

Caseworker Report: Client C

** Please note that this document has been modified in order to respect client confidentiality

** This document is an example of how to apply general systems theory to practice

Background

The case of Client C was first admitted to foster care by referral from the Division of Human Services. Client C was referred to foster care because his mother was physically abusing him. According to a family caseworker, Client C and his mother often engaged in physical conflicts; they were found throwing stones at each other. The mother also struggles with an alcohol addiction, which impairs her judgement and contributes to her unemployment status. In consequence of these factors, the foster care provider has maintained guardianship of Client C for the past 9 years, from the age of 9 to 17.

Throughout this time, attempts have been made to place Client C in an alternative care setting. For instance, Aunt B demonstrated interest in formally adopting Client C in 2006. The Division of Human Services pursued this opportunity and made all the appropriate arrangements; however, Aunt B decided that she was not prepared to take on this responsibility. Similarly, Sister 1 made an attempt to foster Client C; however, due to her financial situation and the limited space in her apartment, she could not accommodate him.

The mother visited Client C at the foster home, but was later banned from visiting due to her consistent inebriation. Sister 1 also visited Client C at the foster home and was able to attend all of his school graduations. Client C and Sister 1 share a positive relationship and he feels comfortable confiding in her. Although Sister 1 is unable to financially support Client C, she provides emotional support for him.

Client C struggles with anger issues; due to his abandonment he feels a strong sense of resentment towards his mother and has difficulty controlling his temper. In consequence, Client C has been referred to group therapy and more recently individual counselling.

During his time in foster care, Client C has caused injury to himself and others; however, his temper has improved considerably over time.

Current situation

In May 2015, Ms AB was brought to the Division of Human Services in order to assist with Client C's transition out of foster care. His current care provider offers temporary housing to children under the age of 10 years; however, due to Client C's family circumstances he has remained in the care placement until the age of 17. In order to make room for other children and in consequence of his current age, Client C is to be transitioned out of care as soon as possible. Client C is aware of the current situation and is anxious to find a permanent home.

Presently, there are no possible placements available for Client C. Ms AB reassessed the potential placement of Client C with his mother, who has made some progress in controlling her alcohol addiction and temper. This placement was once again found unsuitable due to Client C's feelings of anger and abandonment towards his mother; the limited space in the home; and the lack of amenities, including no running water or electricity. Likewise, Aunt B was contacted once more upon the request of Client C, his mother, and Sister 1. Aunt B stated that she is still unable to accommodate Client C, particularly since she is already supporting Sister 1. With limited options available to Client C, it was decided that the next possible route would be through independent living placements with subsidized or low rent options. In order to pursue this option, Client was required to obtain a job so that he could pay rent.

With reference to employment, Client C is presently working at Workplace 1. Client C received this position after completing an internship with the company. His current salary is \$1000.00 a month and his relationship with the manager is favourable. It appears that the manager has taken on a mentorship role for Client C. The hope is that with stable employment and a positive work ethic, Client C will be able to take on greater work responsibilities as they become available to him through the company. Since working,

Client C's confidence has improved immensely and he is quickly transforming into a reliable, mature, stable, young man.

Acquaintance 1, who is the manager at Workplace 2, has also shown interest in supporting Client C. Acquaintance 1 volunteered at the foster care placement and taught the children how to cook. She quickly built positive rapport with Client C and expressed her intent to provide an internship for him if he was not able to secure employment. Most notably, Acquaintance 1 also mentioned the possibility of housing Client C during his internship with her. Although Client C has found work, it is worthwhile to see if Acquaintance 1 would be able to provide accommodation for him.

Assessment

Client C is presently living in a state of uncertainty: he has aged out of care, yet he has nowhere else to live. His environment is unstable and this has caused stress between two interlinking sub-systems: Client C and the care placement. In order to address this problem, Ms AB (the caseworker), must work with a number of interrelated systems including the individual (Client C), groups (Client C's family), and organizations (the care placement, Workplace 1, the Division of Human Services, the school, etc.).

The first stage of the intervention is to identify the problem, namely that there are no suitable placements for Client C outside of the care placement. Secondary problems include his future goals and employment opportunities, which have shown improvements in the past three months. This leads to the next phase of intervention: goal identification. Client C identified that his short-term goals included maintaining full-time employment, obtaining his drivers licence, and temporary housing; his long-term goals involved stable employment as a driver and permanent housing. In order to accomplish these goals, Client C and Ms AB explored the resources of his sub-systems, including his family, the care placement, his school, and the larger community. Through Ms AB's personal resources, namely her networking skills, she was able to arrange an internship with Workplace 1 for Client C. Due to Client C's consistent work ethic, this opportunity led to a full-time job.

Client C's employment provided a sense of pride and stability for him. Although, he has yet to find temporary or permanent housing, his job occupies his time and is viewed as a possible means for securing his housing goal. Client C is generally content with work and with the financial support of the care placement and he is hoping to begin his driving lessons, which will occur outside of his working hours. Through obtaining his drivers licence there will be increased opportunities for Client C.

Recommendations

The Division of Human Services recommends:

1. To contact Acquaintance 1 in order to see if she is willing and able to support Client C in his housing needs.
2. To explore other safe and secure housing options, which are at low-cost to Client C.
3. To identify a mentor(s) who can emotionally support Client C in his journey through adulthood.
4. To follow-up on Client C's progress once he has successfully left the care placement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms AB

Date

Supervising Caseworker

Date