

C.P. CIRT Public Report

Date	10/22/2019
Date of Initial Report	6/4/2019
Purpose of Final Report	<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 the DHS' website.</p>
Executive Summary	<p>The Department had substantial history regarding this family. However, there were no prior substantiated reports of abuse regarding C.P.</p>
Summary of Critical Incident	<p>Collateral interviews of friends and neighbors painted a chaotic picture of C.P.'s living environment. C.P.'s mother was alleged to be using methamphetamines in the home and C.P. had access to a variety of highly flammable materials. The home's smoke detectors had been disabled. On February 1st, 2019, C.P. died of smoke inhalation from a house fire.</p>
Evaluation of Department Actions	<p>The Department's history reflected barriers to addressing cases which have a persistent pattern of chronic neglect including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overcoming barriers to pursue additional options to keep

	<p>children safe. Inability to determine root causes for neglect stemming from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Workload o Lack of cooperation from families o Limited community-based resources
<p>Recommendations for improvements and associated tasks</p>	<p>The Department is now fully represented by the Department of Justice. An important goal of full legal representation is to improve outcomes and keep children safe. Currently, ongoing collaboration with the Department’s judicial partners to address legal sufficiency barriers and how this impacts child safety interventions are occurring. The CIRT suggested no additional tasks.</p> <p>The CIRT recognized ongoing efforts to manage work load are currently in place and should continue. The Department is exploring tools, including the use of predictive analytics, to help prioritize work load. Additionally, Program leaders have instituted changes in rules to assist in the reduction of caseloads without compromising child safety. In conjunction with these efforts, over 400 additional employees have been hired to remediate the staff shortage.</p> <p>The ability to adequately identify chronic neglect and offer intervention has been identified by the CIRT as a systemic issue.</p> <p>Chronic neglect has been recognized as a significant contributing factor in the death of children in Oregon and nationally. Enhancements to child welfare training regarding neglect are ongoing and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPS program has completed a robust curriculum in collaboration with The Butler institute aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Identifying signs of neglect o Measuring and determining the impact of neglect o Providing adequate intervention and gauging improvements

	<p>of family conditions to prevent further neglect from occurring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Discussing Protecting factors which includes focused discussion regarding the role of fathers. <p>Implementation of this curriculum through multiple statewide trainings is underway.</p>
<p>Methods of evaluating expected outcomes</p>	<p>Child Safety Program participates in monthly review processes with local branches to discuss local and statewide trends. During these meetings, the district leaders will monitor legal trends. In cases where child safety decisions are not aligned with legal decisions, the Department and DOJ will engage in a resolution process. Additionally, consultants will continue to evaluate identifiers of neglect including but not limited to re-abuse rates and report this information back to local branches. Ongoing assessment of the impact of neglect training will also occur during these meetings.</p>