

## Case Notes

**Investigation Worker: Kathleen Minor**

**Investigation Supervisor: James Roberts**

T/C = Telephone call O/V=Office visit H/V=Home visit C/C=Collateral contact

<b>Date of Contact</b>	<b>Type of Contact</b>	<b>Notes</b>
08/19/15	H/V	<p>Visit with Javier. We went out to lunch, then sat in the park. He's gearing up for school starting in a few days. He said he's enjoyed the life skills training classes and outings that he's had. The last time they met, they visited an apartment complex, saw a vacant apartment, learned about deposits and leases, and what happens if you break a lease. He remarked that there was a lot to learn.</p> <p>Javier said he'd seen Maria a couple of times in recent weeks. He also continues to stay in touch with Ms. Lopez, former foster mother. He seems very content with his life at Gateway and said he appreciates that his relatives have made efforts to keep him involved with his family. I told Javier I'd see him again after school starts to see how things were going. Checked on his safety; he said nothing had caused him to feel at risk or unsafe.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
08/14/15	Case Planning Meeting	<p>Case planning meeting held this date. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Gomez, former guardians; John Gare, GAL; Javier; Mr. Shaw, case manager; Tina Espinoza, IL Specialist; and me. We discussed Javier's progress toward his goal of preparing to live independently upon aging out of care and that he'll have the option of staying at Gateway in one of their IL apartments after age 18. I let everyone know that the periodic review was scheduled for August 31, 2015, at 4:30 pm. Javier said he wanted to attend. Mr. Shaw says he can transport Javier to the review. The Gomezes would not commit to attending. School will start soon, and Javier will be a junior. Mr. Shaw took him and a couple of the other kids shopping for clothes a few days ago. He's now 16½. He's been involved in some fairly intensive life skills training the past couple of months through Gateway. However, Mr. Shaw said that their IL Coordinator was leaving soon, after only 2.5 months, to take another job, so life skills training will probably be on hold for a while again.</p> <p>Javier brought up that they talked about planning for college or vocational school in one of his life skills sessions. He said he'd like to go to college, but hadn't thought much about it before because no one ever encouraged him. Mr. Shaw said he'd set up a visit with the school counselor before the end of September so that he and Javier can meet with her to talk about preparation for applying to colleges. Tina Espinoza, IL Specialist, will also meet with Javier sometime in September to explain about assistance he'd be eligible to receive if he goes to college. I mentioned that we need to have a meeting soon to update Javier's Transitional Living Plan. I pointed out that Javier is behind some on the IL services we planned for him when we last met, so we'll need to take a look at that and see what he still needs.</p> <p>The Gomezes said they're happy with the arrangement they have now of visiting Javier about once a month. They're pleased that he's doing so well at Gateway, that he and Maria stay in frequent touch, and that he also stays in contact with extended family. The case plan was signed by attendees.</p>
08/10/15	H/V	<p>Home visit with Mr. and Mrs. Gomez. She apologized for the "miscommunication" when they weren't home for the visit last month. I told her I hadn't talked to Javier in a few days and wondered if the visit between him and Maria had taken place on July 30th. She said she had dropped Maria off that day and picked her up a couple of hours later, so Maria got to have a good visit with her brother. She said staff members at the home are always helpful in arranging visits and seeing that Javier and Maria don't get bored. Mr. Gomez said that it looks like the home is a good place for Javier, except they "encourage his perversions." I talked with them once again about accepting Javier for who he is so that their relationship with him will be better. This was met with silence, then Mr. Gomez said, "You know how we feel."</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
08/07/15	T/C	Received telephone call from Corina Miller, agency attorney. Periodic review for Javier is scheduled for August 31, 2015, at 4:30 pm. She will need the reports for the court by August 28, 2015.
07/31/15	H/V	Had a scheduled home visit with the Gomezes, but when I went by, no one answered the door. Waited a few minutes, then left a note for them to call me to reschedule.
07/29/15	H/V	Visit with Javier. We went for a coke, then talked in his room at the group home. He was still excited about having attended the drama camp. He made a lot of friends and said, "There were a lot of kids there like me." In a week's time, they auditioned, rehearsed nonstop, and performed their play on the last day for the community. He said he had a great time and hopes he can go again next year. He told me that Mrs. Gomez is going to bring Maria by to visit tomorrow.
07/11/15	Email	Email to Mr. Shaw to tell him Javier had the agency's consent to attend the week- long out of town drama camp. He emailed back and said Javier had seen Dr. Pemberly for a med check, and his medication was refilled.
07/08/15	T/C	Javier called, very excited to tell me he's been accepted into a 1-week drama camp in a nearby city; the dates are July 20-24. A sponsor involved with the home is paying for it; Javier said the home needs my permission. I told him I'd email Mr. Shaw with consent and would see him when he got back, and he could tell me all about it. I asked him about any life skills classes, and he said he's attended two classes so far, with field trips. They've worked on meal planning, shopping, and cooking and on managing money and having a bank account. Javier said he didn't know you could get in so much trouble with credit cards until he heard the stories about what happened to some other kids.
06/24/15	H/V	Went for a walk around the grounds with Javier at the group home. He's enjoying "lazing around" some, but he said the staff is keeping them busy with activities; he thinks it's mainly to keep them off their computers and phones. He's been swimming and hiking some and will begin karate classes soon. He's also earning a little money by helping with yard work at the home. He's disappointed that he doesn't have a job for the summer, but Mr. Shaw said he'll try to help him find an after-school job in the fall.
06/19/15	H/V	Visit to the Gomez home. I updated them on Javier's grades and told them how well he was doing overall. I asked if they would consider doing some family therapy with Javier, and Mr. Gomez left the room without answering (and didn't return). Mrs. Gomez said she felt her husband was doing as much as he could do just to visit Javier every few weeks. She and her husband still feel strongly that the agency shouldn't be encouraging Javier's "immoral behavior."

