



Summary Report	Near Fatality	10/22/15
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1. Near Fatality Victim: 2-year-old male

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

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

On July 2, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report that 26-month-old male child was in critical condition due to a near drowning. Someone in the home found the child floating on top of the family's pool. The mother of the child was not at home at the time. The DCS investigation determined the child's mother, Vanessa Jones, neglected the child and placed him at risk when she left him with an inappropriate caregiver and failed to clearly communicate with the caregiver that he needed to watch the child.

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:

The Department had referred the child's mother, Vanessa Jones, for services due to a March 27, 2015 report alleging neglect to a sibling born substance-exposed to marijuana. The near fatality victim was not listed as a victim in this report as it was reported he was out of state with his father on a visit. The mother had agreed to participate in the Department's Substance Exposed Newborn Safe Environment (SENSE) program which includes intensive in-home services, substance abuse counseling and participation with Healthy Families Arizona. The date of last contact with the family was on May 19, 2015.

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?

Vanessa Jones and a sibling to the near fatality victim were subjects of the March 27, 2015 report.

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, Vanessa Jones, was involved in the following:

On 1/29/11 DCS received a report alleging neglect involving Vanessa Jones and baby boy age-one-day old. The baby has tested positive for marijuana. Mother admitted using at the start of the pregnancy, because she did not think it was harmful to the baby. Findings were substantiated for neglect on mother and the DCS offered services to the family and the case was closed.



On 8/10/11 DCS received a report alleging mother had left two of her children 15-month-old male and 6-month-old male with a relative who could no longer care for the children. The mother was reported to be in California allegedly engaged in prostitution. The family was unable to be located and the case was closed.

On 7/3/12 DCS received a report alleging neglect by mother regarding her two children 28-month-old male and 18-month old male. The report included mother is a prostitute and brings different men to the home. Mother is not feeding the children, does not have clothes for them and does not change the children's diapers. Mother leaves the children alone up to 20-30 minutes at a time. Mother abuses marijuana and alcohol. The allegation was substantiated on mother. The DCS was investigating the report when the following subsequent report was received.

On 8/19/12 DCS received a report alleging physical abuse and neglect by mother regarding her two children, 29-month-old male and 19-month-old male. It was reported that mother hits the children, has substance abuse issues and there is domestic violence in the home. The report alleged mother is a prostitute. A dependency was filed and the DCS offered services to the family. The allegations were substantiated on mother. The children were placed in father's home and the case was closed.

On 3/17/14 DCS received a report alleging neglect by mother regarding her 10-month-old male child. Mother was observed with cocaine on her nose. Mother is also abusing marijuana with the child in the same room. Mother is a prostitute and has many men coming and going from her home. The allegation was unsubstantiated. DCS did not offer the family services as the mother reported she was residing in another state. Case was closed.

On 3/27/15 DCS received a report alleging neglect as to mother regarding baby boy DOB 3/26/15. The mother tested positive for marijuana on 1/29/15 at a prenatal visit. Baby's meconium was positive for marijuana. Mother said that she used marijuana during the pregnancy to increase her appetite. The report was substantiated as to neglect on mother. Services were being provided to the family when the near fatality report was received.

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 near fatality:

The investigation into the near fatality report resulted in the Department of Child Safety filing a dependency petition in Maricopa County Juvenile Court regarding the near fatality victim. Once released from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in the home of a family friend. The Department is providing services to the family.

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:

A Fatality/Near Fatality Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) reviewed the near fatality case and prior history. The review identified the following issues:

The March 17, 2014 report was responded to on May 5, 2014. At that time, Vanessa Jones was located out of state and the Department called in a child safety report to that state. The Department did not request records from the other state at that time. The team found that the Department did not request records from other known states where the children and/or mother resided at various times.

There were two cases under the mother's name that were not linked in the DCS system. This could cause confusion and the case manager not being able to assess the full history on the family. However, it was determined that the case manager and supervisor were aware of both cases.

The team determined that following the March 27, 2015 investigation involving the mother and the near fatality victim's sibling the investigator took action to protect the child victim identified in that report, but did not assess the safety of the current near fatality victim who was reported to be living in another state with his father at the time.

The review cited a need for additional clinical supervision between the DCS case manager and supervisor in order to ensure the best decisions are being made for children. Additional training tools are in the process of being created and were presented at the annual DCS Leadership Summit in October 2015.

The Department reminds all caregivers to always watch children around water and follow the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Pool Safety Recommendations. For more information, please visit the ADHS website at: http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/pool_rules.htm