

Department of Child and Family Services

Investigation Case Notes

Supervisor: Meredith Cummings

Social Worker: Jeffrey Smith

Case Notes

T/C=telephone call

O/V=office visit

H/V=home visit

C/C=collateral contact

Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
4/8/2020	Case Transfer Staffing	My supervisor and I met with Jennifer Cassidy, in-home services worker, and Myra Jennings, in-home services supervisor, to transfer the case. Reviewed the report information and the safety and risk assessments. Jennifer said she would prioritize the follow-up on Layla's medication and scheduling her developmental assessment. She will make a referral for home care assistance and schedule Ms. Morgan for an assessment to get a better understanding of her use of prescription pain medication. Ms. Cassidy will contact Ms. Morgan and arrange for her first visit later this week.
4/7/2020	T/C	Left a message for Ms. Morgan. Told her that Jennifer Cassidy will be her new worker and would be contacting her in the next few days. I told Ms. Morgan that if she didn't hear from Ms. Cassidy by the end of the week, she should call me.
4/6/2020	T/C	I spoke with Ms. Morgan and let her know that her case has been opened for in-home services. I'll call her as soon as I know which worker has been assigned to her in-home case.
4/6/2020	Supervisory Staffing	Met with my supervisor, Meredith Cummings. Reviewed the completed risk and safety assessments and the information collected. Investigation will be substantiated for neglect for all three siblings and medical neglect for Layla. Agency will open the case for voluntary in-home services. Ms. Cummings will schedule a staffing to transfer the case to in-home services.

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4/6/2020	C/C	<p>I met with each of the girl's teachers at the school. Ms. Young and Mr. Allbright, the teachers for Kerry and Jessica said that the girls were doing well academically, and they had no concerns in that area. The teachers each confirmed that the children come to school unkempt and regularly come to school hungry.</p> <p>Layla's teacher, Ms. Terry, shared that Layla has challenges in the classroom. She is careful to watch Layla due to her seizures and tries her best to take Layla to a quiet side of the room so that students do not react when they happen. She stated Layla is shy and has trouble with social interactions. She sometimes will get frustrated and act out. Ms. Terry confirmed that Layla has speech and language therapy twice a week. Ms. Terry said that Layla looks forward to her sessions and pops out of her chair as soon as she sees her therapist at the door. Ms. Terry said she was disappointed Layla's mother has not followed through with the assessment so she can get needed services. Ms. Terry stated she thinks if Layla is assessed, takes her medication regularly, and is provided with supports, she could be a much better student.</p>
4/3/2020	T/C	I spoke with Income Support Division and confirmed that Ms. Morgan receives SNAP and Medicaid services.
4/3/2020	T/C	I spoke with the nurse, Nate Boyer, at Healthy Horizon Pediatric Health Care. Dr. Mavis Grant is the pediatrician for the girls. All three girls' immunizations are up to date. Records show the immunizations were administered at school. The girls are due for annual physicals. Layla has not been seen at the clinic since 5/14/2019, when she was prescribed Lamotrigine for seizures. They were not aware that Layla was not taking her medication as prescribed or that the school had recommended a developmental assessment for Layla.

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4/3/2020	T/C	<p>I contacted Kristen Gershorn, the counselor at Jacksonville Elementary School who had made the report. Ms. Gershorn stated that Layla Morgan was recommended for a developmental assessment several months ago due to behavioral challenges in the classroom. Ms. Morgan seemed on board with following through at the time of their initial meeting but has not done so. Layla also suffers from a seizure disorder and does not take her medication reliably. Ms. Morgan has missed recent school conferences to discuss Layla's performance and behavior.</p> <p>Ms. Gershorn shared that the teacher has observed that Layla doesn't have good relationships with her peers, and sometimes she has to stop kids from teasing Layla. The counselor stated that Layla's two sisters also attend school. More recently, all three regularly come to school hungry, and their personal hygiene has gotten worse. The girls ask classmates for food at the cafeteria on a daily basis. This is a subject of teasing, and those on cafeteria duty have intervened. Recently, Kerry Morgan told a friend that her mother uses drugs and sometimes leaves her alone with her sisters at night. I told Ms. Gershorn that I would be stopping by the school on Monday and would like her assistance in arranging for me to meet with the girl's teachers. Ms. Gershorn said I should come by during morning recess, and she would have the teachers available.</p>

