

A.V. CIRT Public Report

Date	December 27th, 2018
Date of Initial Report	October 2 nd , 2018
Purpose Statement	<p>Critical incident reports are used as tools for Department actions when the Department becomes aware of a critical incident resulting in a child fatality that was likely the result of abuse and the child, child's sibling or another child living in the household with the child has had contact with the Department (DHS). The reviews are called by the Department Director to quickly analyze DHS actions in relation to the critical incident and to ensure the safety and well-being of all children within the custody of DHS or during a child protective services assessment. The CIRT recommends which actions should be implemented and which individuals should be responsible for evaluating the implementation. Reports must not contain any confidential information or records that may not be disclosed to members of the public. Versions of all final reports are posted on DHS' website.</p>
Executive Summary	<p>On March 8th, 2018, the Department Director declared a CIRT be convened to examine the department's practice and actions regarding A.V. and the child's family. A.V. lived most recently in Washington State, but moved frequently between Washington and Oregon.</p>
Summary of Critical Incident	<p>In September of 2017, the Department received a report that A.V. was living in Washington State with A.V.'s mother but had run away to Oregon to stay with relatives. A.V. attempted suicide after law enforcement tried to return A.V. to A.V.'s mother. Due to an open case in Washington, the Washington DSHS caseworker transported A.V. to a crisis facility in Washington. Upon A.V.'s release from the facility, Washington DSHS closed the case a few days after A.V. was sent to live with a relative in Oregon. In December of 2017, the Department was notified that A.V. was found deceased, due a</p>

	<p>gunshot wound, along with the body of an adult male. A.V. reportedly had been the victim of sexual abuse by that adult male and A.V., reportedly unbeknownst to the family, continued to have contact with him. Approximately 10 days before A.V. was found deceased, the child had been reported missing after not arriving to school</p>
<p>Evaluation of Department Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Oregon DHS received the report regarding A.V.'s suicide, the screening supervisor generated a CPS assessment for the purpose of documenting the actions that Washington DSHS was taking with the family. The supervisor acted as a liaison for Washington DSHS and acquiesced decision making due to Washington DSHS having an open case. • A CPS worker from Oregon was not assigned to conduct a comprehensive assessment. Branch staff were unclear about their authority to conduct an assessment and to plan for A.V.'s safety due to jurisdictional issues between Oregon and Washington. <p>Oregon and Washington did not collaborate to plan for A.V.'s safety; planning was left up to the State of Washington and critical information was not sufficiently exchanged between the state agencies.</p>
<p>Recommendations for improvements and associated tasks</p>	<p>The Department often encounters families who move back and forth between neighboring states. Lack of clarity about which state will assess and make decisions related to child safety when there are jurisdictional issues is a systemic issue. To resolve this and provide more clarity, the Oregon DHS Child Safety Program will update the department's administrative rules to clarify that when a child is physically in Oregon, the Department must act to ensure child safety if danger is present, including ongoing and regular communication with other states' child welfare agencies that are or have been involved with the same family. This rule change will follow current Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules. The Child Safety Program will update the rules by the end of 2019 federal fiscal year.</p>

	<p>Each state has their own laws governing how child abuse is investigated which can effect, even hinder, the uniformity of state responses to reports of abuse. This includes laws that may limit disclosure of child welfare information to other state child welfare agencies. The Oregon DHS Child Safety Program is committed to working together with bordering states to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collaborate on and develop agreements about assessing child safety and placements of children across state lines consistent with current federal and state law b. Ensure ongoing communication between state child welfare agencies to discuss processes and sharing of information <p>This task will be completed by the end of the 2019 federal fiscal year.</p>
<p>Methods of evaluating expected outcomes</p>	<p>By the end of the 2019 federal fiscal year, the Child Safety Program will confirm the department's administrative rules have been updated and efforts to work with bordering states' child welfare agencies have been documented.</p>