

Case Goal Activity #1

Dwayne and Rudy are siblings, four and three years old respectively. They have been in care for eighteen months. Since that time, they have lived with three different families. The children came into care after their parents split up and the father left the area. The mother herself grew up in the foster care system and has been found to have a limited I.Q.

Prior to the children coming into care, Children and Youth was involved due to allegations from the neighbors that the children were not being cared for properly. The family was receiving community-based services such as role-modeling, nutritional counseling, and help from a parent support group. After the father left the home, the children were removed via court order since the mother was not able to care for them.

Since the children have been in care, the mother has lost her home and moves from shelter to shelter. She does manage to visit her children regularly. The visits have been supervised in order to help the mother use the time constructively. Generally the visits last 45 minutes. This seems to be the maximum time that the mother and children can handle. It has been observed that the mother does not seem to be connecting with her children during the visits. The children appear to enjoy the visits although it is not known if they recognize her as their mother.

The children are in good physical health. Evaluations reveal developmental delays for both with Dwayne being more severe. It may be determined that these delays are a result of early deprivation and able to be overcome if given appropriate care and attention.

The mother is generally cooperative with the agency although she does not seem to understand the changes that need to take place before the children can be returned home. She willingly participates in the parenting skills group, although the instructor has not observed any evidence that the mother is able to apply the skills when relating to the children. There are no extended family members available to assist the mother.

Changing the goal to adoption has been discussed with the mother but she will not consent to having her children adopted. The mother is involved in individual therapy. The therapist opposes the idea of terminating the parental rights even though he does not foresee the mother making sufficient progress in being able to care for the children herself due to her limitations. He recommends long term care so that the mother can maintain a relationship with her children. If the goal is changed to adoption, an adoptive family will need to be located as the foster parents are not interested in adopting the children.