

Critical Incident Review Team



Final Report

A Critical Incident Review Team is convened by the Department Director when the Department becomes aware of a critical incident resulting in a child fatality that was reasonably believed to be 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 must complete a final report which serves to provide an overview of the critical incident, relevant Department history, and may include recommendations regarding actions that should be implemented to increase child safety. 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.

CIRT ID: D2GTOVKP4K		
Critical Incident: June 25, 2019	Date the Department Became Aware of the fatality June 26, 2019	
Date the Department caused an investigation to be made: June 26, 2019	Date of the Child Protective Services (CPS) Disposition: July 28, 2019	
CIRT Assigned: August 9, 2019	Date Final Report Submitted: November 15, 2019	
CIRT Meetings: August 27, 2019 October 4, 2019	Number of Participants: 14 18	Members of the Public? No No

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

Description of the critical incident and Department contacts regarding the critical incident:

Date of report: 6/26/2019	Allegations: Neglect by mother and father	Disposition: Founded
Assignment decision: Assigned- 24 hours	Threat of Harm by mother and father	Opened in Error

On 06/26/19 the Department received information from law enforcement that two children had died as a result of a fire in the family's trailer located out of state. Law enforcement reported the fire initially appeared to be accidental, however the mother later admitted to law enforcement that she lit plastic bags on fire inside the trailer which caused the trailer to ignite. The children's older half-sibling and both parents were able to escape the trailer. The mother reported she believed the older half-sibling had removed the two younger siblings, however, the two younger children were unable to escape and died in the fire. Law enforcement investigation out of state is ongoing.

At the time of the fatalities the Department had a pending CPS assessment on the family from April of 2019 regarding concerns of substance use and domestic violence. At that time the family had absconded with the children and were unable to be located. During the investigation the Department attempted to locate the family through multiple collateral contacts, including relatives. Through the contacts and other information gathered, the Department learned the family was mostly likely living out of state. The Department determined all three children were unsafe in their parents' care and took legal steps to protect the children. The Department received the call regarding the fatalities before the Department was able to locate the family.

Description of relevant Department history:

Note: The Department's history reflects reports of abuse documented under 4 different cases: Mother's case record; Father's case record; Father2's case record; and; Mother2's case record. Mother and Father are biological parents to the two deceased children (Child1 and Child2). Father2 and Mother are the biological parents to the deceased children's older half-sibling (Half-Sibling1). Father3 and Mother are the biological parents to the deceased children's second-oldest half-sibling (Half-Sibling2). Mother2 (now deceased) was in a relationship with

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

Father and they are the biological parents of two other half-siblings (Half-Sibling3 and Half-Sibling4) to the decedent children.

All relevant reports of abuse are listed chronologically, beginning prior to the birth of the decedent children.

Date of report: 09/11/12	Allegations: Neglect by Mother (as to Half-Sibling1)	Disposition: Not applicable
Assignment decision: Close At Screening		

The Department received a report concerning mother's inability to care for her newborn child; Father2's arrest history for violating a restraining order filed by his ex-significant other, and the condition of the home environment. During the investigation the mother appeared to understand the basic caregiving needs of the child before leaving the hospital and the report was closed without further action.

Date of report: 09/17/12	Allegations: Neglect by Mother and Father2 (as to Half-Sibling1)	Disposition: Unfounded
Assignment decision: Assign- 24 hours		

The Department received a report regarding concerns of domestic violence between the parents; the home condition; mother's substance use; and Father2's mental health.

The worker conducted a home visit and observed holes in the wall and unsanitary/unsafe conditions for children. The parents stated their child did not live in the home and was staying with relatives. This was later confirmed by the maternal grandmother. Father2 reported receiving mental health treatment currently but acknowledged causing the holes in the wall years prior as a teen when he had anger outbursts. The parents denied any domestic violence. No safety concerns were identified and no further action was taken.

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

Date of report: 01/31/2014 Assignment decision: Assigned- 24 hours	Allegations: Neglect by Mother (as to Half-Sibling1 and Half-Sibling2)	Disposition: Founded
---	--	--------------------------------

The Department received a report regarding concerns for the child who is described to be filthy and living in a home with individuals who are using drugs and gang affiliated. The caller reports the child is neglected and has access to drug paraphernalia.