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06/15/15	T/C	Call from Mr. Shaw. Javier had to go to urgent care last night for a severe stomach upset, probably due to a 24-hour bug. He was prescribed medication and is doing better now. He slept much of the day today.
06/11/15	T/C	Conference call with Mr. Shaw and Mr. Banks at the group home to express my concern that Javier is not receiving life skills training or experiences. Since he's been at the group home, the only thing he's mentioned to me is an online money management course that he didn't understand. They said their new IL Coordinator had begun her job on June 1st, and classes would start soon and would be held twice monthly. I reminded them again of Javier's needs as identified by his IL assessment and outlined in his Transitional Living Plan. They told me that Javier just got his report card, and all his final grades are Bs and Cs. Overall, they're very pleased with how well he's fit in at the home. This appears to be a very good placement for him.
05/19/15	T/C	Call to Javier to ask how the visit with the Gomezes and his relatives went over the weekend. He said it went well, and he got to see some cousins he hasn't seen in a long time. He said a few remarks were made about him being gay, but he's learned in therapy how to better handle those. He said "The world is changing, and they're all going to have to change with it."
05/15/15	H/V	<p>Picked Javier up after school, and we went to have a coke. Mrs. Gomez has invited him to the family get-together this weekend, and he's looking forward to going. School will be out in approximately 3 weeks, and he's looking forward to that as well. We talked about what he would do this summer. He said he'd like to have a job and earn some money, but doesn't know where to start to look for work. I asked him if he'd gotten any more life skills training, and he said that he had not.</p> <p>I asked Javier how he was feeling about his OPPLA plan and not going back to the Gomezes, and he said, "I'm good right where I am." He agreed to call me if anything makes him uncomfortable this weekend at the Gomez home. He mentioned that he had just talked with Ms. Lopez, former fictive kin foster mother, and that he really appreciated her caring about him and staying in touch. Javier said she still hopes to come to town sometime this summer, and they plan to see each other when she does. I asked him if he'd like to go visit Ms. Lopez if she doesn't get to come and said I might be able to arrange it. He said he'd prefer that she come here, but that we could talk about it more at the end of the summer if she didn't make it. Javier then asked me if he might be able to spend some time with his [birth] mom and dad this summer, and I told him that wasn't too likely. He said they talk by phone every few weeks, but he'd really like to see them. I told him I'd check into it, but I felt like their situation probably hadn't changed.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
05/11/15	H/V	<p>Visit with the Gomez family. Mr. Gomez was there only about the first 15-20 minutes, then excused himself for an appointment. Mrs. Gomez said that they're having a family gathering at their house this weekend and asked if I thought Javier could come. She said her husband "wasn't too keen on it," but Maria really wants him to come. I told her that was a good idea and that they could arrange transportation with the group home if they couldn't transport him.</p> <p>She said that Maria still hasn't given up the idea that Javier may come back home, but she knows it won't happen. I told her that Javier is making progress in school and therapy and seems to like living at the group home, but he still needs their involvement and support, and their visits with him are a way of letting him know they still care. She said maybe in the summer they could have more visits.</p>
04/23/15	H/V	<p>Visit with Javier in his room at the group home. We discussed school, his drama activities, contacts with relatives, and his participation in the LGBTQ groups. We high-fived over all the progress his therapist says he's making—Javier said, "Yep, I'm moving on." I asked if anything had happened to make him feel unsafe at the group home or at school, and he replied negatively.</p>
04/20/15	T/C	<p>Call to Mr. Shaw at the group home to ask if their IL position has been filled and if Javier is receiving any life skills training. He said they still haven't filled the position, but that he knows Javier has cooked some in the facility.</p>
04/16/15	HV	<p>Visit with the Gomezes. Mrs. Gomez said she and Maria enjoyed Javier's play and feels that he has real talent. I told her it meant a lot to Javier that she and Maria came. Mrs. Gomez is glad he's doing well in the group home. Other relatives who stay in touch with him have remarked that he seems happy there. Maria still would like him to return to the home, but the Gomezes say he's better off where he is now. I brought up again the frequency of their visitation with Javier and encouraged them to see him more often. Mrs. Gomez said they're very busy, but will try. Mr. Gomez gave no response. I approached them once again about the possibility of attending a PFLAG meeting to help them better understand Javier. Mr. Gomez snapped that it was "out of the question." I decided not to bring up family therapy until next visit.</p>
04/10/15	Email	<p>Email from Stephen Shaw to tell me that Javier went for a dental checkup today. He had X-rays and a teeth cleaning, and no problems were noted.</p>
04/08/15	O/V	<p>Mr. Jamison said that a volunteer had taken Javier to Dr. Pemberly's office yesterday to have his quarterly medication check. The volunteer had reported that the doctor was very rushed, and Javier didn't ask him any questions. However, in the car on the way home, Javier told the volunteer that the medicine made him feel like he was in a fog a lot of times. Mr. Jamison said he wondered if Javier's medication should be reduced or eliminated. I told him that that I felt this was their domain, as they have staff with more clinical experience than I, and said I'd like them to look into it.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
04/08/15	O/V	<p>Attended 3-month staffing with Javier's therapist, Mr. Jamison, and Javier. Mr. Shaw, case manager, was supposed to attend, but was ill. The Gomezes were invited to attend, but declined. Mr. Jamison said they're working on Javier being comfortable with his sexuality and understanding how to process and respond to remarks and insults he sometimes gets. They're also working on Javier's oppositional behavior, although Mr. Jamison sees this as much more a result of his situation in the Gomez home rather than being a deep-rooted condition. He feels the same way about Javier's depression; as Javier feels more comfortable and accepted in the group home, Mr. Jamison feels that his depression will keep lessening. They also continue to work on Javier's feelings of rejection from the Gomezes and his biological parents. He wishes the Gomezes would do some therapy sessions with Javier and asked me if I thought that would be possible. I told him they had been resistant to any services and had refused when I had earlier suggested this. I told him I would ask again.</p> <p>Mr. Jamison said Javier would like to have more contact with his birth parents, and I said I would look into that. I asked Mr. Jamison if Javier had ever indicated to him that he felt at risk or unsafe at the home or at school, and Mr. Jamison said he hadn't. Javier responded that he had never felt unsafe here at the home. Mr. Jamison added that he feels that Javier is making a lot of progress overall.</p> <p>Mr. Jamison said that a volunteer had taken Javier to Dr. Pemberly's office yesterday to have his quarterly medication check. The volunteer had reported that the doctor was very rushed, and Javier didn't ask him any questions. However, in the car on the way home, Javier told the volunteer that the medicine made him feel like he was in a fog a lot of times. Mr. Jamison said he wondered if Javier's medication should be reduced or eliminated. I told him that that I felt this was their domain, as they have staff with more clinical experience than I, and said I'd like them to look into it.</p>
03/20/15	O/V	<p>I attended Javier's play along with Javier's case manager and therapist and was pleased to see that Mrs. Gomez and Maria were there. Javier did an outstanding job.</p>
03/16/15	H/V	<p>Home visit with the Gomezes. We talked again about their issues with Javier's sexuality, with my pointing out that visits with him would be more relaxed and rewarding if they tried to accept him as he is. I also asked them to let me know if they changed their minds and decided they wanted to attend the parent training we had talked about. I told them that that doesn't mean they're bad parents, but that we all have deficits as parents, and any parent could benefit from the training. I told them about Javier's play on 3-20-15 and that he'd like them to attend. Mrs. Gomez said he had mentioned it to her and Maria, and they may go.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
03/13/15	T/C	<p>Call from Mr. Shaw to inform me that Mrs. Gomez and Maria visited Javier at the group home. They took a walk and then sat in the common area. The visit lasted about 45 minutes and was without incident.</p>
03/10/15	H/V	<p>Visited Javier at the group home in his room. He seemed in a bad mood, but said it was his medicine. He had to be drawn out, whereas usually he's chatty. He said things are going well at school. He's done all the extra credit assignments and raised his D and F grades to Cs. The tutor is still working with him on math, but they've cut back from twice weekly to once a week. He feels that the tutoring has been really helpful. He still has play practice, and they'll perform the play after spring break week on 3-20-15. Javier and his sister stay in close touch, and he sees her a couple of times a month. He also stays in contact with his relatives and has made some good friends here at the group home. I asked Javier if he had been receiving any life skills services, and he said he hadn't except for an online exercise he and the others completed on money management. He added that none of them understood it very well. Javier mentioned that he'd like to have a part-time job, particularly during the summer. He still regularly attends the LGBTQ groups and feels like he gets a lot out of them. He has therapy weekly and likes the therapist. By this time into our discussion, Javier seemed in a better mood. I asked him if knowing that the Gomezes agree with his OPPLA plan had changed his feelings any about them. He said, "Not really. I was expecting that from them." He did say that he hoped they'd come to his play and bring Maria. I asked if there had been any safety or risk issues at home or at school, and he said there hadn't been.</p> <p>Met with Mr. Shaw, along with Javier. He verified that Javier's grades have come up. I asked him about the life skills services for Javier, and he said that they still have no good prospects for filling their vacant IL Coordinator position. He hopes it'll be filled soon. I mentioned that Javier had said his medication was making him feel bad and asked Mr. Shaw to keep an eye on that.</p> <p>I presented Mr. Shaw and Javier with the PPLA Agreement, which is written validation of the facility's commitment to care for Javier until at least age 18. I reminded them that we had discussed this at our last case planning meeting. We went over in detail with Javier what the form represents and made certain he understands that he has the option of staying at the home after age 18 in the IL apartments if he chooses. Javier said he thought it was great that he could stay there at the group home and wouldn't have to move again until he gets out of high school. Mr. Shaw called Derrick Banks, director, in, and we all signed the agreement in the presence of a notary.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
03/01/15	H/V	Went by the group home to wish Javier a happy 16th birthday and leave a gift for him. His sister had also come by with a gift, and staff had thrown a small party with a cake. Javier seemed a little sad when we talked and said he wished his [birth] parents could be there. He asked if I had talked with them lately, and I said I had seen them about a month ago, and their circumstances were the same.
02/27/15	Periodic Review Hearing	Periodic review hearing held this date in 27th District Court with Judge Simon Mitchell presiding. Mr. and Mrs. Gomez attended with their attorney; Javier; Mr. Shaw, case manager; the GAL; and my supervisor and I attended. The Gomezes stated in court that they no longer wished to work toward reunification, although they wanted to stay involved in Javier's life and have him remain a part of their family. They would like to continue working with the agency toward that end. The court approved the change of plan to OPPLA for Javier, with the judge assuring Javier that the plan could be changed if Javier later changed his mind. The next court date is scheduled for 9-7-15.
02/24/15	Supervisory Staffing	Submitted court report to my supervisor for approval, then to legal staff to be filed with the court.
02/19/15	Email	Email from Mr. Shaw saying he had discussed with group home staff their making a long-term commitment to Javier and signing the PPLA Agreement that I had talked about. He said they were "all for it." I emailed back that I would bring the agreement when I visit Javier next month.
02/19/15	Legal Staffing	My supervisor and I met with legal staff in preparation for the upcoming periodic court review set for 2-27-15. I advised that Javier's plan had been changed internally to OPPLA, and the work that had been done with him around that prior to the change.
02/18/15	Case Planning Meeting	Case planning meeting held this date. Attendees were Mr. and Mrs. Gomez, former guardians; Javier; Mr. Shaw, case manager; Robin White, supervisor; John Gare, GAL; and me. We discussed services that the assessments had shown were needed by Mr. and Mrs. Gomez, but that they hadn't wanted to participate further after their assessments were completed. They said they didn't agree that they needed any services, since Javier was the one with the problems. They affirmed that they do want to stay in contact with him, visit him periodically, and want him to remain a part of the extended family. Javier's progress was discussed, and services for him were agreed to and updated. We discussed the group home making a long-term commitment to Javier and signing a Planned Permanent Living Arrangement Agreement to care for him there until he turns 18. Javier liked this idea. Mr. Shaw said he felt group home staff would approve this, and he'll discuss with them. The case plan was signed by attendees.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
02/16/15	Change of Plan Staffing	Change of plan staffing was held. Attendees were Javier; Mr. Shaw, group home case manager; Mr. Jamison, group home therapist; John Gare, GAL; Corina Miller, agency attorney; Tina Espinoza, IL Specialist; Robin White, supervisor; and me. The Gomezes were invited but didn't come. I facilitated the meeting, explaining to the group the lack of progress with the Gomezes, as well as the extensive discussions Javier and I had had about adoption, guardianship, and OPPLA goals. His therapist also told the group about his and Javier's discussions about the three plans. Javier then explained the reasons he'd prefer to have an OPPLA goal vs. the other two goals at this point in time. The group agreed that Javier's plan should be changed to OPPLA. I updated Javier's plan in the SACWIS system later in the day.
02/13/15	O/V	Meeting at the office late afternoon between Javier and John Gare, GAL. Mr. Gare wanted to talk with Javier prior to the change of plan meeting to make certain he had carefully considered his options and fully understood the difference between—and the ramifications of—having an OPPLA goal rather than adoption or guardianship.
02/11/15	H/V	Picked Javier up from play practice and returned him to the group home. We talked in the car about the Gomezes' refusal to participate in the services they need to complete to allow him to reunify with them. He seemed sad, but not surprised. In discussing his permanency plan, he said he definitely wants an OPPLA plan at this point. He asked me again if it could be changed later if he decides he'd like to have an adoption or guardianship plan, and I assured him that it could. I did explain that the court would have to agree. We went over the pros and cons again of each of the plans, and he seems to have a thorough, clear understanding. I told him I would schedule a change of plan staffing as soon as possible. I informed Javier about the upcoming court hearing on 2-27-15 and said the court could approve (or not) a change of plan at that time.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
02/09/15	H/V	<p>Home visit with Gomez family. Encouraged them again to visit with Javier as frequently as they'd like. He still feels a strong tie to them. They told me they had dropped Maria off there yesterday for a visit, but they were busy and didn't have time to go in. I brought up again their participating in services, and they said they had absolutely no interest in that because there's nothing wrong with them. I asked if they were still thinking they didn't want Javier back in the home, and both answered that they were. They said they can see that Javier's making a good adjustment to where he is now, although they're disgusted that he's involved in the LGBTQ group. Mr. Gomez said, "How can you people encourage that kind of disgusting behavior?" I talked about how sexual orientation is not a choice, and we need to do everything we can to support LBGTQ youth because adolescence is so difficult anyway. They disagreed and expressed that Javier is making a choice that they feel is very morally wrong.</p> <p>I told the Gomezes about the upcoming court hearing on 2-27-15. They seemed concerned, and I explained that it's a legal requirement to have a court hearing at this point in the case. I also explained the usefulness of the hearing and the types of things that would be reviewed. The hearing will help ensure that the agency, the court, and everyone involved is on the same page. I also told the Gomezes that Gateway would be happy to have them be more involved with Javier at the group home and encouraged them to speak with Mr. Shaw about activities they could be jointly involved in with Javier. They gave no response.</p>
02/09/15	T/C	<p>The meeting occurred today between Javier and the former foster youth who was adopted by a family he hadn't previously known; his adoption has had a very successful outcome. The youth called me to say Javier had lots of questions, but he felt Javier was still leaning toward an OPPLA plan.</p>

02/06/15 H/V

Met with Javier and Mr. Shaw, case manager, at the group home. Javier is adjusting well overall. He's balked at the rules a few times, but they've been consistent in their expectations, and he's "come around." He actually seems to be responding well to their structure. Mr. Shaw said he's been fairly conscientious about completing his extra school assignments, but has had to have a few reminders. Javier agreed. Javier says he's getting a lot out of the LGBTQ groups and that it's nice to be in a place where people don't make fun of him.

