

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: [REDACTED]

County: Miami-Dade

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Death: December 20, 2016

Report Number: 2016-351751

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
[REDACTED]	16 Years	Decedent

Prior History Post Adoption

[REDACTED] was adopted on December 29, 2008, after termination of her biological parent's parental rights on October 11, 2006, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] continued to live with her adoptive parent [REDACTED] until her removal on November 12, 2014. [REDACTED] adoptive mother advised the Department that she no longer wished to care for [REDACTED]. This occurred after the Department received allegations on November 12, 2014 that [REDACTED] attempted to sexually abuse [REDACTED]. The allegations were investigated via abuse report 2014-308620, which concluded with a Not Substantiated finding of Sexual Abuse - Sexual Molestation. Due to [REDACTED] immediate refusal to care for [REDACTED] the Department added an additional maltreatment of Abandonment to the investigation and Verified the maltreatment. The Department placed [REDACTED] in foster care with Children's Network of Southwest Florida providing Supervision.

Placement History

[REDACTED] remained in her initial foster care placement eight months until the provider requested a change in placement (FSFN Placement Records). July 23, 2015, [REDACTED] was placed in a Residential Group Home where she remained until October 1, 2015; she was then placed in a Non-Relative Placement for two months, the placement ended on Christmas Day, 2015. The Department placed [REDACTED] into a Foster Home on December 25, 2015; the placement episode ended on April 19, 2016. [REDACTED]. The December placement continued until August 16, 2016. [REDACTED] was then placed into a foster home until August 17, 2016; afterward, [REDACTED] would spend five days in another foster home and then another seven days in another residential group home. [REDACTED]. On August 30, 2016, [REDACTED] was placed into a group home, where stayed for two months.

Placement at Florida Keys Children's Shelter

On November 17, 2016, the Department placed [REDACTED] at Florida Keys Children's Shelter (FKCS) in Monroe County. As part of the intake assessment FKCS completed their Comprehensive / Psychosocial Assessment tool [REDACTED], there was no report of any history, or thoughts of suicide at the time of assessment. In addition, [REDACTED] denied any substance use in general. The assessment noted [REDACTED] had no known mental health issues and was not taking any prescribed medication. The assessment noted [REDACTED] had no known mental health issues and was not taking any prescribed medication. The assessor documented that the "Placement is temporary" [REDACTED]. The assessment includes a "Client Safety Agreement" which specifies as a rule: "Not harming myself or other and immediately speaking to a staff member if I feel in danger of hurting myself, my family members or any other person." The Safety Agreement was signed by [REDACTED], her case manager, and a facility staff member.

During her stay at Florida Key's Children Shelter, the Department implemented a "Sexual Acting Out" safety plan with the children's shelter (which was necessary due to the November 12, 2014 incident) as a means to prevent any further sexual abuse incidents regarding [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was advised at the time of placement that "the placement will last as long as she makes it." It was noted in the November 17, 2016 cases note that [REDACTED] was unhappy about the new placement. On December 13, 2016 the Department attempted a Home Visit, however at the time [REDACTED] was not at the facility as she had recently run away from the facility; [REDACTED] returned a short time afterward. [REDACTED] at the time was upset that she was not scheduled to leave the facility as she was under the impression that she would only be there for 30-days. (December 13, 2016 case note). [REDACTED] was advised that schools would not allow the child into their facilities due to her behavior. [REDACTED] was expelled from school by the Charlotte County Public School Board on June 21, 2016, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Florida Keys Children's Shelter staff on December 14, 2016, initiated a referral to GCC Children's Services for counseling noting that "she [REDACTED] has gone through a lot of trauma and would benefit from expressing her feelings and developing various coping techniques."

Day of the Fatal Incident

On December 15, FKCS staff 6 am - 2 pm staff member, documented that "[REDACTED] was asleep upon arrival, and declined breakfast after waking at 8:40 am." It was also noted that [REDACTED] had been "quiet and withdrawn." Staff documented that [REDACTED] remained "short and private" in response to their attempts to engage her. Upon shift change to the 2 pm - 10 pm staff member documents that "upon arrival [REDACTED] was in watching television after having dinner and also visiting the YMCA with staff and peers." According to facility progress notes (2 pm - 10 pm shift), while in the process of doing laundry a "staff member told [REDACTED] that she needs to change her shorts, it's not bed time." [REDACTED] responded "okay Ms." and began to walk to the front of the hall with another youth. The staff member went to use the restroom and was notified [REDACTED] was attempting suicide. The staff member left the restroom and continue down the hallway of the facility and called 911 at 7:20 pm. At the time of the call, another staff member provided [REDACTED] with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transported [REDACTED] to Mariners Hospital and later transferred to Nicholas Children's Hospital in Miami-Dade County. Medical staff at Nicholas Children's Hospital pronounced [REDACTED] deceased on December 20, 2016 at 1:57 pm. The Miami-Dade Medical Examiner completed an autopsy on the decedent and confirmed the cause of death as "Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy Days Hanging" and the Manner of Death as "Suicide."

Investigation Status

Currently, the Department has an open institutional abuse report (2016-351751) received on December 15, 2016, alleging inadequate supervision against the FKCS facility. Several interviews were conducted along with a review of documents provided to the Department from FKCS, there was no evidence of Inadequate Supervision identified. Thus, the Death maltreatment was not added to the investigation. The Department received an additional report against the facility (2016-351751-02) on January 22, 2017 adding Mental Injury to the investigation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Investigation is at 42-days as of December 26, 2017.

References:

December 13, 2016 Case Note (Case Note ID: 15492524)
Dependency Shelter Order - Filed November 13, 2014 Court Case 14-DP-000460
FSFN Placement Records (Case Shell: 101133253)
Florida Keys Children's Shelter (Staff Notes)
Death Certificate 2016-196093
Superintendent of Schools for Charlotte County, Florida v. Lauryn Martin, 2016
2016-351751 Institutional Abuse Report
Florida Keys Children's Shelter (Comprehensive / Psycho-Social Assessment)