Co-Sleeping with Parent on Adult Bed.

Manner of Death: Accident

On March 31, 2022, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death, Inadequate Supervision, and Substance Misuse – Illicit Drugs as to Cheyenne Myers, with Brett Myers as the caregiver responsible.
- Verified Findings of Inadequate Supervision as to Cheyenne Myers, [redacted] with Laura McGowan McBride as the caregiver responsible.
- [redacted].
- No Indicators of Physical Injury as to Cheyenne Myers.
- [redacted].

Other Children in the Family:

The mother indicated the 15-year-old had moved in with his biological father a couple weeks prior to the incident.

[redacted]

[redacted].

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The family did not have any open services.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The family has 13 prior abuse reports from 2005 to 2019 and at the time of the incident there was an open investigation received on November 26, 2021. [redacted]

Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

4/1/22
Date

Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

5/31/2022
Date