I spoke with Javier alone in his room. First, we discussed his safety; he said nothing has happened at the home so far to make him feel unsafe. We also talked about his grades and how school is going. He said he "clicked" with his tutor and is catching up in math. We then discussed his permanency goal again. He said he's thought a lot about what we talked about last time, and his therapist has talked with him several times about adoption vs. an OPPLA goal. He said that, at this point, he still thinks he wants to go for OPPLA. I talked with Javier about the possibility of guardianship as a goal, which was what had been established with his aunt and uncle. Javier said he didn't want to do that either because it would still basically mean the same thing as having a goal of adoption – that he would have to find a new family and then have to work on becoming part of that family. He said he has a family and that he wanted to focus on the family he already has and focus on becoming an adult. I asked him if he'd be willing to watch a video with me on my tablet, and he said he would. We then watched an hour-long documentary about the lives of 3 youth who aged out of foster care, 2 of whom had great difficulties after turning 18. Javier said I'd given him a lot to think about.

I asked Javier if he'd be willing to meet with a former foster youth who was adopted at age 16, and he said that he would. Javier asked if he chose an OPPLA plan for now, if it could be changed to adoption or guardianship later if he changed his mind. I told him it absolutely could and that we'd talk about his plan again in a few days. Javier mentioned that he and Ms. Lopez have stayed in touch; they call and text. She said she'd try to visit him at the group home if she comes to town.

