



Summary Report	Fatality	8/21/19
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1. Victim: Harlee Netter – 22-month-old female

2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the fatality?

The child was residing in her home when the following incident occurred:

On May 31, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 22-month-old Harlee Netter who was transported to the hospital after being found unresponsive in a pool at her residence. Harlee was determined to be in critical condition and died two days later. Harlee had been in the care of her mother, Sharece Hughes, and step-father, Ryan Rothleutner, when the incident occurred. The Department removed the other children in the home after the fatality and filed a dependency petition on June 7, 2019 with the Mohave County Superior Court. On July 23, 2019, the court found through the dependency proceeding that the parents neglected Harlee by failing to provide her with adequate supervision.

3. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in the child's home, the following information will be provided:

a. Services being provided to the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect at the time of the incident and the date of the last contact before the incident between the entity providing services and the person receiving services:

No services were being provided to the family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

b. Was the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident?

No.

c. All involvement of the child's parents and of the person suspected of the abuse or neglect in a situation for which a report for investigation was made or in services provided pursuant to this chapter in the five years preceding the incident:

The child's mother, Sharece Hughes, was involved in the following prior report:

On March 11, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling of Harlee's by their mother, Sharece Hughes. The Department assessed the children as safe and referred the mother for services through a provider in the community. The allegation was substantiated and the case was closed.

d. Any investigation pursuant to a report for investigation concerning the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect or services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the fatality:

The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the child's siblings being placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court and is



providing services to the family. The allegations of neglect pertaining to the parents have been substantiated. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received.

4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:

a. Licensing Agency:

N/A

b. Licensing history of the out-of-home placement, including the type of license held by the operator of the placement and the period for which the placement has been licensed:

N/A

c. Summary of all violations by the licensee:

N/A

d. Any other actions by the licensee or an employee of the licensee that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of a child.

N/A

5. Actions taken by the Department in response to the case including any changes to policy or practice and/or recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes:

The Department conducted a joint investigation with the Mohave County Sheriff's Office. Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were placed in foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court and substantiated the allegations of neglect pertaining to the parents. The Department is providing services to the family.

The Department reminds all caregivers to always watch children around water. For information and additional resources, please visit the Arizona Department of Health Services website at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/womens-childrens-health/injury-prevention/drowning-prevention/index.php>

Additionally, in accordance with the DCS Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews of fatality and near fatality cases were implemented during the first quarter of FY16. The MDT reviews of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

Cases are reviewed by the MDT in order to identify any systemic factors, both internal and external to the Department that may have had an impact. The Department uses the aggregate data gathered through all of the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules or statutes. Findings from these reviews are compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of the next report is December 1, 2019.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website.