

SAMPLE ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION STATEMENTS

Family Reunification Status Review

Twin girls, April and Amy Welch, age 2, are under the protection of the juvenile court in relative care as a result of their mother, Kim Welch's, inability to provide for their basic needs for food, supervision, and medical care due to complicating factors of substance misuse and symptoms of depression due to childhood trauma; and their father, Don Simmons', absence from the household due to a lengthy incarceration.

At the time of the disposition hearing, Ms. Welch's household was assessed at high risk for future system involvement due to prior history of child welfare involvement, unsafe housing, caregiver substance misuse, and presence of a caregiver mental health condition.

The court-ordered case plan included the following goal statement, developed with Ms. Welch and her network.

April and Amy will always be taken care of by a safe, sober, and responsible adult who cares for and supervises them at all times and always meets their basic needs.

Priority needs to be addressed in order for the children to be reunified to the care of Ms. Welch included difficulty in coping with the effects of childhood trauma and substance misuse. Behavioral objectives included in the case plan to achieve this goal were as follows.

Kim will be able to show everyone that she can recognize and safely manage her reactions from her own childhood experiences so she can be available to care for and supervise April and Amy. She will show everyone that when she becomes overwhelmed by memories and feelings from her own experiences, she can get help from another safe adult to care for her girls.

Kim will be able to show everyone that she can stay clean and sober and use her recovery skills to manage daily stresses so that she is physically and emotionally available and able to parent Amy and April. She will show everyone that she can and will use a plan for safe care of her girls if she ever experiences a relapse.

In considering a recommendation to reunify, the undersigned considered:

- How progress in demonstrating these new behaviors has affected household safety and risk levels;
- Frequency and quality of participation in progressive visitation; and
- Current safety conditions in the household.

During the review period, Ms. Welch consistently demonstrated her ability to establish her recovery and use her recovery support network and to recognize and manage trauma reactions that she recognizes make her vulnerable to relapse, as described in the "Service Compliance" section of this report. She has worked hard to widen her family's support network to include family members and two friends she has met in her 12-step meetings.

She consistently participated in visitation and was successful in progressing visits to unsupervised, in-home, and overnight during the period using the support of her network to monitor and support her daughters' safety, as detailed in the Visitation section of this report. There were no new incidents of neglect during these visits.

Household conditions in Ms. Welch's home were assessed to be safe, based upon her consistent care of her children during home visits, during which unannounced safety checks by the agency and network members occurred. No new safety concerns have been observed in the home (as detailed in the Child Safety in the Home section of this report), and network members have expressed and demonstrated their commitment to continuing their support role once the children have returned home.

As a result, it is recommended that the children, Amy and April, be returned to the care and custody of their mother, Kim Welch, and that Family Maintenance services be provided as outlined in the attached case plan update.

Family Maintenance Status Review

Twin girls, April and Amy Welch, age 2, are under the protection of the juvenile court in Family Maintenance as a result of their mother, Kim Welch's, inability to provide for their basic needs for food, supervision, and medical care due to complicating factors of substance misuse and symptoms of depression due to childhood trauma; and their father, Don Simmons', absence from the household due to a lengthy incarceration.

At the time of the Family Reunification status review hearing, Ms. Welch's household was assessed to be at moderate risk, based on prior child welfare system history and household safety (all identified safety threats in the household had been resolved).

The court-ordered case plan included the following goal statement, developed with Ms. Welch and her network.

April and Amy will always be taken care of by a safe, sober, and responsible adult who cares for and supervises them at all times and always meets their basic needs.

Priority needs to be addressed in order for child welfare services to recommend case closure include her ability to demonstrate continued stability in coping with the effects of childhood trauma and substance misuse. Behavioral objectives included in the case plan to achieve this goal were the following.

Kim will be able to show everyone that she can recognize and safely manage her reactions from her own childhood experiences so she can be available to provide care and supervision for Amy and April. She will show everyone that when she becomes overwhelmed by memories and feelings from her own experiences, she can get help from another safe adult to care for her girls.

Kim will be able to show everyone that she can stay clean and sober and use her recovery skills to manage daily stresses so that she is physically and emotionally available and able to parent Amy and April. She will show everyone that she can and will use a plan for safe care of her girls if she ever experiences a relapse.

In considering a recommendation for case closure, the undersigned considered:

- How progress in demonstrating these new behaviors has affected household risk levels and care of the children;
- Whether there were any new investigations of child abuse or neglect; and
- Current safety conditions in the household.

During the review period, Ms. Welch consistently demonstrated her ability to use her growing recovery skills and recovery support network and to recognize and manage trauma reactions that she recognizes make her vulnerable to relapse, as described in the "Service Compliance" section of this report. She has worked hard to widen her family's support network to include family members and two friends she has met in her 12-step meetings. There were no new reports of neglect during the service period.

Household conditions in Ms. Welch's home continued to be assessed as safe, based upon her consistent care of her children. The undersigned and Ms. Welch's support network continued unannounced safety checks, and no new safety concerns have been observed in the home (as detailed in the "Child Safety in the Home" section of this report). The family's network members have expressed their commitment to continuing their support role as part of a family aftercare plan.

As a result, it is recommended that the petition filed on behalf of the children, Amy and April, be dismissed at this time.