The worker confirmed law enforcement had frequent contact at the home due to underage drinking and gang activity. Individuals living in the home were using marijuana and methamphetamine. A safety plan was initiated which provided that the children reside with a maternal aunt.

The safety plan was updated on 4/8/14 due to concerns the mother was not meeting one child's medical needs but the children remained in the mother's care.

A new report was received on 4/9/14 during this assessment. The mother and Father (then her significant other) broke into the Father2's home. The mother stated Father2 had recently assaulted her. She was later arrested for violating a restraining order filed by Father2. There were continued concerns regarding the home environment and the oldest child was placed into Father2's custody. The youngest child remained with the mother and voluntary in-home case was opened. The mother was referred for services, however she left the area with both of her children. Father2 was able to retrieve his child and the Department took legal steps to protect the youngest child. At the closure of the assessment, Half-Sibling2's whereabouts were unknown, and the child was considered unsafe.

Date of report: 08/24/2015 Assignment decision: Closed at Screening	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother (while pregnant)	Disposition: Not applicable
--	--	---------------------------------------

The Department received a report regarding concerns about the mother's mental health. The caller reported Mother has two children not in her care, is pregnant and not receiving prenatal care, and abusing alcohol. The mother's oldest child is in their father's custody and her youngest child is in DHS custody.

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

No further action was taken as the child had not yet been born. This information was sent to other individuals with the Department.

Date of report: 12/23/2015 Assignment decision: Closed at Screening	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother and Father (while pregnant)	Disposition: Not applicable
--	---	---------------------------------------

The Department received a report that Mother is pregnant, and the parents have a history of abusing substances, engaging in domestic violence and physical abuse. The father's other children are not in his custody. It is believed the mother will leave the state to have this child.

No further action was taken as the child had not yet been born.

Date of report: 01/11/2016 Assignment decision: Closed at Screening	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother (while pregnant) Neglect by Mother	Disposition: Not applicable
--	---	---------------------------------------

The Department received a report that the mother recently gave birth to her third child and her two older children are not in her care. The report contains duplicate information from the 12/23/2015 call. The report was closed at screening after it was learned the child had not been born and was scheduled to be delivered on 2/9/16.

Date of report: 01/25/2016 Assignment decision: Assign- 24 hours	Allegations: Neglect by Mother and Father (as to Child1) Threat of Harm by Mother and Father	Disposition: Unfounded Founded
---	---	---

The Department received a report concerning substance abuse by Mother during her pregnancy and that Father yelled at hospital staff and was inattentive to his infant. The child needed nutritional supplements and the mother refused to offer anything other than breast milk. Both parents have other children not in their care.

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

During the assessment Mother tested positive for methamphetamine. It was recommended the mother participate in community services to address her substance use and mental health issues. The father had an earlier open child welfare case due to his extensive criminal history, substance use, and previous pattern of domestic violence. His children were placed with their mother (Mother2) and the case was closed. Mother2 died several years later and the children went to live with other relatives. The father never participated in DHS services and prior child safety concerns were not remediated. He provided a clean urinalysis and his probation officer stated that he was compliant however contacts indicated Father lacked insight into his behaviors and how they affect his children’s safety. Child1 was taken into protective custody during this assessment.

Date of report: 08/19/2016	Allegations: Threat of harm by Mother (as to Child1)	Disposition: Founded
Assignment decision: Assign- 24 hours	Threat of harm by third party	Unfounded
	Neglect by third party and Father	Founded

The Department received a report concerning the parents living situation, relationship status and substance abuse by Child1’s caregiver.

The parents would not cooperate or communicate with DHS and left the area with their child. During this assessment, recent law enforcement contact with the mother was discovered resulting in a new CPS assessment on 8/22/2016. The new report detailed a domestic violence incident between the mother and her boyfriend (not the father of her infant). Child1 was present in the car when the mother’s boyfriend hit her in the face causing an injury.

DHS took legal steps to take the child into protective custody for a second time. The mother tested positive for opiates and presented with a severe and persistent mental illness. Although the parents were not presenting as a couple, the father lacked insight into how mother’s mental health impacted the safety of his child.