Javier, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Jamison, and I completed Javier's Transitional Living Plan together, with Javier taking the lead and expressing what he thinks he will need in terms of life skills development. Tina Espinoza, agency IL Specialist, participated by phone. We mapped out the goals, services, and specific tasks we'll all carry out to prepare Javier to live independently eventually. Mr. Shaw said that the position of IL Coordinator at the group home is currently vacant, although they're hoping to have the position filled by the first of April. He asked that we not put target dates for the group home to accomplish tasks before 4-15-15 on the plan.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
02/03/15	H/V	My supervisor instructed me to meet with the Diaz birth family again to see if their circumstances had changed at all, just in case Javier's placement at Gateway doesn't work out. I tried to call, but their phone appeared to be dead. I dropped by about 5:30, and they were both there. I told them that Javier was doing well and asked if anything had changed in their lives. They said they were still clean, but still struggling to make ends meet, pay their rent, and not get evicted. They continue to have sporadic contact with Javier, and I encouraged them to keep it up. They apparently still have no capacity to care for Javier in their home if something happens with his placement at Gateway.
01/26/15	H/V	Dropped Javier off at the group home and spoke to his case manager about the meeting. He'll get Javier involved in their tutoring program right away and will ensure that Javier completes his extra credit assignments. He said Javier is good about doing his homework, so they'll just know to add some additional time for him to complete the extra assignments.
01/26/15	O/V	We met that afternoon. Javier has several assignments that he didn't complete last month when he was on runaway status, and his grades have fallen considerably because of that. He has unexcused absences and has gotten very behind in his math class. It's not possible for him to make up the work he missed, but he can do additional assignments for extra credit. The counselor asked if Javier would be willing to work with a tutor, and he said that he would. Javier said that his group home has a tutoring program, and he could probably use that. The counselor said that, if Javier didn't bring up his grades, she questioned the wisdom of our letting him continue to participate in his drama group. Javier snapped to attention when he heard that.
01/26/15	T/C	Call from Javier's school counselor, Joan Coleman, asking if I could meet in the afternoon with her and Javier regarding a drop-off in Javier's grades.
01/23/15	C/C	Mr. and Mrs. Gomez and Maria had a visit with Javier today at the group home in the visitation room. They also saw Javier's room. Mr. Shaw, case manager, said the visit went well until the Gomezes asked about the LGBTQ groups. They were obviously disapproving and left soon afterward, cutting their visit short.
01/20/15	C/C	Group home volunteer took Javier to meet with Dr. Pemberly for monitoring of his Prozac. The prescription was refilled.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
01/16/15	T/C	<p>Call to Javier's new therapist at the facility, Jonas Jamison. He's worked at the group home for many years and has knowledge of the positives and negatives of an adoption/guardianship plan vs. a plan of OPPLA. He said he always likes to see kids try adoption or guardianship, so they'll have a permanent family if it works out. On the other hand, he's seen how discouraging it is for older youth to have a guardianship/adoption plan, then they're never placed and age out of care anyway. He agreed to work discussions of the three plans into his therapy sessions with Javier to ensure that Javier has a full understanding of all the positives and negatives.</p>
01/16/15	H/V	<p>Picked up Javier, and we visited in a private place at a restaurant. He feels that the group home is a good fit for him. Overall, he likes the staff, his therapist, the other kids there, and says that the atmosphere is very "gay friendly." I asked him if he felt safe there, and he said he felt very safe. He said that staff is diligent about watching over them. He also feels safe at school.</p> <p>We talked about other permanency options for him since it's likely he won't be returning to the Gomez home. Guardianship and adoption were discussed, and I told him that families wanting to become guardians or adoptive parents are indeed found for youth his age. I explained both processes, the recruitment that would take place, etc., and told him that many times older children enter guardianships or are adopted by someone they know. Javier was very negative about both, saying that he has strong ties with his family and parents, and he doesn't want another family. I explained that, if adopted or has a guardianship, he could probably keep those family ties, at his age. I also explained the goal of Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (OPPLA); he said some of the kids at the group home have that plan. He asked again why he couldn't live with his [birth] parents, so we talked about their current situation and that they're unable to care for him right now.</p> <p>We discussed the pros and cons of adoption/guardianship plans vs. OPPLA, with my emphasizing to him that an OPPLA goal doesn't yield the same kind of permanency as adoption or guardianship. With an OPPLA goal, he would basically be discharged to himself at age 18. He can get the same independent living services with an OPPLA, guardianship, or adoption goal, regardless of which goal he chooses. He agreed to think about it, but said he didn't think he wanted to try to fit in with another family at his age.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
01/14/15	H/V	<p>Visit to Gomez home. I told them more about Javier's move, that he can stay in his same school, and will participate in an LGBTQ group. He can have visitors onsite, if scheduling is done through the facility. I talked with Mr. and Mrs. Gomez about participating in the services we had talked about, but they interrupted to say they hadn't changed their minds about that—Javier needs services and they don't—and they definitely don't want Javier back in the home. Mr. Gomez expressed disgust with the LGBTQ group saying, "We were going to fix him, and now you have him with people that are telling him that he's okay like he is." They said they still want to maintain their relationship with Javier, that they care about him and want him to stay connected to Maria and the family, but he can never live with them again unless he changes his ways. I told the Gomezes that I'd like them to think about this a little longer, and we'd talk about it again next month. I asked Mr. and Mrs. Gomez if they had given more thought to attending a PFLAG group, and they said, "Absolutely not." I encouraged them again to visit Javier as frequently as possible and explained that visits could take place wherever they all felt most comfortable.</p> <p>Risk and safety assessments were updated and completed, with results showing that the home would still be unsafe for Javier if he were to be reunified.</p>
01/09/15	T/C	<p>Spoke by phone with Javier; he had just returned to the group home after school. He said he's learning that "they have lots of rules here," but so far he likes it. He's gotten acquainted with the other youth residents and says there's "only one jerk." He attended the LGBTQ group yesterday and said that, for the first time in a long time, he feels like he's understood. I then talked briefly with case manager Shaw, and he said Javier seems to be making a normal adjustment with a few minor ups and downs. He'll let me know if there are any problems.</p>
01/06/15	H/V	<p>Picked Javier and his things up today for the move to the group home. I helped Javier place some of his things in his new room; he seems thrilled with it. We were introduced and welcomed by Derrick Banks, group home director. He then introduced us to Stephen Shaw, who will be Javier's case manager. We met with Mr. Shaw, and he explained the daily routine, extracurricular activities, expectations re: behavior, the behavioral point system, and other issues. They have volunteers who help transport, and he told Javier it should be no problem for him to stay involved with his drama group, as long as he keeps his grades up. He asked about Javier's medication, and I told him that Javier knows the dosage, but I'd appreciate it if they'd keep an eye on it. Mr. Shaw explained their onsite LGBTQ groups, and Javier said he'd like to try those. I told Javier I'd check on him in a couple of days.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
01/05/15	T/C	Telephone call to Susan Southern, therapist, to let her know about Javier's move and that he'll be seeing Gateway's in-house therapist from now on. I thanked her for her service, apologized for the short notice, and asked her if she'd transfer her therapy notes and/or a summary to Gateway. She said that she'd try to do that within the week.
01/05/15	T/C	Telephone call to the Gomezes to let them know where Javier will be moving.
01/05/15	H/V	Picked up Javier in the afternoon and took him to the group home for a visit. He was shown around the facility by Ms. Holt, and she described their programming and expectations. The facility is an old house with numerous bedrooms, and the youth have their own rooms. On returning to the Dover home, Javier seemed excited about moving to the facility.
01/04/15	T/C	Call from Michelle Holt, Gateway Group Home. They have decided to accept Javier. We arranged a pre-placement visit for the next day with Javier moving there the following day. I called the Dover home and told them Javier would be moving in 2 days. I then told Javier about the group home and the advantages it would offer. He seemed very hopeful that this would be a good place for him.
12/30/14	H/V	Quick visit to Dover home and spoke with Javier and the Dovers separately. Javier said that he can "take it a few more days." I told him that I was looking hard for a home for him, but the holidays were slowing things down a little. He's enjoying his school vacation, saying that he just stays in his room and plays games or watches videos. He's also working on memorizing his lines for the play. I asked him if he felt safe there, and he said, "Of course." The Dovers said that they had been trying to give Javier lots of space and have told him they're sorry things didn't work out in their home. Both they and Javier promised to call me if anything came up over the weekend.
12/30/14	T/C	Call to Gateway Group Home and spoke with intake worker Michelle Holt. I gave her information about Javier, and she said he might be a good fit for them. She asked me to complete their online application today and fax supporting documents; they'll be meeting Monday, January 4th, to decide who will fill their slot. If they agree to take Javier, he can be moved there on January 6th. I completed the online application for Javier and faxed needed documents.
12/30/14	T/C	Call back from resource unit. They suggested placement at Gateway Group Home. The home has an excellent reputation, particularly for working with LGBTQ youth. They're usually full, but they currently have one opening. Their capacity is 8. Some additional advantages for Javier would be that they have a weekly LGBTQ group, transport the youth to/from their home schools, and have life skills classes and IL apartments for when youth turn 18. However, they fully support any permanency goal the youth has and will work with a youth's parents or will work with a youth toward adoption. They have an in-house therapist, who is male, for the youth.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
12/30/14	Email and T/C	I had email exchanges and follow-up phone calls with the resource home unit re: finding a new placement ASAP for Javier. I again asked about foster parents, couples or singles, who are LGBTQ or have successfully fostered LGBTQ youth and was told that those homes do exist but are currently filled to capacity. There are a couple of foster homes that have openings for a teen, but they probably would not be a good fit for Javier.
12/30/14	Email	I had email exchanges and follow-up phone calls with the resource home unit re: finding a new placement ASAP for Javier. I again asked about foster parents, couples or singles, who are LGBTQ or have successfully fostered LGBTQ youth and was told that those homes do exist but are currently filled to capacity. There are a couple of foster homes that have openings for a teen, but they probably would not be a good fit for Javier.
12/30/14	T/C	Call to the Dover home to let them know Javier was at my office. They said they felt it best that he be moved because obviously he didn't like their home. I asked them if they'd consider taking him back for just a few days, over the New Year holiday, while I located another placement for him. They said they would, but only for 1 week. Transported Javier back to the Dover home. I told him and the Dovers that I'd call as soon as a placement was located. Javier promised to call me if he became upset with something rather than running away again.
12/30/14	O/V	Javier and I had a long talk at the office. He is flatly refusing to stay at the Dover home any longer. He said, "They want me to stifle who I am." We talked about other alternatives. Javier feels like the Gomezes will never allow him to come home, and he doesn't want to go there with things like they are now. He knows he'll be on his own in a couple of years, and he'd like to be somewhere where he can work on the things he needs to know to prepare for that. He agreed to return to the Dover home for a few more days until another placement can be found. He's adamant that he must stay in the same school.
12/30/14	H/V	I went to the Diaz home to pick Javier up. Ms. Diaz said he had spent the night with them last night, but she knows he's a runaway, and she's afraid her probation will be revoked if they let him stay. The Diazes said an emotional goodbye to Javier and said again that they wanted to stay in touch with him and be a part of his life as much as possible. Javier said he wanted that, too.
12/30/14	T/C	Call from Javier first thing this morning. He told me he was with his [birth] parents, but they won't let him stay.
12/29/14	T/C	Call from the Dovers in the evening. Javier appears to have run away again. He left with a friend and said he'd be back in a couple of hours, but that was 5-6 hours ago. He's not answering his phone, and some of his clothes are gone. I called the police to report Javier as a runaway.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
12/22/14	H/V	<p>At the Gomezes' request, I dropped Javier off at their house so he could see Maria and other relatives, and they could give him Christmas gifts. I had tried to set up visits earlier in the month, but the Gomezes had said they were too busy.</p> <p>I first talked with Javier to make certain he felt safe there. He assured me that his uncle would be on his best behavior with other relatives around and said he had no concerns at all. He agreed to call me immediately if he began feeling uncomfortable or threatened in any way. I picked Javier up 1.5 hours later and returned him to the Dover home. He said he had a good visit. We talked about how things were going at the Dovers, and he just shrugged. I told him that, when the holiday rush is over, I would work with the family to help them be more accepting of him as he is.</p>
12/17/14	O/V	<p>Javier completed his IL assessment with the IL Specialist, Tina Espinoza. She asked me to join them to go over the results. The printout showed Javier how his scores reflected his skills, strengths, and areas for additional knowledge/experience development. Javier will need work primarily in the areas of money management, health/sexuality, housing, food purchase/preparation, and job-seeking/maintenance skills. Javier felt the results were accurate and said he'd very much like to have a part-time job. We talked about trying to find a mentor for him who could help him complete job applications and prepare for job interviews, and I told him I'd work on that.</p>
12/15/14	H/V	<p>Home visit with Javier and Mr. and Ms. Dover. We discussed issues that precipitated Javier's running away. Javier seemed uncomfortable having this discussion with his foster parents. All he would say to them was "I don't feel like you accept me for who I am." The Dovers seemed uncomfortable, and we touched on Javier's homosexuality. They said that Javier was right, that they're not comfortable with Javier "airing who he is" in front of the other children. They told Javier that, if he feels he's gay, to please not "act that way" in front of the other kids. We talked about his therapy. Javier said his therapist is okay and "gets" who he is, but he'd greatly prefer a male. We discussed the possibility of changing therapists, and I told them I'd get back with them. I explained, though, that this is an incredibly busy time with the holidays, seeing that all the foster children have gifts, and several emergencies that have come up, so I might not be able to check into it immediately.</p> <p>I provided the Dovers with a voucher to purchase Christmas gifts for Javier. They said he had made some specific requests.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
12/11/14	T/C	I phoned Susan Southern, therapist, explaining that Javier had returned from being on the run but wouldn't share with me what had taken place while he was gone. I asked her, in her next session with Javier, if she'd explore with him what he did while on the run, and if there are any health or safety issues that need to be looked into further. She said that she would and would get back with me if he disclosed anything to her that needed follow-up.
12/11/14	Email	Email to agency Independent Living (IL) Specialist, Tina Espinoza, asking her to schedule an IL assessment for Javier, who'll be 16 in 3 months. Received return email scheduling the assessment for the 17th. Checked the date with the Dovers and Javier and explained the assessment and its purpose. I also made an appointment to visit with the Dovers and Javier on the 15th.
12/08/14	H/V	<p>Transported Javier to the Dover home. Once we arrived, Javier and I met with the Dovers. We talked for a while, and the Dovers expressed their concern for Javier and that they were worried about him while he was gone. I told the family that I felt Javier just needed to spend more time with them and get to know them better, get more accustomed to a different environment, new routines and expectations, etc. I said I'd like to come back in a few days and talk through with everyone how things were going. I asked the Dovers and Javier if they could spend more time together to get to know each other better, and each agreed that they would.</p> <p>I spoke to the Dovers after Javier went to his room. I told them that Javier had not been willing to share with me where he had been or what he had been doing. I asked them to share with me anything they found out.</p>
12/08/14	T/C	Call to the Dovers to let them know Javier had been located. I said I'd bring him right over.
12/08/14	T/C	Call from police—they picked Javier up at the mall and will bring him to the office. Javier arrived, and we talked about what happened. I talked with him about his safety while on the run and asked if he was okay. He said he was okay but refused to say where he had been, other than "hanging out." He said that "people like me don't belong with people like them [the Dovers]." I asked him what he meant, and he said "They're not gay friendly. I don't feel right being there." He particularly doesn't like the attitude and the looks he got from their older son, who had been home from college that weekend. I told Javier I felt that he was having a problem adjusting to the foster home and that it was hard going to live with new people, but the family is very nice, and he needs to give it more time.
12/07/14	H/V	Unannounced visit to the home of Rosa and Jonathan Diaz, Javier's parents, but no one came to the door. I left a note asking them to call me.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
12/07/14	H/V	<p>Visit with Gomez family. They were very concerned about Javier's running away and that he hasn't been found. They feel it's likely he's with his birth parents. I told them I had checked there twice, but would check again. We talked about services that need to be put into place to work toward having Javier placed back in their home. They emphatically stated that they had decided they didn't want Javier to come back.</p> <p>They continue to be distressed by his expressions of homosexuality and feel that his runaway behavior is related to that. They want to stay involved with Javier, particularly because of Maria, but don't want to have him returned. They said again that "we don't have problems, he does." I asked if they'd be willing to attend a PFLAG meeting and explained what it was. They refused, saying they wouldn't dream of doing something like that.</p>
12/07/14	H/V	Drove to a local skateboard park where lots of youth hang out and parked for 30-45 minutes. No sighting of Javier. Then walked the mall for about an hour, but there was no sign of him.
12/06/14	T/C	Phoned the Diazes again. They still haven't seen or heard from Javier and have no idea where he might be.
12/06/14	T/C	Called Dover family. No word from Javier. They said he was a quiet boy, and they'd take him back if he was found. I had gotten the phone number of two friends of Javier's from Ms. Lopez. Phoned both of them, but they said they haven't had contact with him. I also was able to talk with Jon Maynard, relative; he hasn't heard from Javier and has no idea where he might be.
12/05/14	T/C	Called Javier's school to tell them he was on runaway status, and I'm concerned about his safety. They will let me know immediately if he shows up for school.
12/05/14	T/C	Call back from Susan Southern, therapist, in response to my message. She hasn't heard from Javier. In his last session, he talked about not liking the Dovers, but didn't seem unduly upset. In response to my inquiry, she definitely did not feel that Javier was suicidal when she saw him. She said he's never expressed suicidal thoughts or ideations in any of their sessions, and she doesn't see that as a risk.
12/05/14	T/C	Was able to reach Trujillo, Esteban, and Cardenas relatives by phone. All expressed their concern, but said they hadn't seen or heard from Javier and don't know where he is.
12/05/14	T/C	First thing, I called Ms. Lopez, even though she's out of town now. She's spoken with Javier twice since she moved, but hasn't heard from him in 3-4 days. Also called the Diaz family; they haven't heard from Javier. All agreed to notify me immediately if he contacted them.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
12/04/14	T/C	Call from Mark Dover in the evening to say Javier hadn't come home from school that day, and they were concerned. They just checked his room and saw that some of his clothes were gone. They've tried to call him on his cell phone, and he doesn't answer. It appears that he may have run away. I told Mr. Dover to call me back if they hadn't heard from Javier by 9:30, and I'd report him to the police and make calls to try to find him. I tried to phone Javier several times, but there was no answer; I left messages for him to call me right away. Mr. Dover called back at 9:30 to say there was still no word from Javier. I asked if an incident might have precipitated this, and he said nothing occurred that he was aware of. Javier has been staying in his room a lot and not communicating. I told him I'd keep him informed, and he promised to call me immediately if Javier showed up. I called the Gomez home, but they haven't seen or heard from Javier. I then phoned the police to report Javier as a runaway.
12/01/14	T/C	Call to Javier to see how things are going. He said that he doesn't know if this is a good place for him or not. I asked him to tell me more, but he said he had to go. I told him I'd make a home visit on 12-5-14, and we could talk more, but that he probably just needed to give the home more time.
11/29/14	T/C	Call to Jennifer Dover to ask how the placement is going. She said Javier's been very quiet and stays in his room a lot. She said they'd like to have more information about his background so they can better understand him. I told her I'd provide that.
11/28/14	H/V	I picked Javier up at the Lopez home for the move to his new foster home. They said they had had a very nice Thanksgiving meal and laid-back day the day before, just the two of them. He and Ms. Lopez were very emotional as they said goodbye. They agreed to stay in close touch. She asked Javier to call her anytime, day or night. I took Javier to the Dover home. They helped move his things in, and I left after about half an hour as he was getting settled in his room.
11/26/14	T/C	Called the Gomez family to notify them about Javier's new placement.
11/26/14	H/V	Took Javier for a pre-placement visit with the Dover family, 7804 Lobelia Drive, Hopewood. They were warm and welcoming with him, and I left him with them after 15-20 minutes. I picked Javier up about an hour later. He said the Dovers were nice, and the other kids were okay. He'll have his own room and was pleased that he wouldn't have to change schools and that the school is so close he can walk. He said he'd "give it a try."
11/25/14	Email	Final report received via email on the assessment done on Javier by Dr. Pemberly, psychiatrist. No differences in recommendations from summary provided earlier.
11/24/14	O/V	After Javier's visit with his family was over, I told him about the Dover family and that he would have a pre-placement visit with them on 11-26-14. If all goes well, he'll move 2 days later, the day after Thanksgiving. He asked again why he couldn't live with his [birth] parents, and I told him about my visit with them. He seemed very dejected.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
11/24/14	T/C	Telephone call from resource home worker to say that the (Jennifer and Mark) Dover foster home is the best placement they can find for Javier at this time. The family lives within walking distance of his school, so that's a big positive. This is a heterosexual couple with two other foster children and one biological child who's away at college. After Javier's visit with his family was over, I told him about the Dover family and that he would have a pre-placement visit with them on 11-26-14. If all goes well, he'll move 2 days later, the day after Thanksgiving. He asked again why he couldn't live with his [birth] parents, and I told him about my visit with them. He seemed very dejected.
11/24/14	O/V	Office visit (I transported after the hearing) between Javier, Mrs. Gomez, and Maria. Mr. Gomez left after the hearing, but returned to pick up Mrs. Gomez and Maria and spent a few minutes with Javier. I popped in and out a few times during the visit, and there were no issues.
11/24/14	Adjudicatory Hearing	Adjudicatory Status hearing held this date, with Mr. and Mrs. Gomez and their attorney, the agency attorney, and my supervisor and me, with Ms. Lopez, Maria, and Javier attending. Mr. Gomez stipulated to the facts presented by the agency, and Javier was adjudicated an abused child. The plan will remain reunification, with services provided to the Gomezes and Javier toward that end. The court approved the court report and reviewed and adopted the updated case plan dated 11-18-14.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
11/21/14	H/V	<p>I spent about an hour visiting with Mr. and Ms. Diaz late afternoon. They live in a one-bedroom apartment in a ramshackle complex. Both have struggled with substance abuse issues for many years. Ms. Diaz relapsed and was arrested a few months ago and just completed a court-ordered stay in rehab; she's currently on probation. She hasn't found steady work yet, and they're having a hard time getting by on Mr. Diaz' salary as a bricklayer as his work is very sporadic. In discussing Javier, both said several times that they love their son and want to maintain a relationship with him.</p> <p>I told them that Javier very much wants a relationship with them and has asked if he can live with them. I said that it appears to me they have many issues they'd need to work on before this could even be considered as a possibility for the future. Mr. Diaz responded, while Ms. Diaz nodded her head, that they appreciated my bringing this up and talking with them about it, but that they don't know when they'd ever be in a position to take care of Javier. Ms. Diaz added that "We can barely take care of ourselves." She said that they need to put their energies into staying clean and sober and are working on that day by day. She added that they care about Javier very much and definitely want to work on their relationship with him, but they don't want to work toward having him in their home. I encouraged them to stay in touch with Javier, although they said their phone doesn't have minutes a lot of the time, and they frequently don't have money for gas. I told Mr. and Ms. Diaz about the relatives I had contacted as possible placement resources for Javier and asked them if they knew of anyone else. They were unable to identify any additional adult relatives who might be approached. I left them my card and asked them to contact me if they needed me, and they said they would.</p>
11/21/14	T/C	I reached Javier's birth father at the number Javier had given me, 209-555-6815, and scheduled a visit for later in the day at 6945 Flower Street Drive.
11/21/14	O/V	Spoke with a resource home worker to request a placement for Javier ASAP, asking if there are any homes of gay couples or singles available. I was told that all those homes were at capacity right now, but there are a few openings for teenagers in other homes. The worker will get back with me after reviewing Javier's information.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
11/20/14	T/C	<p>Call from Ms. Lopez. She reported that Javier had his first therapy session on the 18th and likes his therapist okay. Ms. Lopez has attended two foster parent classes so far and feels they were helpful. However, she just learned today that she got the job across the state that she applied for. It's a promotion and too good an opportunity to pass up, although she hates to leave Javier. She's invited him to go with her if the agency approves, but he doesn't want to move to another city.</p> <p>He's feeling very anxious about where he might go. Ms. Lopez has to report for her new job on Dec 1st. She'll be spending the weekend before that moving, so it would be good if Javier could be moved by the 28th. I spoke with Javier to make certain he had thought through the pros and cons of going with Ms. Lopez when she moves. He said he doesn't want to go with her, that he doesn't want to leave his family, his friends, and his school, even though he'd love to keep living with Ms. Lopez if he could. I tried to reassure him that I would find a good place for him. He asked me why he couldn't live with his biological parents. He gave me contact information for them and said they've stayed in touch over the years. I told him I didn't think it was a possibility, but I'd look into it. I asked Ms. Lopez to attend the status hearing 11-24- 14 if she possibly can with everything else she has going on.</p>
11/18/14	Case Planning Meeting	<p>Case planning update meeting held with principal case parties to formalize issues/new tasks I've been discussing in home visits with Javier and the Gomezes. Present were my supervisor, Mr. and Mrs. Gomez, Ms. Lopez, Javier, Javier's GAL, and me. Javier's plan remains reunification. All parties agreed to tasks discussed, and all signed the plan.</p>

