

Caseworker Report: Client A

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

** This document is an example of how to apply Erikson's stages of psychosocial development to practice

Background

The Division of Human Services first admitted Client A into foster care system when she was 3 years old. Her siblings: Sister 1, Brother 1, Sister 2 and Sister 3, were all admitted into the foster care system as well. The children were placed into care because the mother's mental illness disabled her from providing adequate care. Similarly, the father struggled with an alcohol addiction, which inhibited his decision-making skills. The father was incarcerated for a short time after sexually assaulting one of the mother's older daughters, who was fathered from another father.

Client A has remained in care until she was 18 years old. This was mainly due to the limited alternative care placements available for Client A. In 2006, a sponsor demonstrated interest in adopting Client A; however this arrangement was not successful due to Client A's disinterest in the placement. In short, she was not accustomed to the sponsor's lifestyle and was not interested in going to church as often as the sponsor would have liked. Since this time, there have been no other individuals who have pursued the adoption of Client A. Now she is transitioning out of the home as a young adult.

Current situation

In May 2015, Ms A.B. was brought to the Division of Human Services in order to assist with Client A's transition out of the foster care system. At the time, Client A was completing her final semester in College. However, due to her poor grades Client A will have to retake one of the courses in the fall semester. Presently, Client A is finishing up her final practicum with Workplace 1 and thus is one course away from graduating.

In addition to completing her internship, Client A is also attending training to work at Workplace 2, commencing in late August. Upon the successful completion of her

program, Client A will work 6 days a week and make \$1,400.00 per month. With this money she will be able to assist the Caretaker with groceries as well as pay for her course (approximately \$300) at the College.

The Caretaker is the mother of one of Client A's friends and a friend of Client A's foster care mother. The Caretaker provided Client A with an open invitation to reside at her home until alternative care arrangements become available to her. With reference to an alternative care placement, Sister 1 conveyed her intent to house Client A after the renovations of her home were complete. In June, Sister estimated that the renovations would be finished in December. However, since then she has become less certain of the completion date.

In order to make room for other children and in consequence of her current age, Client A was discharged from the foster care system. As touched on above, Client A made arrangements to stay with the Caretaker in City 1 during the week. On the weekends she returns home to her parents in City 2, who have prepared a separate bedroom for Client A.

Assessment

Client A appears to be adjusting well to her new living situation. The environment seems stable, safe and healthy which has encouraged her psychosocial development. Currently Client A is at the developmental stage of identity vs. role confusion. At this stage the child's main task is to identify all of the roles that she will occupy as an adult. According to McLeod (2013), this stage is characterized by the young adult's re-examination of his/her identity in order to better understand who s/he is. Erikson proposes that there are two identities, which are to be explored: sexual and occupational.

With reference to the occupational, Client A has had some setbacks and successes. For instance, Client A was able to obtain an internship and a job: these are successes. By contrast, Client A failed to pass one of her courses and did not show the appropriate interest in maintain her job at Workplace 2, consequently threatening its security. For

example, Client A attended the first day of her training and did not know where to go. Instead of asking someone where the training was taking place, she left the training. This resulted in a phone conversation between Ms AB, Client A, and her supervisor in order to smooth over the mistake.

There are a number of other examples, which similar to above, depict that Client A is still struggling through the identity vs. role confusion stage. Hence, it is pertinent that Client A's progress is followed-up on and that she is provided with a mentor who will encourage and guide her through her various role responsibilities. The Caretaker could potentially take on the mentorship role.

Recommendations

Ms AB in partnership with the Division of Human Services recommends:

1. That the Caseworker follow-up with Client A to assess her progress in her internship, school, and job.
2. That the Caseworker maintain open communication with the Caretaker to better understand how both Client A and the Caretaker are acclimatizing to their new living environment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms AB

Date

Supervising Caseworker

Date

Reference

McLeod, S. (2013). Erik Erikson. Retrieved July 27, 2015, from <http://www.simplypsychology.org/Erik-Erikson.html>