Date of report: 03/21/2017	Allegations: Neglect by Father2 (as to Half-Sibling1)	Disposition: Not applicable
--------------------------------------	---	---------------------------------------

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

Assignment decision: Closed at Screening		
--	--	--

The Department received a report regarding Half-Sibling1's living situation. The reporter stated the mother's oldest child lives with their father and visits their mother on the weekends. The child is reported to have lice and dirty or insufficient clothing when arriving at the mother's home for visitation. The child also complained of dental pain. Additionally, it was reported the father smokes marijuana daily and there are concerns about his mental health.

Date of report: 04/28/2017	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother (as to Child2)	Disposition: Unfounded
Assignment decision: Assign- 24 hours		

The Department received a report that the mother had recently given birth and tested positive for opiates.

The worker later learned the mother's urinalysis was consistent with her prescription alleviating the Department's concerns for drug abuse. The mother's behaviors were remarkably different in this assessment compared to historical interactions. All children were observed and made no disclosures of abuse. The case was closed and all children were considered to be safe with their parents.

Date of report: 01/03/2019	Allegations: Neglect by Mother (as to Child1, Child2, Half-Sibling1, Half-Sibling2 and Half-Sibling4)	Disposition: Not applicable
Assignment decision: Closed at Screening		

The Department received a report concerning neglect of the children due to insufficient clothing. Caller was concerned for the children who were always in diapers and never wear

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

clothing. A relative is believed to reside in the home and is frequently abusing alcohol. No information was provided on how often the drinking occurs or if the children in the home during these episodes and no additional action was taken.

Date of report: 02/20/2019 Assignment decision: Closed at Screening	Allegations: Neglect by Father (as to Child1 and Half-Sibling1)	Disposition: Not applicable
--	---	---------------------------------------

The Department received a report that the parents had a verbal dispute over who was responsible to care for the children and Father's admission of active substance abuse. Law enforcement reported though the parents admitted substance use, they were not visibly intoxicated, and the dispute was not physical therefore no further action was taken.

Date of report: 04/15/2019 Assignment decision: Assign- 24 hours	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother and Father (as to multiple children)	Disposition: Unable to Locate
---	--	---

The Department received a report concerning law enforcement response to a series of disputes precipitated by the father alleging the mother was using drugs. Law enforcement responded two additional times on the same evening because the family refused to leave the property and the parents engaged in a domestic violence incident. Law enforcement found counterfeit money in the mother's purse, as well as a credit card belonging to a third party. The father was cited and released for an active warrant on a different matter and his whereabouts were then unknown. It was believed two of the children were left with paternal grandparents.

The Department attempted to locate the family through multiple collateral contacts. Relatives stated Mother picked up the children but they did not know where the family went. Drug paraphernalia was found in the hotel room the family had been staying in. The family was asked to leave the hotel after they violated the smoking policy and often left their children unsupervised. The worker learned the parents might be living in California and took legal steps to ensure the safety of the children during this assessment.

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

The Department later learned Child1 and Child2 had died in a fire and Half-Sibling1 had survived. Upon notification of the fatalities, the Department requested California officials honor the legal steps taken in Oregon to protect the surviving child. California complied and Half-Sibling1 returned to Oregon into the Department's care on 07/3/19.

Date of report: 10/21/2016 Assignment decision: Assigned- 24 hours	Allegations: Neglect by Father2 (as to Half-Sibling1) Threat of Harm by Mother (as to Half-Sibling1)	Disposition: Unfounded Unfounded
---	---	---

The Department received a report concerning the child's father allowing unsupervised contact between the mother and the child, despite the mother's open case with the Department and her lack of engagement in services.

The worker met with the mother and expressed concerns regarding the mother's mental health and lack of cooperation with the Department. The mother explained the Father2 was allowed unsupervised contact at the urging of another state's CPS worker and the father confirmed this. The agency counseled Father2 on stipulations required for future contact. No safety threats were identified, and the assessment was closed.

Date of report: 10/09/2017 Assignment decision: Assign- 24 hours	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Father2 (as to Half-Sibling1)	Disposition: Founded
---	--	--------------------------------

The Department received a report that Father2 was arrested for assaulting his significant other. Half-Sibling1 was not in the home at the time of the assault. Upon the Father2's arrest, the child was placed with Mother.