<b>Date of Contact</b>	<b>Type of Contact</b>	<b>Notes</b>
11/17/14	H/V	<p>Visit with Javier at home. He said he didn't like his medication; it makes him feel groggy all the time. I told him he needed to give it more time. School is going well, as is the drama group. He got the part he wanted in the play, and rehearsals begin at the first of December. He's still enjoying living with Ms. Lopez and hopes she doesn't move. He stays in touch with his sister frequently and sees her from time to time. His relatives also call and email sporadically, and his aunt plans to pick him up soon for another family visit. He mentioned that John Gare, GAL, had called to ask how things were going. He told Javier he just wanted to check with him to see if there was anything he needed in preparation for the case planning meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>I asked Javier how he was feeling about returning to the Gomez home. He said he doubts that will happen and he can't—and won't—go back unless his aunt and uncle change. He said, "I can't live like that anymore." I told Javier about the next hearing scheduled for 11-24-14 and encouraged him to attend. We discussed his services, and he said he was good with what was in place. We also discussed whether or not anything at school or home was making him feel uncomfortable or unsafe, and he replied that he felt comfortable and safe both places. He added that there are adults who would protect him if anything occurred.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
11/13/14	H/V	<p>Visit to the Gomez home. They said their visit with Javier went “okay,” but they wouldn’t commit to a regular visitation schedule. We talked about services that had been recommended for them; they said, very reluctantly, that they’re considering participating, but they don’t think they need services. They added that Javier is the one with the problem, and he’s the one that needs services. I explained that he’ll be seeing a therapist with experience in working with LGBTQ youth. They asked if she’d “cure him of his homosexual tendencies,” and I replied that she’d help him, but that the purpose wasn’t to “cure” him. They expressed their displeasure at this. We spent a lot of time exploring their feelings around homosexuality.</p> <p>I asked them to think more about the services that had been recommended and told them they would need to follow through to show that they were working to have Javier back in their home. I also encouraged them to consider having some therapy sessions with Javier where they could work on learning to accept him as he is, but they were not open to this.</p> <p>We scheduled a visit with Javier for 11-24-14, the earliest date they would commit to. Again, I encouraged them to see Javier more frequently, telling him they could visit once weekly if he and they wished. The adjudication hearing will also be held 11-24-14, and the visit with Javier will take place after that. We discussed the specific services that had been recommended for them. Even though they don’t agree that they need services, they understand that those are the things that are expected by the agency and court and will “think about it.” I assured them they could have input into choosing providers.</p>
11/11/14	T/C and Email	Notified, via email or phone, persons invited to the case planning meeting scheduled for next week, 11-18-14.
11/05/14	T/C	Calls to various therapists who see foster children. I asked around, but was unable to identify a gay therapist; however, I did find a therapist, Susan Southern, who has expertise and much experience dealing with LGBTQ children. She has a flexible schedule and can see Javier on Tuesday evenings at 6:30, with the first appointment being 11-18-14. I relayed this information to Ms. Lopez; she feels that she’ll be able to transport Javier.
11/04/14	T/C	Ms. Lopez called to say that she had been called back for a second interview for the out-of-town job she had applied for and would keep me posted. If she ends up moving, she’d be willing to take Javier with her, but he told her he doesn’t want to leave his school and friends.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
10/29/14	O/V	Office visit between Javier, Maria, and Mr. and Mrs. Gomez. I monitored part of the visit, and it seemed to go well enough. Light conversation took place (along with some awkward lulls), with the Gomezes asking Javier about school, his drama group, and other things he was involved in. Mr. Gomez, particularly, seemed a little on edge. Javier and Maria were especially glad to see each other. After the visit, I transported Javier to the Lopez home. I talked with both Ms. Lopez and Javier about his medication. Javier consented to take the medication, but said he didn't understand the need for it and that he wasn't "any more depressed than any other kid." Ms. Lopez offered to pick the medicine up from the pharmacy and said she would see that Javier begins taking it. I also told them that weekly therapy had been recommended to help Javier cope with what he was going through right now, and I would be setting that up. Javier didn't object, but asked if he could have a gay therapist. I told him I would explore that. Ms. Lopez said she would probably need help with transportation, and I assured her that I or a case aide would help as needed.
10/26/14	T/C	I called Dr. Pemberly's office and asked that the prescription be ordered from JXM pharmacy. I was told that the doctor has specific days he does medication monitoring; he sees patients every 15 minutes those days, so it's normally not difficult to get an appointment. I scheduled the first medication monitoring appointment for 1-20-15.
10/26/14	Mail	Preliminary report received from Dr. Pemberly on Javier's assessment. He diagnosed Javier with mild depression and mild oppositional defiant disorder and recommended that Javier be put on Prozac for a time. He also recommended therapy to address Javier's struggles with his sexual orientation and his feelings of rejection from his aunt, uncle, and birth parents and to help him adjust to his new living situation. Javier also needs help with responses and coping mechanisms when people respond negatively and make condescending remarks about his sexual orientation. The report said Dr. Pemberly will need to monitor and refill Javier's medication on a quarterly basis.
10/22/14	T/C	The Gomezes called to cancel a visit with Javier set for tomorrow (they also cancelled their last visit). They gave no reason, but asked to reschedule for next week, 10-29-14. I discussed with them the importance of keeping their commitment to visit Javier, stressing that this is an important part of the work to be done to reunify with him. Mrs. Gomez responded by saying she didn't feel bad about rescheduling, because Maria had already seen Javier earlier this month at a joint activity between their schools. I called Javier to tell him about the change of dates.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
10/20/14	T/C	Received a call from Esther Tompkins at Middlebrook Family Services. She completed the assessments on Mr. and Mrs. Gomez on 10-17-14. She didn't find any significant pathology in either of them. She determined that Mr. Gomez can benefit from counseling around anger management and that both need parent training. They also need education regarding sexuality, particularly as it relates to being more accepting of Javier as a gay young man; there are parent training curricula that include the youth sexuality component. She said that Mr. and Mrs. Gomez repeatedly said that there's "nothing wrong with us" and that they were there only because they were ordered by the court. So their resistance may be a barrier. She feels that it would be beneficial for them to attend one or more meetings of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), but she thinks they're probably a long way from being willing to do that.
10/16/14	O/V	Took Javier for an eye exam today, even though his physical exam showed that his vision checked out okay. Invited the Gomezes to meet me there, but they declined. Javier has good vision, doesn't need glasses, and there were no residual effects from his injury.
10/13/14	T/C	Ms. Lopez called to say that she had taken Javier to the dentist today, and I should be receiving a written report soon. No problems were noted, and they cleaned his teeth during the appointment. She mentioned that Javier's sister's birthday was 2 days ago, and she took Javier by the Gomezes to leave a gift. She said she went in with him, and they stayed only a few minutes. She said she hoped that was okay, and I said that it was. Javier mentioned later that because his relationship with the Gomezes is now strained, it makes him miss his mother and father even more. He told her he really liked living with her, but if he could have any wish come true, it would be that he could live with his mom and dad.
10/08/14	T/C	Ms. Lopez phoned to say that Javier's dental exam is scheduled for the 13th, and she'll be able to take him. I phoned the Gomezes to ask if one or both of them would like to meet Ms. Lopez and Javier at the dentist's office for this appointment, but they declined.
10/08/14	O/V	Transported Javier to Community Psychiatric Associates for a behavioral health/psychiatric assessment with Dr. Pemberly. A preliminary report should be received within 15 days, with a full report received within 30-45 days. On the way home, Javier talked about a local youth drama group he'd been active in for about 2 years, and he was eager to know if he could continue with this since they're having auditions for a new play. I encouraged him to try out and said the agency would support him in this as long as Ms. Lopez had no objection. He said that she was encouraging him to be involved. Two of his friends at school are in the group and can provide transportation. I dropped Javier off at home and gave him his things I had picked up from the Gomezes. I asked him if he was ready to have a visit with them if I set something up, and he said, "I guess so."

