



Case Synopsis 1

INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Read the case information provided below.*
- *Note any additional questions you would ask at the review.*
- *Discuss the four findings with your group to determine how you would answer each finding and why.*
- *List any additional findings and recommendations you would make in the case.*

Date of review: 4/24/10

Date entered care: 10/29/09

Permanency Plan: Return to Parent

Date of Jurisdiction: 12/17/09

Concurrent Plan: Adoption

Date of Birth: 11/20/03

Basis for Jurisdiction: Mary, age 6, is within the jurisdiction of the court due to the following allegations: the mother, Sara Moore, having a substance abuse problem; and the mother having failed to maintain a safe environment for the child.

There is no legal father.

ICWA Status: ICWA does not apply. The mother completed the ICWA form indicating no American Indian/ Alaskan Native Ancestry.

Information Presented PRIOR to the Review: The DHS Substitute Care Case Plan (333) stated Mary was placed in substitute care after the police responded to a 911 call from a neighbor who indicated that Mary was wandering the neighborhood at 1:00 a.m. on a cold night without any supervision or warm clothes. The police entered the house and found drug paraphernalia and methamphetamine within reach of the child. The residence was described as filthy with rotting food in the kitchen sink and on the floor. There was no food in the refrigerator. Dirty clothing was piled everywhere. There was only one mattress on the floor of a bedroom. The mother was described as "passed out" on the couch. The whereabouts of the father were unknown. Police and DHS asked Mary and neighbors if there were any relatives or family friends that Mary could stay with; no one was identified. Ms. Moore was arrested on PCS (Meth) and lodged in jail. Mary was placed in regular family foster care. The court found that DHS provided reasonable efforts to avoid placement.

According to the DHS substitute care case plan, the mother was referred for mental health counseling twice but she did not appear for the initial assessment. DHS also referred the mother for residential drug and alcohol treatment at OnTrack but the mother chose services through Addition Recovery Center (ARC).

Ms. Moore completed a psychological evaluation with Dr. Taylor on January 4, 2009. Dr. Taylor diagnosed Ms. Moore with Dependent Personality traits and Methamphetamine Dependence. He recommended mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, parenting classes and domestic violence treatment (based on previous relationship history). Prognosis for change was guarded.

Information Reported AT the Review:

Parties present: DHS, foster parent, child's attorney, mother, mother's D/A counselor, visitation supervisor.

The foster mother reported that Mary keeps asking about her "nana" who she thinks lives in Eugene. Mary tells them often how much she misses her nana. DHS reported that they did not know Mary had a nana. The caseworker asked at the review if the mother knew who nana was and if she was the maternal grandmother. Ms. Moore refused to provide DHS with any further information, stating that Mary needs to remain in the area. The caseworker indicated the case had been referred to the Reconnecting Families Project. The family members identified by the mother on the relative form (maternal cousin in Utah and a maternal uncle in Portland) were contacted. DHS reported neither relative was a willing permanent resource for Mary. The current providers reported they were interested in being a permanent resource if necessary.

The foster parent reported that Mary is doing well in their home. She is in the first grade but behind in her reading and math. She is receiving extra help from an aide at school. The foster parent stated that she believes Mary might need counseling because she is extremely sad when she does not see her mother and cries herself to sleep at night. Mary often asks if her mom is alright. Mary has had a recent medical examination but needs to have a dental check-up. The child's attorney stated he supported the current placement but recommended Mary be referred for counseling.

DHS stated they referred Ms. Moore for a psychological evaluation, mental health counseling, domestic violence assessment and treatment, parenting classes and a substance abuse assessment.

The mother reported that she started outpatient drug/alcohol treatment 8 weeks ago at the ARC and is participating in parenting classes. She had missed several classes due to illness. Ms. Chavez, the mother's ARC Counselor, reported Ms. Moore was making slow but steady progress in treatment. UA's had been clean since entry into the program. The ARC counselor recommended Ms. Moore attend at least two more weeks of outpatient treatment before beginning a domestic violence class. DHS reported Ms. Moore failed to follow through with two previous referrals for mental health counseling but eventually started counseling 2 weeks ago. The mother said she visits with Mary one hour per week at the DHS visitation center. The visitation supervisor reported that the mother has attended 8 of the past 20 scheduled visits with Mary. The mother reported that Mary's biological father is Jake Anders who lives in Ashland and that he has not seen Mary since she was 6 months old. Ms. Moore reports that Mr. Anders owes back child support.

FINDINGS:

DHS has made diligent efforts to place the child with a relative or a person who has a caregiver relationship.

DHS has ensured that appropriate services are in place to safeguard the child's safety, health and well being.

DHS has made reasonable efforts to provide services to make it possible for the child to safely return home.

The parents have made sufficient progress to make it possible for the child to safely return home. (THIS IS A FIRST REVIEW)

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:

RECOMMENDATIONS: