

Process Recording

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023

A. Identifying Information:

The Client is a 14 year old, Hispanic-White, 9th grade student. She resides with her mother, younger sister, her mother's boyfriend, and her mother's boyfriend's father. The Client has a close-knit relationship with her mother and sister. The Client has a negative relationship with her mother's boyfriend and his father. The Client's father is not actively involved in her life.

B. Purpose of the Session:

The purpose of this session was to review the potential outcomes for when the Client has her court hearing on March 1st, 2023. There were four probable options that were explained to her about what the Judge could make. These four options are: foster care, kinship care, residential services with JoyRanch, and in-home services at home.

C. Initial Observation of the Client:

The initial observation of the Client is that she was well-dressed and groomed. The Client appeared to be nervous in her body language, by her right leg bouncing up and down, and was able to confirm her being nervous by stating, "I am nervous."

D. Content of the Session:

FSS spoke to the Client about her four options of what would occur when the Client has her hearing on March 1st, 2023. FSS said it is not her decision of what would the Judge be choosing, it is her responsibility to be discussing the possible decisions. FSS said, to the Client, that the four options were: foster care, kinship care, residential services with JoyRanch, and in-home services at home. When reviewing the outcomes with the Client, she had repeatedly throughout the session stated, "I want to be with my mom." When the foster care option was mentioned, the Client strongly expressed disinterest by her crying. FSS responded to the Client that they will prevent the option of foster care by putting her into a fictive kinship care placement. The Client asked FSS what a kinship care placement meant. FSS was able to explain what a fictive kinship care placement meant and said that it would be with somebody that she knows, and asked the Client if she knew of anyone that would possibly fill that placement in for her. The Client responded by stating her mother's friend, AO. FSS asked the Client how long she has known AO. The Client responded by saying she has known AO for four years. FSS asked the Client how far does AO live from her mother, back at home. The Client responded saying 20 minutes. The third option that was mentioned was having residential services be completed at JoyRanch. The Client mentioned that the Guardian Ad Litem said she would benefit from attending the residential services at JoyRanch. The remaining option was that the Client would be sent home to complete in-home services. The Client made the statement, repeatedly

throughout the session, that she would want to be home with her mother. The Client mentioned a suggestion that was not part of the possible conclusions, which was to be with her father. FSS declined the suggestion of the Client to be with her father since he does have the tendency to be placed into confinement. FSS asked the Client if she could change anything, what would she want to be changed; the Client said her home life, the constant arguing between her mother and her mother's boyfriend.

E. Assessment:

When foster care was mentioned to the Client about being a potential option, it was evident that she did not want that to be an option, due to her crying. Since the Client had stated, multiple times throughout the session, that she wants to be with her mother, I have a feeling that she fears that she would not be seeing her mother again. Although in foster care, there will be family reunification, but it is unclear if the Client knows that there is family reunification. I also fear that the Client may regress into her delinquent behavior if she is placed with somebody that she does not know.

In regards to fictive kinship care, I thought it was a good idea that fictive kinship care, with mother's friend AO, was listed as one of the options for the Client. When the Client was talking about AO, I felt like that situation could benefit the Client and her overall well-being, because: she is close enough for home to be with her mother, but still would have distance away from home; it appears that AO's household is stable; and Client is close and comfortable with AO. My internal thoughts think having the Client in a household where there is stability and being comfortable would help out with the Client and her success. Although there is not much information given about AO, there will have to be further research about AO for this option to be considered. I know that the Client has repeated herself by stating, "I want to be with my mom," this still gives the option of being in close contact with her mother.

When the Client mentioned that the Guardian Ad Litem said she would benefit from attending JoyRanch for residential services, it had me questioning why would we want to place her somewhere that is several hours from home when she is missing her mother. When doing my research about JoyRanch, I saw that JoyRanch's mission is "Provide a safe, caring, and Christ-centered home to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs of children in crisis," the question I have for the Client is does she affiliate herself with any religion. Another question is that is there any place that does similar services but is closer that does not focus on religion, if she is not religious. I worry that the Client may regress if she is placed in an environment that she is not comfortable with. Although JoyRanch does strongly encourage family reunification, I do not know if it would be the best fit for the Client. However, it may be beneficial that the Client is away from the dishevelment in her home environment.

The final option that was presented was to keep her at home to conduct intensive in-home services. I feel that this option is the most questionable out of the four that were listed. Reflecting back at the Client's detention hearing, on February 8, the Guardian Ad Litem stated "there is nothing positive going on in this child's life," which I immediately had the thought process that

the Client suffers with commotion on a regular basis. I was questionable because if her home environment is rough, this Client will need somebody who is positive and supportive to influence her and that will help guide her in the correct direction. I question if there is somebody in her everyday life that would be there to support her during the intensive services; will she continue with her delinquent behaviors because she is used to the chaotic energy back at home. Since the Client did mention that she wants her home life, the arguing between her mother and her mother's boyfriend, to be changed; I fear that being at home would put her back into continuing her delinquent behaviors and put her back into detention, again. If she does go home, I would like there to be changes in behavior with the Client's mother and boyfriend of the mother, but they both would have to agree on the changes. However I do not know if that would ever change between the Client's mother and Client's mother's boyfriend.

When the Client mentioned her father, it had me questioning about him, especially when FSS immediately declined the request. The questions I had, but did not ask, were: how is her relationship with her father; is her relationship with her father stable enough to take care and have the responsibility of her; what would be the positive and negative attributes to her being with her father; if he was supportive, why was he not at the detention hearing on February 8; is there anybody in his family that would be supportive to take care the Client; how involved is he in the Client's life; what is his criminal record since he is a repeated offender?

F. Analysis of the Student Social Worker's Practice:

When weighing out the choices that could happen on March 1, 2023, it is important to utilize the strength's perspective to see what benefits the Client the most. The strength's perspective is closely related to the empowerment theory. The empowerment theory looks through personal and social change. The evidence of the empowerment theory is having the discussion that there needs to be personal change by evaluating and discussing the four outcomes. It is evident that the Client's home environment is not the best, it is still just as important to empower the Client throughout the hardships she faces in the environment. The empowerment theory enables the Client to take action in their community which they live in.

When reflecting on my social worker's practice, I could see that the system's theory was utilized. The system's theory focuses on how a person (the Client) interacts with their environment (home life). In social work practice, there is the perspective of the person-in-environment that is closely in connection with the system's theory. The person-in-environment perspective enhances the understanding of the Client's behavior. Since the Client does experience a chaotic home environment, it has allowed her to cognitively think that living in the environment she is in is considered "normal," when it is not. When the Client stated that she does hear mother and her mother's boyfriend argue all the time, it does enhance the understanding of her aggressive behaviors since that is what is "normal" to her.

The theory that was used when discussing the different solutions was solution-focused theory. Solution-focused theory is similar to solution-focused therapy by which they both start with finding out the solutions and using that to help the Client establish the next steps for her. We

were able to use solution-focused therapy by discussing to the Client the four options that were presented to her, that the Judge would be making on March 1. Solution-focused theory helped the Client with being aware of her strengths and resources, and learning to think and act differently. The solution-focused therapy helps with finding out the next couple of steps for the Client and their future. Solution-focused theory does de-emphasize the problem talk and places a lot of emphasis on the solution. During the session, we were able to talk to the Client about the solutions that could aid her in the upcoming future.