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4/3/2020	H/V	<p>I responded to the investigation at the Morgan home at 1245 Daniel Coving Lane, Jacksonville, Mock State, at 4 p.m. Kerry Morgan (age 10) answered the door and told Layla Morgan (age 8) to get their mother, Ms. Janet Morgan (age 29). Ms. Morgan appeared to have been asleep. She appeared disoriented and disheveled, and I heard her ask Layla what time it was. Ms. Morgan stated she is on pain medication for a back injury that happened a few years ago. She said the medication makes her sleepy. She had difficulty responding to basic questions. All three children, including Jessica Morgan (age 5), were in the home. Kerry seemed comfortable answering my questions and taking care of her sisters. All three children were wearing dirty, wrinkled clothing. Jessica's hair was uncombed and matted. Whenever I asked a question, Kerry, rather than Ms. Morgan, answered. The younger children looked at Kerry before answering my questions.</p> <p>There were dirty dishes covering the kitchen counter and table. Mother sat on the couch, and Kerry took her a pack of cigarettes and lighter. I asked the children if they had an after-school snack. Kerry shared that she brought home extra pudding cups from school for her and her sisters and that after school she made bologna sandwiches for the three of them. She opened the refrigerator to show me there was a half-gallon of milk, a loaf of bread, eggs, bologna, and condiments in the refrigerator. She also showed me that they had canned soups and fruit cups in a cupboard. Ms. Morgan said they are on assistance, and she needs to go food shopping.</p> <p>I saw dirty clothes piled throughout the house. Kerry said that their washer broke about a month ago, and her mother didn't have money to get it fixed. Ms. Morgan said that she didn't know when she would have some extra money to get it looked at and that she hasn't been able to get to the laundromat as her back injury makes it really difficult to carry the full laundry baskets. The girls showed me the bedroom they share. There were blankets and pillows but no sheets on the beds. The mattresses were on the floor and badly stained. Extension cords were on the floor connected to one another throughout the house, and there were holes in the walls with electrical wiring exposed. During my visit, there were two interruptions at the door. Kerry answered, and, both times, Ms. Morgan told her, "Those are people we don't know, wrong address, send them away."</p>
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4/3/2020 Continued	H/V	<p>I asked how the girls were doing in school. Kerry answered the questions, and Ms. Morgan added information. Kerry shared that the girls all do OK in school and have friends, except Layla, whom some kids like to tease. Kerry said their progress reports had Bs and Cs. Ms. Morgan said the school thinks Layla is delayed, and they want to have her assessed. She said she “just hasn’t gotten around” to making the appointment.</p> <p>Ms. Morgan reported that Layla was diagnosed with petit mal seizures, a form of epilepsy, last year. She was on a medication called Lamotrigine, but she stopped giving it to Layla because Layla would get too sleepy. Kerry stated that Layla blanks out for a minute and then “comes back.” Ms. Morgan said that last year, the school said Layla needed speech and language therapy and that Layla receives it twice a week at school. Ms. Morgan then asked Layla if she still goes for her therapies. Layla nodded yes and added that she likes it when they call her out of class for speech.</p> <p>I asked about the girls’ father. Ms. Morgan said that Jessica’s father, Justin Rogers, has been in prison for the last couple of years, and Layla and Kerry’s father, Raymond Capa, left the family when Layla was an infant. Ms. Morgan said their fathers haven’t been a dad to the girls. She went to Child Support for help, and they mail her a check for Layla and Kerry whenever Mr. Capa is working and can pay. Besides the occasional child support check, Ms. Morgan is on disability as a result of the back injury. She said she was working at a diner and slipped and fell on a greasy floor. She also receives SNAP, and the children have Medicaid and are seen at Healthy Horizon Pediatric Health Care. Ms. Morgan said that she has a couple of friends that help her out but did not provide any names. She said she doesn’t get along with her mother and sister and said she preferred to leave them out of this.</p> <p>I explained in-home services to Ms. Morgan and asked if she’d be willing to participate. Ms. Morgan said she could use some help.</p>
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Date of Contact	Type of Contact	Notes
4/2/2020	-----	Priority 2 report assigned to Jeffrey Smith for investigation. Alleged neglect of three girls by their mother.