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Comprehensive Psychological Evaluation

Name: Jorge Garcia

DOB: 1-20-78 Age: 32

Evaluation Dates: 3-8-10 & 3-14-10
Report Completed: 3-31-10

REFERRAL INFORMATION

Mr. Garcia is a 32 year old man of Mexican descent. He is the father of three children. Parental rights to his two oldest children were terminated previously. The youngest is the product of his current relationship and custody of this child is at issue. Mr. Garcia became involved with DHS most recently in September of last year following a reported physical altercation with the child's mother, Laurie Smith. Their child was present at the time. In addition to this issue, DHS had concerns such as the use of methamphetamines by Ms. Smith. Mr. Garcia and Ms. Smith reportedly refused to separate and their child was placed in care.

PROCEDURES

Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale IV (WAIS IV)

Woodcock Johnson Achievement Test III (WJ III), Reading Comprehension subtests only

Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)

Clinical Interview

Parenting Interview

Review of records: Referral letter from Child Welfare, Dated 1-20-09; Report to the Juvenile Court, dated 10-10-09; Child Welfare Case Plan, dated 10-6-09; Assessment Summary, dated 9-1-09

BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Garcia was clean and casually dressed at the time of the assessment. He presented as a quiet individual who lacked psychological insight. He was aware of why DHS was involved with his child. Little emotional distress was evident.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In September of 2009, DHS received a report of domestic violence. Mr. Garcia and Ms. Smith were reportedly engaged in a loud argument and the neighbors called the police. Ms. Smith had previously sought a restraining order. Mr. Garcia reported that the argument was about Ms. Smith's substance abuse. The child was placed in care.

CLINICAL INTERVIEW

Mr. Garcia was raised in Mexico by his mother. He has three siblings. The family moved to the United States when he was 16. He remembers a normal childhood. He moved to Oregon prior to graduating from high school. He married Patricia shortly thereafter and they had two children. He and his wife

started using methamphetamine and their children were removed from their care. Their parental rights were terminated and the children were placed for adoption. Mr. Garcia and Patricia later divorced. Mr. Garcia held several different jobs over the next few years and had several relationships prior to meeting Ms. Smith about four years ago. She became pregnant and three years ago gave birth to their son, now age two. Mr. Garcia reported that he and Ms. Smith used to get in altercations when they drank alcohol. He reported that Ms. Smith started using methamphetamine and that he has had to assume more of the parenting duties. He stated he now only has an occasional drink. When asked about the incident that brought his child into care, he reported that Ms. Smith became belligerent after arriving home late one evening. Based upon prior observations of Ms. Smith, Mr. Garcia believed she had been using methamphetamines. Mr. Garcia stated tried to hold her down as she was getting physical, punching walls, kicking doors and throwing things. He stated that she tried to hit him and the child. Mr. Garcia indicated that he feared for his child's safety so he tried to restrain Ms. Smith and she received a bruise when he held her. He reported that he has started domestic violence treatment at CAFA but does not find it too helpful.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION

Axis I: 305.00 Alcohol Abuse, in partial remission by self report

V62.1 Partner Relationship Problem

301.7 Antisocial Personality Disorder

V62.89 Borderline Intellectual Functioning

Axis III: No Diagnosis

Axis IV: Moderate: Separation from children, scrutiny by Child Welfare, limited support network

Axis V: Global Assessment of Functioning: 50

RECOMMENDATIONS

I support intervention by DHS given the case history and current findings. I estimate the likelihood of positive change to be guarded. Mr. Garcia presents with a history of long-standing problems. His rights to two of his children were terminated and despite prior services his third child has been placed in care. I would recommend further involvement in domestic violence treatment and training in how to resolve arguments. Additionally, I believe there is need for him to learn more about the impact these arguments and displays have on his child. Given his history of substance use I would recommend that he participate in a drug alcohol evaluation and treatment as recommended. I would recommend couples counseling if he and Ms. Smith reunite and a safety plan be put in place prior to any reunification.

Psychological Evaluation Exercise #1

Read the psychological evaluation. Using the information learned during the presentation, develop questions to ask at the review, regarding the psychological evaluation. Note your questions under the appropriate finding. We will discuss these as a group.

FINDINGS

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

(6) The parents have made sufficient progress to make it possible for the child to safely return home.

(9) The permanency plan is the most appropriate plan for the child.