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
10/06/14	H/V	<p>Visit to the Gomez home. Javier has been out of the home for 3 weeks now, and the family remarked that things are much easier for them now that he's gone. They're relieved that they're not having to deal with his stubborn behavior and his "perversions." We talked about the psychosocial assessments that the Gomezes are court ordered to have done. They were questioning why this was necessary, and I explained that it's to better help us all to pinpoint their strengths and areas to be worked on before Javier can come back to the family. They seemed uncomfortable when I said this, saying that if he comes back, he's going to have to "change his ways." We discussed and agreed on a provider for the assessment, Middlebrook Family Services. We talked about visitation with Javier, and the Gomezes reluctantly agreed to a visit.</p> <p>They said that Maria misses her brother, and it would probably be good as a family for them to all visit together. They prefer to come to the office for the first visit, so I told them I'd set it up. I asked how frequently they'd like to visit, encouraging them to visit as often as possible. They wouldn't commit, saying they wanted to see how the first visit went. Javier had asked for more of his things that were there, and they had them boxed and ready for me to pick up.</p> <p>I asked if I could speak with Maria alone, and she and I met in her bedroom. We chatted for a while, then I asked her how she was disciplined by the Gomezes. She said that they used to spank her when she was smaller, but, looking back on it, she doesn't think it was excessive since it's the same way her friends were disciplined by their parents. She doesn't recall that she ever had marks or bruises after a spanking. Now that she's older, they ground her or take away privileges. She said that the Gomezes have always been harsher with Javier. Javier always felt that they showed favoritism toward her, although he didn't blame her; he always told her she was lucky that they liked her so much. She's fairly close to Mr. and Mrs. Gomez, but closer to Mrs. Gomez. She's really sad, though, that Javier isn't living with them anymore. She said she and he talk or text several times a week, so that helps. I asked Maria if she ever felt unsafe in the home or that she might be hurt like her brother was, and she said, "Absolutely not." She also said that she could tell her uncle felt bad about what he did to Javier, although she didn't know if he'd admit it to anyone. I gave Maria my phone number and asked her to call me, the child abuse hotline, or someone she trusts if she ever felt unsafe or threatened in any way. She said she would.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
10/02/14	H/V	<p>Transported Javier for his entry-into-care physical exam. The doctor noted that his eye seems to be healing nicely. The swelling has gone down quite a bit, although it will be another week or two before the coloring returns to normal. No need to renew the antibiotic ointment prescription. Immunizations are current. Otherwise, Javier is healthy with no medical issues noted.</p> <p>Javier and I talked on the way there and back and for a while in the apartment; he said he was “okay” with me as his new worker and that all was going well with Ms. Lopez. They’ve settled into a routine: she takes him to school in the mornings, and he gets a ride home with a friend in the afternoon. She’s usually home from work by 6:00 p.m. He enjoys cooking and has made dinner a couple of times, which has pleased Ms. Lopez. He and his sister have talked on the phone several times, and Ms. Lopez is working on a time with the Gomezes when Maria can come by again for a visit. I asked him if he missed being at the Gomezes, and he said “kind of.” He said he was not ready for a visit with them, but has talked with his Aunt Lana and his Aunt Gloria on the phone. Lana will pick him up for a visit with her and Gloria this weekend. He asked if that was okay, and I said it was. We talked about Javier having a routine mental health assessment; he also needs to have a dental checkup. I asked him if he felt safe in the Lopez home, and he said that he did. He agreed to tell me if there were ever any safety issues at home or school.</p> <p>Ms. Lopez came home from work, and we visited. She said that Javier has been obstinate with her a few times, but she’s firm and consistent with him, and he eventually does what he’s supposed to do. She feels that, overall, he’s settled nicely into her home, although it’s been somewhat of an adjustment for both of them. She mentioned that Javier really misses his sister and has also talked about missing his biological parents. Ms. Lopez will start the foster parent training classes next Tuesday evening, 10-6-14. She and Javier went shopping for new clothing for him with the voucher I provided. She said she has everything she needs at this time. I gave her Javier’s Medicaid card. I told her that Javier needs a behavioral health assessment and dental check-up. She said she’d handle the dental visit if I’d set up and transport to the other.</p>
09/29/14	T/C	Appointment made for Javier to have his entry-into-care physical exam. I called Mrs. Gomez and invited her and Mr. Gomez to accompany us, but they declined.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
09/26/14	O/V-New Worker Assigned	My supervisor and I met with Vanessa Thomas and her supervisor to discuss case transfer. This case has underlying dynamics that may be difficult to address. Javier is beginning to openly identify as homosexual, and the Gomezes, because of their personal—and apparently deep-seated—beliefs, are strongly condemning of Javier because of this. They feel he has deliberately made a choice to be homosexual, and they're blaming him for provoking the physical abuse from Mr. Gomez. It's likely that much work will need to be done with the family around accepting Javier for who he is and getting them to take responsibility for their behavior. Case transferred at this point.
09/24/14	Custody Hearing	The 14-day custody hearing was held in 27th District Court, heard by Judge Simon Mitchell. Mr. and Mrs. Gomez attended with their court-appointed attorney, Curtis Samuels. I attended with my supervisor and Vanessa Thomas. We were represented by our agency attorney, Corina Miller. Also present were Ms. Lopez, Javier, John Gare (GAL), and Officer Ridgefield with the police department. Mr. and Mrs. Gomez didn't challenge the continuation of Javier's custody with the agency. The Gomezes were court ordered to complete a psychosocial assessment and participate in identified services.
09/22/14	Family Team Meeting	Family team meeting (FTM) held. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Gomez, legal guardians; Javier Diaz, child in custody; Ms. Lopez, fictive kin foster parent; Gloria Esteban, child's paternal aunt; Lana Trujillo, child's maternal aunt; Suzanna Cardenas, maternal grandmother (participated by phone); Kathleen Minor, investigation worker; Nancy Walker, investigation supervisor; Vanessa Thomas, foster care worker; Robin White, foster care supervisor, and John Gare, Guardian ad Litem (GAL). The FTM facilitator guided the discussion around setting goal of reunification for Javier with the Gomez family; working with the Gomez family toward acceptance of Javier and minimizing risk in the home; ensuring stability for Javier while in custody; and visitation and contact between Javier and the Gomezes, Maria, and relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Gomez were specifically asked to identify strengths they had as a family and areas that might need work. They asked about therapy for Javier, and I told them that would be decided after his needs are further assessed. Inquiries were made about other relatives that might be explored, but no one else was identified. I asked about Javier's birth parents, but the relatives were unanimous in saying his parents were continuing to struggle with their substance abuse issues and couldn't be a resource for Javier. Javier did ask that I contact them, though; he said they've stayed in touch by phone over the years. Next steps were outlined for the various parties and were documented in an initial case plan. The group was informed that, by the end of the week, the case would be transferred to foster care worker Vanessa Thomas. The initial case plan was printed and signed by those attending.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
09/22/14	T/C	Phone call from Ms. Lopez. She said the Gomez family had brought Maria for a visit with Javier. They dropped her off and picked her up later in front of the apartment. The visit went well. Javier and Maria talked about what had happened, and Maria expressed her sadness that Javier is no longer living with them. She was glad, though, to see he's happy with Ms. Lopez. I told Ms. Lopez that I'd see her at the family team meeting this afternoon and that the case will be transferred to the foster care unit soon.
09/19/14	O/V	Met with my supervisor to consider all the case information. The report of abuse of Javier by his guardian, Mr. Gomez, was substantiated. The agency will ask for continued custody at the upcoming court hearing. The initial risk/safety assessment completed 9-15-14, as well as corroborating information, shows that the home currently remains unsafe for Javier.
09/18/14	T/C	Return call from the other collateral contact, Lydia Johnson. She lives across the street from the Gomezes, goes to the same church, and is good friends with Mrs. Gomez. She had heard about the incident the other night between Javier and Mr. Gomez. She said Mr. Gomez shouldn't have lost his temper and "deckerd" Javier, but she totally understands their frustration because of his behavior. She added that her husband probably would have done the same thing. Otherwise, she feels that Mr. and Mrs. Gomez have provided a good home for the children. She hopes Javier "gets over this phase soon" and is able to go back home. The Gomezes have a good relationship with Maria. Ms. Johnson is in the Gomez home fairly frequently and said she couldn't imagine that there were any safety issues in the home for Maria.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
09/17/14	H/V	<p>Home visit with the Gomez family and Maria. I explained about the upcoming court hearing and that they'd be receiving official notice from the agency. I encouraged both the Gomezes to attend. They expressed being uncomfortable at the thought of a court hearing, but said they were expecting it, and they'd come. They said they'd have no problem having Javier back in the home, but only if he can be "cured of his perverted ways." They asked if the therapy they had him in would be continued. I told them that was something we could talk about at the family team meeting.</p> <p>I shared that Javier was doing well with Ms. Lopez, and they were pleased to hear that he was staying with someone he knew instead of having to go with strangers. I went over the relative contacts I had made and asked if there were any other relatives I could contact. They had no one to suggest. I also asked if Javier had any Native American heritage, and they said that he did not. I asked if Maria could visit with Javier, and they had no objection—Maria's face brightened at the suggestion. It was agreed that they would call Ms. Lopez and arrange a time to drop Maria off there in the next day or two to see her brother. I asked if they'd like to consider a visit with Javier as well, but they said they thought it was better to wait a while to "let him think about what he's done" before they see him. I reminded them of the upcoming family team meeting and that the case would be transferred to the foster care unit if custody is continued with the agency.</p>
09/17/14	T/C	Telephone call to the Gomez family asking to meet with them that evening; they agreed.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
09/17/14	H/V	<p>I visited with Javier at the Lopez home after school. His eye has turned black, and he said he's getting questions at school from the other kids. He said he just jokes and says "You should see the other guy!" Javier feels comfortable with Ms. Lopez—he said they've had some good talks, and she's giving him space and letting him think through his situation. He feels he had a good home with the Gomezes until he began showing what they called "homosexual tendencies." They're very strict, and, at that point, they started being "on his case" all the time and making insulting comments to him. He felt very rejected. Even with that, he misses them and really misses his sister. He said he didn't think he could go back home, though. I asked if he felt safe with Ms. Lopez, and he responded, "Are you kidding me?"</p> <p>I told Javier about the ex parte hearing that had occurred, the 14-day hearing scheduled for next week, and the family team meeting. I told him he'd need to be present for both, unless he had some objection. I explained how important it was that he be involved, particularly at his age, in the planning of the case and in setting goals. I said I'd try to set up a visit with his sister if he wanted, and he said he'd like that very much. I told Javier about the relatives I'd been in contact with and that they'd all like to stay in touch with him. I told him to feel free to phone any of them at any time. We talked about how it would be different to stay in touch with these relatives in these new circumstances, as always before the contacts occurred naturally when there were family get-togethers. I told Javier the agency would encourage the relatives to reach out to him and would help arrange visits if needed. I asked Javier if there's anyone else he'd like to stay in touch with, but he said he couldn't think of anyone because he still sees all his friends at school.</p> <p>Ms. Lopez arrived from work, and we spoke a few minutes. She had just received the foster parent application and said she'd complete it and return it the next day.</p> <p>She's enjoying having Javier with her and says he's fitting in well. I updated her on the legal status of the case, the upcoming court hearing (encouraging her to attend, if possible), and the family team meeting. I left a clothing voucher with her; she'll be able to take Javier shopping this weekend. We talked about the availability of respite care, but she said she couldn't imagine that that would be needed.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
09/16/14	Ex Parte Hearing	<p>Ex parte hearing held in the 27th District Court with Judge Mitchell. Officer Ridgefield and I gave testimony about the incident and stated that we both had determined that Javier needed to be removed immediately to ensure his safety. The agency was granted temporary emergency custody of Javier with a 14-day hearing set for next week, 9-24-14, at 1:00 pm.</p> <p>I scheduled and reserved a conference room for a family team meeting on 9-22- 14 at 4:00 pm.</p>
09/16/14	T/C	<p>Telephone call to Sam Hawthorne, neighbor of the Gomezes. He said he's lived two doors down from the family for many years and knows them well. He feels that Mr. and Mrs. Gomez have done a good job with the kids, but says they're old fashioned and aren't able to deal with the fact that Javier may be gay. He emphasized that it's a "huge deal" to them. They're very distressed over it, particularly Mr. Gomez. Mr. Hawthorne feels that, overall, the Gomezes have treated the children well, and, in his opinion, Maria is safe living with the family.</p>
09/16/14	T/C	<p>Telephone call to Gloria Esteban, Javier's paternal aunt. She said that she wouldn't be able to have him live with her because she already has six children and simply doesn't have room or the ability to care for another child. She said she's aware that the Gomez family is having problems with Javier being gay. She agrees with them, but she does care for Javier. She'd like to stay in touch with him and know how he's doing. I told her she'd be invited to a family team meeting, which will happen soon.</p>
09/16/14	Email	<p>Email to resource home unit to ask that an application to become a foster parent be sent to Ms. Lopez ASAP. I explained that the application needed to be expedited when returned, as it concerned a specific child who is already in her home on a provisional basis.</p>
09/16/14	T/C	<p>Call from Suzanna Cardenas, Javier's maternal grandmother, in response to a message left. I explained that Javier was now in agency custody and living with a family friend on what might be a temporary basis. Ms. Cardenas was aware of the situation. She said she wouldn't be able to have Javier live with her because of severe health problems, but she would like to stay in touch and have visits. She asked if it would be okay for her to phone him, and I told her it would be.</p>
09/16/14	T/C	<p>I called the school to let them know that Javier is in the custody of the agency after he sustained a physical injury, but that there should be no interruption in classes for him as he's placed with a family friend who lives in the area. I asked about Javier's school performance and was told he's a B and C student who's especially interested in drama. He's generally liked by his teachers and is a cooperative student. I said that the case would be transferred to a foster care worker soon, but asked that the agency be notified if there are any issues with Javier's attendance or performance.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
09/16/14	T/C	<p>I phoned Lana Trujillo, Mrs. Gomez's sister, to tell her about the situation with Javier and asked if she might be a placement resource for him. While she thinks he's a fine boy, she knows about the Gomez family's issues with him and doesn't want to get involved. She would like to stay in contact with Javier, though, as "family is family." I then called Jon Maynard. He's a long-haul truck driver who lives alone, so couldn't take care of a teenage child. He's very fond of Javier, though, and asked me to keep him informed.</p>
09/16/14	T/C	<p>Telephone call to the Gomez home. Spoke with Mrs. Gomez to ask about relatives who might be a resource for Javier. She (reluctantly) gave me the name of her sister, Lana Trujillo, and a paternal aunt, Gloria Esteban, as well as contact information for them both. She also said I might contact her husband's brother, Jon Maynard. She also gave me the name of her mother, Suzanna Cardenas. She said they don't have a large extended family, and she has no one else to suggest.</p> <p>I asked Mrs. Gomez if she could provide me with names of at least two people who know them fairly well and could provide information about their home. I explained that this was a routine part of any agency investigation.</p> <p>She suggested that I contact a couple of neighbors, Sam Hawthorne and Lydia Johnson.</p> <p>I also explained that an ex parte court hearing would be held this afternoon. If the agency is given custody of Javier, a full hearing will be scheduled within 14 days. She and her husband will receive notice of that hearing. Also explained that a family team meeting will be held, probably before the 14-day hearing, where we'll begin to plan together how to move forward and best meet Javier's needs.</p>
09/16/14	Legal Staffing	<p>Spoke with agency legal staff and provided affidavit giving pertinent case information for the ex parte court hearing which will occur late afternoon today.</p>
09/16/14	T/C	<p>Call to Ms. Lopez to tell her the fictive kin assessment had been approved. She said the night with Javier went well. They talked about what had happened and how he feels about being in the Gomez home. He said the family began rejecting him when they started suspecting that he might be gay. They had arranged for him to attend counseling sessions through their church, and he refused to go anymore. Then last night he tried to leave with his friends against his uncle's wishes. This started the argument with Mr. Gomez. Ms. Lopez added that she had "no issues with Javier's sexuality." She said that "times have changed, and it's too bad his aunt and uncle can't accept that." She added that she was happy to help Javier out as long as she could.</p>

