OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT

Report Release Date: August 1, 2019
Review of the Death of Jamie Murdock
of Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received an inquiry regarding the death of two-year-old Jamie Murdock. Felony charges of Murder in the First Degree-Child Abuse and Murder in the First Degree-Permitting Child Abuse were filed by the Pottawatomie County District Attorney on September 21, 2017, against the biological mother, Whitney Breslin and her boyfriend, Cashe Graham.

Authorization

The following is a summary of the actions taken by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS); the dates and outcome of investigations and actions taken by the OKDHS; the actions taken by the district attorney; the dates and summary of judicial proceedings; and the rulings of the court, as authorized by 10A O.S. Section 1-6-105.

Identifiers:

Child's Name: Jamie Murdock

Age at time of Incident: Two-years-old Date of Death: September 2, 2017

Persons Responsible for the Child: Whitney Breslin

Cashe Graham

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) did not become aware of this case until after the death incident of the child.

Death Incident

The death report was received by the Pottawatomie County OKDHS on September 1, 2017. Reportedly, two-year-old Jamie Murdock was seen at a medical facility for non-accidental trauma. Reportedly, the mother, Whitney Breslin, had gone to the grocery store and left Jamie with her boyfriend, Cashe Graham. When Whitney returned home, Jamie was found face down and unresponsive on her bed. Reportedly, Jamie had bruising on the jaw, petechiae on the face, and bruising on the buttocks and arm. She also had bruising on her abdomen. Jamie was reported to have head trauma and her condition was critical. It was reported that Jamie would not survive.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation. The persons interviewed during the investigation included the biological mother, Whitney Breslin, the mother's boyfriend, Cashe Graham, the biological father, and various collaterals.

The OKDHS documented that upon admittance to a medical facility, a medical professional noted Jamie had "extensive bleeding" and Jamie had "so much increased pressure her brain cannot fit." Jamie had gone into cardiac arrest twice while she was at the medical facility. The medical professional noted Jamie had bruising to her face as well as petechiae. Jamie also tested positive for marijuana.

The OKDHS documented a medical professional stated that Jamie's injuries were not survivable and she was brain dead. The medical professional stated a CAT scan showed cerebral edema and herniation.

The OKDHS documented that the Medical Examiner (ME) found that Jamie suffered from blunt force trauma to the face, back of her head, and to the torso. The ME noted there were no fractures found after a full body scan was completed and no lacerations were found on or in the body. The ME noted there was hemorrhage of the small bowel mesentery and diaphragm. The ME noted scattered small bruises of unknown origin, one on the forearm, one on the right upper arm, and one on the right upper thigh.

The ME Autopsy Report was finalized on October 6, 2017. In the report the ME documented that the Probable Cause of Death was "Blunt Force Trauma of Head" and the Manner of Death was "Homicide."

The OKDHS made a Substantiated finding as to the allegation of Abuse/Death to Jamie Murdock by Whitney Breslin and Cashe Graham.

Whitney Breslin was charged on September 21, 2017, with one count of Murder in the First Degree-Child Abuse and one count of Murder in the First Degree-Permitting Child Abuse in Pottawatomie County. As of July 31, 2019, those charges were still pending, with the next court hearing scheduled for September 6, 2019.

Cashe Graham was charged on September 21, 2017, with one count of Murder in the First Degree-Child Abuse and one count of Murder in the First Degree-Permitting Child Abuse in Pottawatomie County. As of July 19, 2019, those charges were still pending, with the next court hearing scheduled for September 6, 2019.

Prior Involvement of the PRFC with the Department of Human Services

There was one pertinent report prior to the death incident of two-year-old Jamie Murdock. A report was received on August 4, 2017. Reportedly, two-year-old Jamie Murdock was seen by a medical professional due to a palm sized bump on the back of her head, a laceration on the top of her head, bruising to the left side of her face, and multiple bruises all over her body that appeared bluish black in color. Jamie appeared "withdrawn" and "very quiet". The mother, Whitney Breslin, stated Jamie had woken up with the laceration on the top of her head because Jamie would sleepwalk. Reportedly, this was the second

time Jamie was seen for the same types of injuries with the first incident occurring on July 22, 2017.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation. The OKDHS documented they made contact with the family on August 4, 2017.

The OKDHS documented that during the investigation a medical professional had expressed concern for Jamie as she had presented with two separate head injuries within a weeks' time. The first head injury was on July 22, 2017 which was a hematoma on the back of Jamie's head. The OKDHS documented the medical professional had been told the injury had been from falling. The second head injury was on August 4, 2017. The OKDHS documented the medical professional was concerned as Jamie had been brought into the medical facility with a laceration on the top of Jamie's head. The injury did not make sense with the story given and no one could explain how Jamie received the laceration on the top of her head. The OKDHS documented the medical professional stated Jamie had multiple bruises on her face which could have been healing from the hematoma the week previously or it could have indicated a slap to the face.

The OKDHS made a Substantiated finding as to the August 4, 2017, allegation of Abuse/Threat of Harm to Jamie Murdock by Whitney Breslin and Cashe Graham. This finding was documented by the OKDHS after Jamie's death. The OKDHS documented that Comprehensive Home Based Services (CHBS) would have been recommended if the death incident had not occurred.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's death

The OJSO identified no judicial proceedings prior to the near death incident.