The Department later put a protective action plan in place so the child could remain with Mother. The mother confirmed she would not allow unsupervised contact between the child and Father2. The father admitted to drinking and collateral contacts stated he had anger issues. The child reported seeing Father2 and his current partner engage in physical and verbal

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

arguments. The assessment was closed with the child remaining with Mother and Father² having no unsupervised contact with his child. No other safety threats were identified.

Date of report: 08/19/2013	Allegations: Neglect by Mother ² (as to Half-Siblings ³ & 4)	Disposition: Unfounded
Assignment decision: Assign -24 hours	Threat of Harm by Father (as to Half-Siblings ³ & 4)	Unfounded
	Sex Abuse by third party (as to Half-Sibling ⁴)	Founded

The Department received a report that Father found pornographic images of Half-Sibling⁴ on the computer of an acquaintance. Law enforcement investigated and the children participated in forensic interviews.

The case worker documented the family was transient and it was initially difficult to locate them. Half-Siblings³ & 4 were being cared for primarily by their father and he was guarded with the worker, but protective of his children regarding the concerns of sexual abuse. The children's mother reported a history of domestic violence with Father however, she felt their father was the best primary caregiver due to her own substance use. The father acknowledged historical alcohol abuse and domestic violence but reported no current use or continued violence in his home.

Two additional screening reports were received and closed at screening noting they would be included in this assessment. The first was received on 9/3/2013 noting the family was asked to leave the place they were staying due the father's marijuana and alcohol use. The family's whereabouts were unknown. Another report was received on 11/13/2013 alleging the father's children were often unsupervised.

No current safety threats were identified, and the assessment was closed.

Date of report: 01/31/2014	Allegations: Neglect by Father (as to Half-Siblings ³ & 4)	Disposition: Closed no allegation
Assignment decision: Assigned- 24 Hours		

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

The Department received a report that Father was arrested due to a probation violation after leaving the state and going to California. He was reported to be elusive about the location of his children.

The caseworker learned through collateral contacts Half-Siblings3 & 4 were residing in California with a relative. The relative reported the children had been with her for several months and she was able to provide for the children. The assessment was closed as there was no allegation of abuse or neglect.

<p>Date of report: 12/05/2017</p> <p>Assignment decision: Closed at Screening</p>	<p>Allegations: Physical Abuse by Mother (then Father's significant other) (as to Half-Sibling1)</p> <p>Neglect by Father and Mother (then Father's significant other) – (as to Half-Sibling1)</p>	<p>Disposition: Not applicable</p>
---	---	---

The Department received a report concerning physical abuse of Half-Sibling by Mother (then Father's significant other) and concern that Half-Sibling4 was required by parents to babysit other children. The report was closed for not meeting the criteria for a CPS assessment.

<p>Date of report: 01/30/2019</p> <p>Assignment decision: Assign -24 hours</p>	<p>Allegations: Threat of Harm by Father – (as to Child1 & 2 and Half-Siblings1, 3 & 4)</p> <p>Neglect by Father and Mother (then Father's significant other) – (as to Child1 & 2, Half-Siblings1 & 4)</p> <p>Physical Abuse by Father (as to Half-Sibling1)</p>	<p>Disposition: Unfounded</p> <p>Unfounded</p> <p>Unfounded</p>
--	---	--

The Department received a report concerning substance abuse by Mother (then Father's significant other). It was reported that Father recently assaulted his significant other and Half-Sibling1 by throwing them down the stairs.

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

The worker documented that Father was confrontational upon initial contact. Case notes described the home as messy but livable and safe for children. Additional concerns were documented regarding the children’s school attendance. The father and his significant other (Mother) denied any drug use or domestic violence. Some of the details in the report were unsupported during the investigation. Additionally, the children reported no violence in the home. The family moved to California during this assessment. This assessment was closed and no safety threats were identified.

<p>Date of report: 06/27/2019</p> <p>Assignment decision: Assign -24 hours</p>	<p>Allegations: Threat of Harm by Father (as to Half-Siblings3 & 4)</p>	<p>Disposition Opened in error</p>
--	--	---

The Department received a report the family was living in California and a house fire resulted in the deaths of the father’s two youngest children. The father has two older children (Half-Siblings3 & 4) and it was unknown initially where they were living.

