

## Permanency Hearing Report to Court

June 10, 2016

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### Case Summary

Janet Morgan is a single, 31-year-old, Caucasian female. She has three biological children: Kerry Morgan, age 11; Layla Morgan, age 9; and Jessica Morgan, age 7. Kerry and Layla's father is Raymond Capa, age 33. Ms. Morgan and Mr. Capa were never married. Mr. Capa suffers from a mental illness and has struggled with substance abuse. Mr. Capa had not been involved in his daughters' lives since 2008. He has provided child support when he is working. Jessica's father is Justin Rogers, age 35. In 2013, Mr. Rogers was sentenced to prison for dealing drugs. He is scheduled for release in 3 years. Ms. Morgan and Mr. Rogers were never married. Mr. Rogers had not been involved in his daughter's life since his incarceration.

Ms. Morgan is estranged from her older sister and mother and appears to have no support system. Ms. Morgan denies a history of child abuse or domestic violence. She denies the use of drugs prior to a work accident that resulted in a back injury.

The Morgan family first came to the attention of the Department on April 2, 2015, for a report of child neglect. It was reported that Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan attended school unkempt and hungry. The school recommended a developmental assessment for Layla 4 months prior to the date of the report, and Ms. Morgan had not followed through. Additionally, Layla suffers from a seizure disorder and was not taking her medication reliably. Ms. Morgan said she was using prescription medication to manage her back pain. The physical home environment was unsanitary and presented some environmental hazards, including exposed wiring. This report was substantiated for neglect, and Ms. Morgan agreed to voluntary in-home services. This intervention was largely successful, and the case was proceeding to closure at the time of a second report.

A second report was received in the evening of July 14, 2015. Law enforcement called the Department to request emergency response to the Morgan home. Two men were fighting in front of the home wielding knives and yelling. Kerry and Layla were in the front yard witnessing the altercation. Ms. Morgan was incoherent inside the home. Police found several bottles of oxycodone with prescription labels belonging to others and a small amount of a substance believed to be heroin. The Department substantiated physical neglect and took emergency custody of the three girls. Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan were placed in foster care after determining the family friend specified in a previous safety plan was unable to provide care for the girls.

At the time that the children entered foster care, Ms. Morgan was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and child endangerment. She was released on bond. She failed to attend her criminal court hearing, and a warrant was issued for her arrest. Ms. Morgan absconded from the area and did not provide the Department with contact information.

Ms. Morgan contacted the Department on December 1, 2015. She said she was picked up on the bench warrant and sentenced to an inpatient treatment facility for assessment and treatment. The Department learned that, if Ms. Morgan did not successfully complete the program, she will have to serve a 12-month sentence. The Department arranged to transport the children to the treatment facility for weekly supervised visitation. Ms. Morgan successfully completed the program and was discharged at the end of February. Ms. Morgan shared an apartment with another woman who successfully completed the

program. She remained on 6-month probation and is required to participate in random drug testing, individual counseling, and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings. The Department arranged for Ms. Morgan to have visitation with her children. Visitation was progressing and had moved to unsupervised visits. Ms. Morgan failed to show for a visit with the girls at the end of April. On May 5, 2016, the Department learned from Ms. Morgan's roommate that Ms. Morgan began using again and has moved out leaving no forwarding information. The Department contacted Adult Probation, which h agreed to notify the Department if Ms. Morgan was located.

Mr. Capa continued to struggle with addiction. However, as of the writing of this report, he has been sober 3 months. He continues in individual therapy with Mr. Dennis Youngblood. Mr. Capa resides on the Mock Tribe with his mother. He is caring for his mother as she undergoes cancer treatment.

Justin Rogers continues to be incarcerated. The Department has continued to support Mr. Rogers' relationship with Jessica through written correspondence and telephone calls. In addition, the Department has been forwarding copies of Jessica's report cards to Mr. Rogers.

