

GUARDIAN AD LITEM INVESTIGATION REPORT (MONITORING REPORT)

PREPARED BY: OLIVIA POPE, GUARDIAN AD LITEM

JANUARY 12, 2010

CHILD: EL DOE	FILE # @ 106123	AGE: 7 YEARS OLD	DOB: 11-7-02
CHILD: EMILY DOE	FILE # @ 106124	AGE: 9 YEARS OLD	DOB: 9-04-00
CHILD: DERRICK LUKE	FILE # @ 106125	AGE: 2 YEARS OLD	DOB: 9-3-07
CHILD: JUSTIN DOE	FILE # @ 114126	AGE: 10 MONTHS OLD	DOB: 2-27-09

CASE MANAGER: SARA SMITH **TELEPHONE:** (404) 273-7000 (CELL)/ (404) 370-0000 (OFFICE)

PLACEMENT:

(EMILY, EL, AND DERRICK) DANDY SHOATS (FOSTER PARENT) / 5774 DORIAN COURT, LITHONIA, GA 30058/ (671) 222-9

(JUSTIN DOE) DAVID DOE AND JANNETTE DOE (BIOLOGICAL PARENTS)/ 4133 CHURCH STREET, CLARKSTON, GA/ (678) 599-9000 (BF CELL)/ (678) 599-4000 (HOME)

CASE SUMMARY: CHILDREN CAME INTO THE CUSTODY OF DFCS AS A RESULT OF BEING LEFT UNSUPERVISED. WHEN POLICE ARRIVED AT THE SCENE THEY DISCOVERED THAT THE CHILDREN HAD NO ADULT SUPERVISION. ADDITIONALLY, THERE WAS BROKEN GLASS ON THE FLOOR AND INEDIBLE FOOD IN THE REFRIGERATOR. THE GIRLS SUBSEQUENTLY MADE ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE. IN FEBRUARY 2009, JUSTIN WAS BORN. THE DEPARTMENT ASSESSED THE MOTHER'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE CARE FOR THE NEWBORN AND SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED THAT JUSTIN BE REMOVED FROM THE MOTHER'S CARE AS WELL. JUSTIN WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PLACED IN FOSTER CARE. JUSTIN WAS RETURNED TO HIS PARENT'S CUSTODY AND CARE IN NOVEMBER 2010.

RESOURCES: ALL OF THE CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING MEDIGALD. DERRICK AND JUSTIN RECEIVE WIC. EL AND EMILY ARE RECEIVING COUNSELING FROM PSYCHOLOGIST, DR. LEIGH ECHOLS, TWO TIMES PER MONTH. IN ADDITION, THEY SEE A THERAPIST FROM GENESIS ONCE WEEKLY. FAMILY THERAPY RECENTLY ENDED, WITHOUT RESOLUTION OF THERAPEUTIC ISSUES, BECAUSE OF A CONTRACT ISSUE BETWEEN THE PROVIDER AND THE DEPARTMENT. THE CM, SARA SMITH, IS WORKING TO RESOLVE THE CONTRACT ISSUE SO THAT THE FAMILY CAN RESUME AND COMPLETE THE RECOMMENDED THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION. FAMILY SESSIONS TAKE PLACE DURING THE CHILDREN'S WEEKLY VISITS AT THE MOTHER'S HOME. CASE MANAGER, SARA SMITH, CONSISTENTLY VISITS THE CHILDREN TWO TIMES PER MONTH. ONE VISIT TAKES PLACE DURING THE CHILDREN'S WEEKLY VISITS AT THE MOTHER'S HOME.

PLACEMENT/CUSTODY: EMILY, EL, AND DERRICK ARE IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF DEKALB COUNTY DFACS AND ARE PLACED IN AGENCY APPROVED FOSTER HOMES. JUSTIN REMAINS IN THE CUSTODY AND CARE OF THE MOTHER. EMILY, EL, AND DERRICK ARE PLACED TOGETHER. THEY HAVE BEEN IN THEIR CURRENT PLACEMENT SINCE DECEMBER 2008. THE FOSTER PARENT REPORTED THAT OVERALL, THE CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR HAS IMPROVED AND ATTRIBUTES THIS TO THE COUNSELING INTERVENTION.

THIS GAL CONDUCTED A HOME VISIT WITH THE CHILDREN AND THE FOSTER PARENT. THE CHILDREN APPEARED TO BE PHYSICALLY HEALTHY AND HAPPY. THE CHILDREN WERE OBSERVED PLAYING TOGETHER. EMILY AND EL REPORTED THAT THEY LIKE THEIR PLACEMENT, BUT WOULD LIKE TO GO HOME AND LIVE WITH THEIR MOTHER. EL EXPRESSED

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FRUSTRATION THAT JUSTIN WAS ALLOWED TO GO HOME, WHILE SHE WAS REQUIRED TO REMAIN IN CARE. EMILY INDICATED THAT SHE DOESN'T LIKE HER MOTHER'S BOYFRIEND, DAVID, "BECAUSE HE IS A LIAR." THE GAL WAS TOLD BY THE FOSTER PARENT THAT DURING A RECENT HOME VISIT, THE MOTHER'S BOYFRIEND AND EMILY HAVE A VERBAL ALTERCATION. WHEN THE FOSTER PARENT PICKED THE CHILDREN UP FROM THE VISIT, SHE REPORTED WITNESSING THE MOTHER'S BOYFRIEND "YELLING" AT EMILY. THE FOSTER PARENT EXPRESSED HER CONCERNS WITH THE CASE MANAGER, SARA SMITH.