The children were located and confirmed to be living with relatives. This report was closed as opened in error after the Department confirmed the children were in a guardianship with their relative.

<p>Date of report: 08/31/2006</p> <p>Assignment decision: Assign- 5 Days</p>	<p>Allegations: Threat of Harm by Father (as to Half-Sibling3)</p>	<p>Disposition: Unable to Determine</p>
--	---	--

The Department received a report that the father was intoxicated and had a significant head injury caused by accidentally swinging an axe into his head. The father was cited with delinquency charges related to the conduct. He was noted to be the father to a five-month-old child.

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

The parents denied the child was around the father during the incident. The child was observed to be clean, healthy and happy. The agency verified the child was up to date on medical appointments. No immediate safety threats were identified.

Date of report: 10/08/2008	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother ² and Father (as to Half-Siblings ³ & 4)	Disposition Founded
Assignment decision: Assign- 5 Days	Neglect by Father (as to Half-Siblings ³ & 4)	Founded

The Department received a report concerning the condition of the home and Half-Sibling³'s access to marijuana.

During the case worker's initial contact, the parents admitted to significant marijuana use. The child was observed in a car seat in the same room where the family had been smoking and the mother admitted they smoke in front of the children. The mother also confirmed domestic violence occurring between herself and the father. The father denied any concerns of domestic violence.

A protective action plan was put in place and the children went to reside with relatives while the parents engaged in Department services. The children were returned to their parents after successful participation services and the assessment was closed.

Date of report: 04/16/2009	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother ² and Father (as to Half-Siblings ³ & 4)	Disposition Unable to be determined
Assignment decision: Assign- Within 24 Hours	Neglect by Mother ² and Father	Unable to be determined

The Department received a report with concerns that the parents were smoking marijuana in the home with the children.

Upon Department contact with the parents, the father denied any substance use and refused to participate in a urinalysis test (UA). A walkthrough of the home was completed and found to be relatively clean. Both children were observed and no safety concerns were identified.

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

Collateral contacts reported the parents previously separated due to domestic violence, but they are living together again. Concerns of excessive alcohol use were also reported.

The parents left the state for a brief period during this assessment but returned and were re-engaged by the worker. They continued to deny any substance use issues, however the father admitted he would test positive for alcohol when asked to take a UA.

The assessment was closed as unable to determine, stating there was insufficient information gathered to confirm a current safety threat. The parents were engaged in services through community providers and the case was closed.

Date of report: 07/27/2009 Assignment decision: Within 24 Hours- Immediate Response	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother ² and Father (as to Half-Siblings ³ & 4)	Disposition Founded
---	--	-------------------------------

The Department received a report that the father had been arrested after assaulting the mother and the maternal grandfather while intoxicated. The father threw a machete at the mother and threatened to assault her father with it. While the father was being arrested, he threatened to take his children from the mother and flee to the reservation.

The caseworker interviewed the children who disclosed witnessing domestic violence. The caseworker observed holes in the door and one child reported his father damaged the door. One child participated in a forensic interview and reported being spanked by father and upset regarding father smashing property. It was unclear if the parents intended on remaining together as the mother initially refused to disclose father's whereabouts. Additionally, the mother admitted to daily marijuana and occasional alcohol use.

The Department pursued legal steps to ensure the safety of the children. The father was later located and denied throwing the machete. The father admitted to drinking a few times a week and agreed to complete testing the following day which was diluted.

The assessment was closed as the children were in protective custody.

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

Date of report: 12/22/2009 Assignment decision: Closed at Screening	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Father (as to Half-Siblings3 & 4) Neglect by Mother2 (as to Half-Siblings3 & 4)	Disposition: Not applicable
--	---	---------------------------------------

The Department received a report concerning illegal contact between the mother and Father with the children present in the home. Law enforcement responded to a report of robbery made by mother. They arrived to find the father hiding in a crib in the mother's home. Both parents denied the mother knew the father was in the house.

This was closed at screening and the information was given to other Department workers to assess the new information.