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
09/16/14	Supervisory Staffing	Met with my supervisor, James Roberts, and filled him in on the case. He gave final approval to the initial fictive kin assessment of Ms. Lopez.
09/16/14	T/C	Call to the Lopez home. Javier answered—Ms. Lopez was at work. He'll stay home from school today because of his eye, but will go to classes tomorrow if he feels well enough. Ms. Lopez notified the school. Javier said he's doing okay—he and Ms. Lopez had a good talk this morning. He hopes he can see his sister soon.
09/15/14	H/V	<p>Javier and I went to the home of Ms. Lopez at 783 5th Street, Apt. 302, in Hopewood. She greeted Javier warmly and showed him his bedroom. I did a walk-through of the home. The apartment is a small two-bedroom in a middle- class neighborhood. It was appropriately furnished and was neat and orderly. I spent some time speaking with Ms. Lopez to get information for the fictive kin assessment—all appeared satisfactory. Ms. Lopez has known Javier most of his life and feels he's a good boy who's going through identity struggles right now.</p> <p>I asked her if she'd be willing to go through the process to be licensed as a foster parent, and she said that she would if Javier wants to stay, and she remains in Hopewood. She's applied for a job across the state and will be moving if she's selected for the position. However, she said if things work out with Javier, he's welcome to come with her if he wants. I told her she'd be receiving paperwork to complete to start the licensing process, and she said she'd be able to attend evening training classes. I checked on Javier before I left. His eye is continuing to swell, but he said he wasn't in much pain. He seemed very tired, so I told him I'd see him again in a day or two. I reminded him to use the ointment, apply ice, and take the acetaminophen; Ms. Lopez said she'd see that he did. I asked Javier if he had any Native American heritage, and he said that he did not.</p>
09/15/14	T/C	Called Ms. McCall, after-hours administrator, again. She's in agreement that Javier can be placed with Ms. Lopez, pending a walk-through of the home and how the initial fictive kin assessment looks.
09/15/14	O/V	Javier went with me to the office where a state criminal history check and abuse/neglect inquiry were run on Ms. Lopez, with negative results. A check was run on Mr. and Mrs. Gomez, and there have been no past abuse/neglect reports on them. I did pull up an old case on Javier's parents, Rosa and Jonathan Diaz, showing that Javier and his sister Maria were removed from their parents in 2005 and placed with Mr. and Mrs. Gomez, who became their guardians (Mrs. Gomez is the maternal aunt of the children, as she is sister to the children's biological father). The primary issue with the biological parents was ongoing substance abuse.