JUSTIN RETURNED HOME IN NOVEMBER 2010. MS. SMITH REPORTED THAT SHE HAS SEEN JUSTIN SEVERAL TIMES SINCE HE RETURNED HOME. HE IS DOING WELL IN THE HOME AND MS. SMITH DOES NOT HAVE CONCERNS REGARDING HIS WELL BEING. THE GAL ATTEMPTED TO REACH MR. DOE, BUT HE DID NOT MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE.

EDUCATION: DERRICK IS NOT SCHOOL-AGED. HE STAYS AT HOME WITH THE FOSTER PARENT DURING THE DAY. EL IS ENROLLED IN THE 1ST GRADE AND EMILY IS ENROLLED IN THE 3RD GRADE. BOTH ATTEND REDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THE CHILDREN ARE DOING WELL ACADEMICALLY IN SCHOOL. HOWEVER, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, MITTY MING REPORTS THAT EL CONTINUES TO EXHIBIT DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR IN CLASS AND HAS ALLEGEDLY STOLEN ITEMS FROM HER CLASSMATES. NO FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION OR SPECIFIC INTERVENTION HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED IN RESPONSE TO THESE REPORTED BEHAVIORS.

JUSTIN ATTENDS KID'S WORLD DAY CARE IN CLARKSTON, GA. THE GAL CONDUCTED A DAY CARE VISIT IN ORDER TO OBSERVE THE CHILD AND INTERVIEW THE PROGRAM PROVIDERS. JUSTIN'S TEACHER REPORTED THAT HE IS A VERY HAPPY BABY AND DOES NOT EXHIBIT AND DEVELOPMENT OR HEALTH CONCERNS. SHE INDICATED THAT HE ATTENDS DAY CARE DAILY AND APPEARS TO BE WELL CARED FOR.

MEDICAL: NONE OF THE CHILDREN HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL CONCERNS. ACCORDING TO THE CASEMANAGER AND FOSTER PARENT ALL OF THE CHILDREN ARE CURRENT WITH VACCINATIONS. THE CHILDREN ARE DEVELOPMENTALLY ON TRACK. BOTH DERRICK AND JUSTIN HAVE HAD BABIES CAN'T WAIT ASSESSMENTS. SERVICES WERE NOT RECOMMENDED.

PSYCHOLOGICAL/MENTAL HEALTH: EL AND EMILY HAVE THERAPY TWICE A MONTH WITH PSYCHOLOGIST, DR. ECHOLS. THEY ALSO SEE A GENESIS THERAPIST WEEKLY. THE FOSTER PARENT BELIEVES THAT THE THERAPY IS BEGINNING TO HELP WITH THE CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR. NEITHER EL NOR EMILY HAVE BEEN EXHIBITING ANY INNAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR.

IN SEPTEMBER 2009, THE CHILDREN AND PARENTS BEGAN PARTICIPATING IN FAMILY THERAPY. HOWEVER, DUE TO A CONTRACT PROBLEM BETWEEN THE PROVIDER AND DFCS, SERVICES WERE DISCONTINUED IN EARLY DECEMBER 2009. MS. SMITH REPORTED THAT SHE IS WORKING TO RECONCILE THE ISSUE AND ANTICIPATES THAT FAMILY THERAPY WILL RESUME WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS.

PARENT/GUARDIAN: THE MOTHER HAS COMPLETED HER CASE PLAN. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY HESITANT ABOUT RETURNING THE OTHER CHILDREN TO THE MOTHER'S CARE. MS. SMITH REPORTED THAT ONCE THE FAMILY THERAPY ENDED, VISITS IN THE MOTHER'S HOME BEGAN TO HAVE SOME CHALLENGES WITH BEHAVIOR AND APPROPRIATE PARENTAL RESPONSE. SHE EXPLAINED THAT EMILY DOES NOT GET ALONG

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WITH DAVID, MOTHER'S BOYFRIEND. IN ADDITION, SHE THINKS THAT THE FAMILY THERAPY WILL HELP THE MOTHER TO PREPARE TO ADEQUATELY PARENT ALL FOUR CHILDREN. SINCE THE VISITS BEGAN TO "BECOME STRAINED" ACCORDING TO MS. SMITH, THE DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO CHANGE THE WEEKEND UNSUPERVISED VISITS TO WEEKLY UNSUPERVISED DAY VISITS AT THE HOME. THIS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE FAMILY THERAPY CONTINUES. MS. SMITH IS HOPEFUL THAT THE SERVICES WILL RESUME AND THE FAMILY WILL BE READY TO REUNITE WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

-NO CONCERNS AT THIS TIME

-ONCE THE FAMILY THERAPY ENDED IN EARLY DECEMBER 2009, THE VISITS BEGAN TO BECOME STRAINED, ACCORDING TO THE CM. THE DEPARTMENT IS HOPEFUL THAT ONCE THE FAMILY THERAPY CONTINUES, THE CHILDREN CAN BEGIN TO TRANSITION HOME WITHIN A FEW MONTHS.

-SINCE THE VISITS HAVE NOT BEEN GOING WELL WITHOUT THE FAMILY THERAPY, THE VISITATION SCHEDULE HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM UNSUPERVISED WEEKEND VISITS TO UNSUPERVISED DAY VISITS. A THERAPIST SHOULD BE RE-ENGAGED IN ORDER TO STABILIZE THE FAMILY AND FACILITATE THE REINSTITUTION OF WEEKEND VISITS.

-JUSTIN'S DAY CARE:

KID'S UNIVERSE

1000 SOUTH FARM CREEK DRIVE

CLARKSTON, GA 30021

(404) 292-9550

-GAL POPE EXPLAINED THE ROLES OF THE GAL TO EMILY AND EL. DERRICK AND JUSTIN ARE TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLES OF THE GAL.