

On September 1, 2000 the parents moved to a larger apartment at 740B Magnus Avenue. The home was clean, sparsely furnished and very tidy. On September 5, this worker met with the parents and discussed the service agreement; both parents signed the contract, making an agreement to follow the expectations outlined in it. The signed agreement is on file. Also on this day, Phoenix was discharged for Agency care and placed with both of her parents in the family home on Magnus.

The first condition of the agreement was that Samantha meets with Dr. Altman and follows any recommendations he made. Samantha and Steve both met with Dr. Altman on September 13, 2000. He advised the following:

- Samantha does not present with a diagnosis of depression, he does see her a "closed book", that she presents as not wishing to tell all of the information there is to tell, he said this could be due to her own style of interacting and/or some of her own life experience
- His impression is that both parents are now committed to each other and to parenting, Samantha indicated that she had not wanted to be pregnant and was to parent her, she felt she got connected with the child during the visits
- His impression is that the relationship is okay, they both openly shared their feelings for each other and their relationship, Sam feels Steve loves her and they tell each other they love each other
- Dr. Altman does not see the need for any further assessments at this time, he talked to them about commitment but he feels that for now they are committed to one another and to parenting
- He believed the couple's responses and their interactions were genuine
- He seen them sharing parenting responsibilities
- He suspects that there may be some past sexual abuse in her life however she is not ready to address it, this was based on her responses to why she did not see a Dr. when she was pregnant, she expressed concern about a dr. touching her inappropriately, she this was due to watching similar issues on TV
- His impression was that the flat affect people experienced with Samantha is likely due to her method and style of communication, not depression or feelings of sadness, she reported that she no longer had feelings of sadness as she did when she was pregnant

#### PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED:

- 1) Samantha appeared to have hidden her second pregnancy as she had her first one, with [REDACTED]
- 2) Samantha's lack of motivation and/or interest in caring for her first child. It appeared she has not played a role in his life since he was a few months old, over 18 months ago.

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- 3) The couple's ambivalence regarding the long term plans for the child. They had not received any prenatal care and had not done anything in preparation for the birth of the baby. Also the parents initial reaction was they were unsure if they wanted to parent the child, there was an ambivalence regarding their commitment to the baby.
- 4) Samantha's reported flat affect and the reason for it. There was some concern that she may have been suffering from depression. Some form of psychiatric/psychological assessment with respect to Samantha was suggested.
- 5) Due to the couple's young age and Samantha's history, it was suspected they had limited parenting experience and skills.

**CASE PLAN (Upon transfer to Delores effective November 14, 2000):**

Given the family's gains and personal improvements are still fairly new, the parents are required to follow all of the conditions outlined in the service agreement they signed on September 5, 2000, it is to be reviewed in six months. The following is a list of those conditions:

- 1) Samantha will meet with Dr. Altman to assess her emotional stability and she will follow any recommendations made by Dr. Altman.
- 2) Samantha and Steve will work cooperatively with the Agency in home support worker and will meet with her at least two times weekly
- 3) Samantha and Steve will work cooperatively with the Agency Family Services Worker; this includes meeting with the worker on a regular basis and allows the worker access to the family home. Samantha and Steve will also cooperate with the Agency worker regarding further exploration of issues related to substance abuse and family violence.
- 4) Samantha and Steve will attend and participate in a parenting class that focuses on issues related to child development
- 5) Samantha and Steve will work cooperatively with the public health nurse as a method of gaining information regarding general health issues of small children
- 6) The agency will assist the couple with identifying a pediatrician to use for Phoenix's routine medical issues.

The parents are aware that should they fail to comply with these conditions, it could result in the child being removed from the family home and placed in the care of the Agency.

It is not yet known what the outcome of the court case regarding [REDACTED] was. This could be further explored with Samantha and/or Cree nation CFS. Samantha has not expressed any interest to this worker in wanting to pursue having him returned to her care.

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