Date of report: 04/22/2010 Assignment decision: Assign- Within 24 Hours	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother2 (as to Half-Siblings3 & 4) Neglect by Mother2 (as to Half-Siblings3 & 4)	Disposition: Unfounded Unfounded
--	--	---

The Department received a report concerning mother's mental health issues. The caller stated the mother felt she wasn't safe to be around her children.

The caseworker met with the mother who was emotional and having a hard time dealing with the end of her relationship with the children's father. The mother reported nine months of sobriety and having a good support system. The children were observed to be clean, healthy and happy. No additional concerns were noted and the information was provided to other Department workers.

Date of report: 06/01/2010 Assignment decision: Assign- Within 24 Hours	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Father (as to Half-Siblings3 & 4)	Disposition: Unfounded
--	--	----------------------------------

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

The Department received a report of concerns that Half-Sibling³ presented with a black eye, as he had been noted to have other times previously. The child disclosed he fell of the porch when with his mom and dad. The parents had a no contact order due to domestic violence.

The caseworker contacted the child who stated he fell out of the bed and hit the handle of a plunger causing the eye injury. The mother denied the father was in the home and recounted the same story regarding how the child injured their eye. The mother also reported being clean and sober. During this time, the father was not in contact with the agency and was on abscond status. There was a current warrant for his arrest. Collateral contacts confirmed the mother was making progress in her parenting classes. The assessment was closed, and the information was provided to other Department workers.

Date of report: 06/15/2010	Allegations: Threat of Harm by Mother ² (as to Half-Siblings ³ &4)	Disposition: Unable to be determined
Assignment decision: Assign- Within 24 Hours	Physical Abuse by Mother ² (as to Half-Siblings ³ & 4)	Unable to be determined

The Department received a report regarding concerns the children's school attendance was poor and Half-Sibling⁴ had significant bruising around her eye and nose. Half-Sibling 4 was withdrawn and quiet when asked about the bruising.

The caseworker contacted the mother who reported the bruise occurred after the neighbor's dog jumped on the child. The neighbor was interviewed, and the information was corroborated. Half-Sibling³ made vague statements eluding to not being allowed to talk about his father or his father would be arrested. The mother explained her child's fear was a result of previous discussions and she denied having any contact with the father since 2009.

Later, the father was arrested and during a subsequent family meeting, the Department learned the father had been in mother's home despite the no contact order, which law enforcement confirmed was in place after the father was released from jail. No additional action was taken and the information was provided to other Department workers.

Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

Description of concerns regarding actions taken or not taken by the Department or law enforcement agencies in response to the critical incident or events that led to the critical incident:

The CIRT recognized the need for the Department to have legal representation to move a case forward when the Department determines there is a threat to child safety and additional protections for a child may be necessary. The CIRT discussed the immense challenges workers experience when court involvement may be necessary while at the same time attempting to work collaboratively with the family to offer services to ameliorate safety concerns.

The CIRT recognized the time constraints case workers experience when reviewing extensive Department history under the short assessment timelines. This final report demonstrated the complexity of cases where multiple family members have history. The CIRT acknowledged patterns of abuse and other pertinent details may be missed as case workers do not have adequate time to evaluate cases of this complexity.

Recommendations for improvement in the administration and oversight of the Child Welfare system that are specific to the critical incident and any historical information reviewed by the team:

The Department now has legal representation in all juvenile dependency cases which should improve consistency of legal outcomes. Currently the Department continues to collaborate with system partners to identify barriers to legal sufficiency and how these impact child safety interventions.

The CIRT suggested considering use of technological tools including but not limited to predictive analytics and computer programs designed to mine relevant data. The use of such technology could help workers prioritize work demands and optimize their time.

Prior CIRTs have described a variety of case practice issues similar to those identified in this review. Currently, CIRT Coordinators are undertaking efforts to better understand what systemic factors may be influencing the work of Child Welfare. These efforts include the application of safety science and the Safe Systems Improvement Tool (SSIT). The use of safety science to evaluate child fatalities is a national movement supported by the Commission on the Elimination of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities, Children's Bureau Capacity Building Center, Child Welfare Workforce Safety, Dr. David Sanders and Casey Family Programs. The CIRT supports current efforts by the Department to team with



Critical Incident Review Team Final Report

innovators at Chapin Hall Center at the University of Chicago and Casey Family Programs to evaluate how to best implement this system.