### **Reason(s) for Continued Removal From Home:**

The children were removed on an emergency basis as there was no parent available to execute their parental responsibilities. Neither Ms. Morgan nor Mr. Capa are in a position where they can assume full-time parenting responsibilities for the children as they are addressing substance abuse and/or mental health issues. We cannot currently locate Ms. Morgan. Neither parent has a safe and stable living environment that could accommodate children. Mr. Rogers continues to be incarcerated.

### **Children's Perception of Situation:**

Kerry, Layla, and Jessica are again concerned and disappointed that their mother is gone. The children, given their developmental level, have each been able to discuss their understanding of their mother's need for help. Kerry Morgan and Layla Morgan are expressing their anger at her mother and not trusting that her mother will follow up with her treatment needs. Kerry and Layla Morgan are no longer expressing the desire not to visit with Mr. Capa. Layla Morgan is receptive to the idea of re-establishing a relationship with her father but continued to want reassurances that she would not have to live with him. Jessica Morgan looks forward to receiving letters from her father and speaking with him by telephone.

### **Child(ren) Information**

#### **Physical Health**

Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan are all in good general health. The children are up to date on their immunizations. The children have no unmet physical health, including vision and dental, needs at this time. Layla Morgan is consistently taking her seizure medication. Administration is being monitored by the Department through the foster parents.

#### **Mental/Behavioral Health**

Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan continue in family therapy sessions every other week. Layla Morgan's behavior has continued to improve to the degree that she no longer met level-of-care criteria for therapeutic foster care and was discharged from the program at the end of May 2016.

#### **Education**

Children performed well in school and advanced to the next grade level. Layla Morgan received special education services through the school. At her next IEP, she will be re-assessed to determine if she still requires services.

## **Social/Emotional Development**

Kerry and Jessica Morgan appear to be developmentally on target. The children have been described as outgoing. They have appropriate relationships with adults and peers. Layla Morgan has made significant strides in this area. The Supporting Healthy Families' behavior management specialist was able to discontinue her work with Layla Morgan prior to the end of the school year. She has made friends at her school and at her gymnastic classes. By reports, the teasing and bullying she experienced at her previous school is not occurring at her new school.

## **Placement**

### **Relative as Placement Resource**

The Department submitted a request for an ICPC home study for Patricia Peppers, maternal aunt, in October 2015. However, as of the writing of this report, there has been no follow-up from the receiving state.

### **Description of Current Placement**

#### **Placement Type and Description:**

Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan are placed in the licensed family foster home of Helen and Mary Valencia. The placement provides the least restrictive placement option. The foster care placement is considered stable. Helen and Mary Valencia have expressed interest in adopting all three girls.

#### **Needs of Foster Parents:**

The foster parents have been provided with known background information on Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan. They have also been provided with Medicaid cards to secure health care services for the girls and with the name of their primary care provider. Foster parents will receive monthly foster care maintenance.

## **Visitation**

Ms. Morgan was participating in unsupervised visitation prior to her disappearance. Conditions of visitation will be reassessed when and if Ms. Morgan resurfaces. Mr. Capa has not desired visitation with Kerry Morgan and Layla Morgan at this time. As Mr. Rogers is incarcerated, there is no face-to-face visitation between Mr. Rogers and his daughter. Mr. Rogers has been writing to Jessica, and the two talk by phone.

## **Safety and Risk Assessment**

Safety threats include:

- No adult in the home is performing basic parenting duties and responsibilities that assure child safety.
- One or both parents/caregivers will not/cannot control their behavior.
- The family does not have or use resources necessary to assure child's safety.
- One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, or motivation necessary to assure a child's safety.
- Living arrangements seriously endanger a child's physical health.

**Risk level: Very High**

**Permanency Plan**

Adoption

Signatures		
Foster Care Worker: Brooke Tillman	<i>Brooke Tillman</i>	Date: 06/6/2016
Foster Care Supervisor: Robin White	<i>Robin White</i>	Date: 06/6/2016