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
09/15/14	H/V	<p>I informed Mr. and Mrs. Gomez that the agency was taking emergency custody of Javier until a court hearing could be held and that the hearing would be within the next 1 or 2 days. They seemed relieved but anxious and said it was for the best. I then spoke with Javier and his sister to tell them that he would be leaving the home, at least for a few days. Javier shrugged and seemed very sad. His sister cried, and I asked Javier to pack some things while I talked to his sister about staying in contact with him.</p> <p>I asked Javier if he had relatives he might be able to stay with, and he said he'd like to stay with a close family friend, Juanita Lopez. He gave me her number, 209-555-1789. Ms. Lopez is the aunt of Javier's good friend, Oliver, who moved out of town a couple of years ago. Oliver comes to town from time to time and stays with Ms. Lopez, and Javier has had several overnights there with Oliver. Ms. Lopez lives in this area, so it would be no problem for Javier to get to school. I phoned Ms. Lopez and explained the situation to her. She said she'd be happy for Javier to stay with her for a while. She added, though, that she might be moving soon across the state to take another job. I told her we'd worry about that later. I said we'd have to run a criminal history and abuse/neglect check on her from the office, and, if those were clear, I'd bring Javier over in about an hour. I asked her if she'd be willing to provide information so I could complete an initial fictive kin assessment of her home while I'm there; I told her it would take about an hour. She said that she would.</p>
09/15/14	T/C	<p>I stepped outside to phone Sarah McCall, the CPS administrator on after-hours call. I told her the case situation. She said she'd speak with Officer Ridgefield and call me back. Ms. McCall called back and said she and the police agreed that there should be an emergency removal of Javier, particularly because Mrs. Gomez did not show the capacity to protect Javier from her husband.</p>

09/15/14 H/V

I was met at the home of Manuel and Lisa Gomez, 1234 Tulip Lane, Hopewood, at 5:30 p.m. by Officer Gary Ridgefield, who had initially responded to the report. Living at the address are Mr. and Mrs. Gomez; their nephew, Javier Diaz, 15; and their niece and Javier's sister, Maria Diaz, 13. Mr. and Mrs. Gomez are legal guardians of the children. Maria had called 911 to report that Mr. Gomez and Javier had been arguing. Mr. Gomez struck Javier with his fist, and Javier was bleeding from an injury to his eye. Javier had tried to defend himself, but he's smaller than their uncle. She called 911 because she was afraid her brother would be hurt even worse. Officers were dispatched to the home immediately. When they saw the situation, they called the CPS Hotline.

When I arrived, Officer Ridgefield told me that he had spoken with all the family members, and they were fairly calm at that point. He said he would stay with me until I felt comfortable with his leaving. Javier, victim, was holding a cloth against his eye, but insisted he wasn't hurt badly, and his vision was fine. I first spoke with him alone. He stated that he and his uncle had been arguing because his uncle doesn't like his lifestyle or his friends. His uncle refused to let Javier go out with them that evening. The argument escalated, Javier tried to leave anyway, and his uncle hit him in the face with his fist. His uncle has struck him before, but this is the first time he's used his fist. Javier stated that Mr. Gomez is not his father, and he didn't want to live there anymore. He was fearful that Mr. Gomez would hurt him again if he stayed.

I spoke briefly, alone, with Javier's sister, Maria, and she said her uncle and aunt don't hit her, and she's not fearful for her safety. She said she's just afraid for her brother, because he stands up to her uncle all the time, and her uncle "flies off the handle" and can lose control. She said that Javier hit Mr. Gomez back and left some marks, but her brother was just trying to defend himself.

I spoke with Mr. and Mrs. Gomez. They corroborated, as they had with the police, what Javier and Maria said had happened. Mr. Gomez now seemed calm, sitting with his face in his hands. He and his wife agreed that Javier probably needed medical attention. Mrs. Gomez agreed to go with Officer Ridgefield and me to a nearby urgent care clinic.

When we arrived at the clinic, Mrs. Gomez checked Javier in, but said she preferred to wait in the lobby while he saw the doctor. Javier saw a physician, Dr. Thompson, right away. The doctor examined Javier's eye (right eye), which was very swollen and beginning to darken. The bleeding had stopped, and the doctor felt that stitches weren't needed for the small cut he had sustained. Javier's vision doesn't appear to have been affected. A full body exam was done, and no further marks, bruises, or injuries were noted. The doctor applied an ointment to the eye and felt it would heal without more treatment. He cautioned,

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
		<p>though, that if the injury didn't appear to be healing properly, Javier should be brought back in or taken to an ophthalmologist.</p> <p>He advised lots of rest for the next couple of days and prescribed medication (antibiotic ointment) to be applied twice daily. He also recommended ice packs for tonight to help with pain and swelling and acetaminophen 3-4 times daily for pain. I took photos of Javier's injury. Dr. Thompson said he was assuming he didn't need to report this incident to the police or CPS since we were already involved, and we told him he was correct.</p> <p>We stopped at a pharmacy and picked up the ointment and acetaminophen. Back at the home, Mr. Gomez was still calm, but seemed shaken. Officer Ridgefield left the home at this point, with my agreement. Javier went to his room.</p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. Gomez stated they've had legal guardianship of Javier and his sister, their maternal nephew and niece, since 2005, and that the two have been "like our own children." Mr. Gomez admitted that he had struck his nephew in anger, but felt justified because he said Javier is getting out of control. He said that he suspects Javier and his friends are "a bunch of homosexuals," and he's not "having that under my roof." He was particularly angry because today Javier said he was quitting therapy that he and his wife had set up to "cure" him and because Javier tried to go out with his friends when Mr. and Mrs. Gomez had forbidden him to.</p> <p>Mr. Gomez said he sometimes hits Javier to keep him in line, but he's never hit him with his fist or injured him before. He said he was sorry for the injury, but both Mr. and Mrs. Gomez repeatedly said Javier had "brought it on himself." Mrs. Gomez said she had asked Mr. Gomez to stop when he hit Javier, but she didn't try to intervene because she felt the punishment was justified. I talked with them about putting a safety plan in place to avoid the agency having to take custody, but they both adamantly said that they wanted Javier to be removed. Mr. Gomez said, "If he's doing the kind of things we think he's doing, he's not welcome here anymore."</p> <p>Maria, Javier's sister, was with her brother in his room. Mr. and Mrs. Gomez said Maria is a "good girl," and they don't have any problems with her. They said she and her brother are close. If Javier leaves, it'll be hard on her, but they feel it's for the best for him to go. Mr. and Mrs. Gomez (together), then Javier (alone) were interviewed further. I completed a risk and safety assessment, and it showed Javier was at high risk and unsafe in the home.</p>
09/15/14	-----	Case of alleged physical abuse of a 15-year-old boy by his caregiver assigned to me at 5:10 p.m. for investigation as a Priority 1.