

## **30-Day CIRT REVIEW REPORT**

5-30-07<sup>1</sup>

Date declared CIRT: 4-30-07

Client Data: BM- child  
JD- mother

### **I. Introduction**

Oregon Department of Human Services adopted the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) protocol on November 1, 2004. This protocol was developed for the following purposes:

- To specify the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare procedures that will be used when a critical incident occurs;
- To increase the Department's accountability to the public;
- To ensure timely responses by the Department with respect to any critical incident in Child Welfare; and
- To increase the Department's ability to recommend necessary changes to statutes, administrative rules, policies and procedures, practices, training and personnel matters.

### **II. Case Background/Cirt Reason:**

On 4-26-07 BM was life-flighted to OHSU from Silverton Hospital. He was reported to have a severe bilateral cranial hematoma. The child was reportedly injured while in the care of Christian Moranchel, the fiancé of the mother, JD. Mr. Moranchel was later arrested and charged with Assault I and Criminal Mistreatment 1.

At the time of the injuries BM and his brother were in the custody of their mother. DHS had an open voluntary case and was providing in-home services. JD's mother was also residing in the home.

Between 2-06-06 and 4-26-07 DHS received 9 child protective service (CPS) referrals related to the care and supervision of BM and his brother. There is a history of chronic neglect and domestic violence relationships with different partners in the presence of Ms. JD's children. Six (6) of the calls were closed at screening and three (3) were assigned for CPS

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<sup>1</sup> Finalization of this written report was delayed but the case review process was conducted pursuant to protocol timelines. Report delayed pending outcome of criminal prosecution

assessment. All three of the assessments were founded. No formal court action was initiated at that time. Voluntary services, including parenting skills, were provided for this family.

### **III. CIRT Response and Case Status Update:**

#### **a. Criminal Investigation and CPS Assessment:**

The Oregon State Police Department and Silverton Police Department participated in the criminal investigation. An arrest has been made and the charges are being determined through the court process.

Child Protective Services continues to collaborate with LEA and the court in sharing necessary information and in assessing the future safety of the children and capacity of the parent. BM and his sibling were taken into protective custody. BM remains in the hospital at OHSU and his sibling is in foster care. The CPS assessment was initiated 4/27/07 and no disposition has been reached to date.

#### **c. Media Response:**

There have been no media contacts.

### **IV. CIRT Review Process:**

#### **a. Case Review Process:**

CAF child welfare program staff reviewed and evaluated all case record information including documents related to prior screening and assessment contacts with or about the family. Nine (9) total CPS referrals were reviewed. Six (6) of those referrals were closed at screening and three (3) were assigned for assessment and determined to be Founded. A “founded” determination means that there is reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect occurred. Areas of review were compliance with policy, statute and practice in child safety.

#### **b. Staff Interview Process:**

Most of the interviews with workers and managers who were involved with this case have been completed. Additional interviews may be necessary for

staff currently on leave. Interview findings will be included in the 60 day report.

## **V. Identified Issues and Pending Questions**

During the first 30 days of the CIRT process CAF central and local staff participated in reviewing case information and identified the following initial issues and pending questions for analysis.

**1. Identified Issue:** The case review indicated that 6 referrals to CPS were closed at screening. These screening decisions appeared to be made without consideration of previous information. Reports that were closed at screening included indications of abuse and neglect and did not adequately document why the decision was made not to assign the report to a CPS worker for a face to face assessment.

### **Pending Questions:**

- Is there a need for further clarification in screening procedures to assure that prior CPS reports are accessed in making current screening decisions?
- Was there difficulty in locating prior referrals in this case and, if so, was this a local office problem or a statewide issue in the data system?
- How did law enforcement contacts influence the decision not to assign the report for face to face assessment?

**2. Identified Issue:** The case review indicated a chronic pattern of behavior and circumstances with this family that included reports of diminished parental protective capacity, neglect/lack of supervision, exposure to violence and substance abuse. The records do not contain information regarding assessment of parental protective capacity, identification of appropriate services or development of a plan to assist in needed changes within the family.

### **Pending Questions:**

- Did DHS make efforts to gather critical information from collateral sources in the assessment of parental protective capacity?

- How did the worker choose the identified service(s) and how was the significant delay in client participation in services considered in relationship to child safety?

**3. Identified Issue:** The case review indicated use of a “voluntary case” in spite of the known history of the mother’s diminished capacity, limited ability and unwillingness to make safe choices for her children. Court intervention may have been necessary under these circumstances.

**Pending Questions:**

- How does the local staff make decisions to use voluntary services and is that consistent with statewide practice?
- Does the local court practice influence when and how voluntary services are used in lieu of seeking court intervention?

**VI. NEXT STEPS:**

As a part of the CIRT Protocol, DHS will complete the following activities within the next 60 days:

- Additional interviews will be completed if necessary and recommendations will be forwarded to the CIRT review team.
- The local child welfare office and central program office will finalize the recommendations and identify action steps and timelines in response to the CIRT findings.

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