

Investigative Assessment (Gathering Questions Tab)

Family consists of the Mother, Elizabeth Calhoun age 28

 Father, Fred Calhoun age 33

 Sherrie's Bio father, Harry Goodman age 29

 Daughter, Sherrie Goodman age 5

 Son, Bobby Calhoun age 3

 Daughter, Tabatha Calhoun age 2

Family Developmental Stages: Blended family, early school age, Pre-school.

Information Required to Assess Child Safety:

Describe the Nature and Extent of Maltreatment. Include the type, severity and frequency of the maltreating behavior and the immediate effects on the child(ren). Include collateral and witnesses description of the threat to safety and maltreatment.

Intake was called by law enforcement stating they had placed the children into protective custody. A neighbor had called 911 after hearing loud crying from the apartment. They said the children were crying for at least an hour and that they got no response when they knocked on the door. When the police arrived they found the children alone. The parents arrived shortly after and were visibly intoxicated. The neighbor reported that the children were left alone "all the time" and that often when the parents were home there was a lot of traffic in and out of the apartment.

There are two prior intakes with similar concerns (care of the children and adequate supervision related to substance use). One was received ten months ago and one three months ago. Neither resulted in ongoing involvement with the family.

Sequence of Events: What surrounding circumstances accompany the maltreatment. Provide a description of what led up to the incident. This is the how and why of the current maltreatment.

Parents reported they had only left the children alone for a few minutes to go to the store to get the children milk. The officer noted they did not have any milk upon their return. They state this is the only time they have left the children alone. The Neighbors informed this Social Worker that the oldest two children have been seen wandering in the halls.

When the parents were asked about the sequence of events they reiterated numerous times that they had only left the apartment a few minutes before the police arrived to get milk. When this worker attempted to inquire about how they supervise their children, they repeatedly stated this was the only time they had left the children alone.

More information will need gathered on the sequence of events around this incident.

Describe how the child(ren) function on a daily basis. Describe the child(ren's) general behavior and physical capacity. Include the chid(ren's): capacity for attachment, role within the family, developmental functioning, mental health, past victimization/trauma and functioning within cultural norms.

Sherrie started Kindergarten two months ago at Westside Elementary school. Sherrie's teacher has stated Sherrie is a little behind the other children but that more time is needed to assess her development. Sherrie did not attend pre-school. Sherrie's attendance has been sporadic and she is late often. Much of the time she looks tired and unkempt. The teacher has concerns about her ability to focus and stay on task compared to the other children her age. The teacher has made a couple of attempts to contact the parents but has not received any response.

The other children do not attend any out of home care so little is known about their functioning other that the parents report. Both Elizabeth and Fred state the children are "perfectly normal". The maternal grandparents have many concerns about the children's development and were especially worried about Bobby still being in dippers.

The initial health screen did not find any medical concerns for any of the children. A CHET screen is currently underway. A well child exam and dental exam will need to schedule within the next two weeks.

Describe how each parent/caregiver disciplines the child(ren). What is the manner in which caregivers approach discipline and child guidance? Remember that discipline is considered as how, when and for what the caregiver disciplines the children.

They say they use time out. The parents report they don't need to use much discipline as "they are good kids".

What are the overall parenting/childcare practices used by the caregiver? Include reason for being a caregiver, satisfaction, knowledge and skill in parenting and child development, expectations and empathy for a child, history of parenting and protectiveness.

Not a lot is known about Mr. and Ms. Calhoun's parenting practices because of limited contact to date. Based on information from the grandparents, neighbors and prior reports there are concerns about the Calhoun's overall engagement in parenting and their basic care giving related to these young children.

Sherrie has periodic visits with her father. Mrs. Calhoun reports that she has concerns about Sherrie's father and his parenting abilities. This worker has contacted Sherrie's father, Mr.

Goodman. He is hesitant to assume full time care of Sherrie at this time and was not interested in becoming a placement option for the younger children.

Four visits with the children have been scheduled to date. Mr. and Ms. Calhoun have missed one visit and were half an hour late to another. Visitation supervisor didn't have concerns about the interaction between the parents and the children.

Mr. Goodman has not yet scheduled a visit, though says he'd like to maintain his regular visitation schedule.

Describe the everyday life task(s) that contribute to the maltreatment. Describe the family's actions around the task which has led or may lead to safety threats.

Supervision appears to be an ongoing problem for this family. Although Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun report that their children are well supervised, The Department has received two prior intakes regarding this everyday life task. One screened in for investigation but the family was not interested in services and the case was closed.

How does the parent(s)/caregiver manage his/her own life on a daily basis? Identify the individual behavior (i.e. mental health, domestic violence, substance abuse) that disrupts family life tasks. In addition, describe how a parent functions in an adult role outside of parenting. Describe the behavior/condition that a parent/caregiver presents that contributes to a threat to child safety.

It appears, based on information from collateral sources, that Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun's substance use has impacted their children's safety and wellbeing. They report using only a little marijuana on occasion. When asked to submit to a UA they initially agreed but later stated they were unable to get to the treatment facility. A new referral has been submitted but they have not yet completed the UA.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Calhoun is currently employed. They receive TANF and food stamps and receive section eight housing. Mr. Calhoun reports looking for work, but has not been able to find regular employment for a number of months. Mrs. Calhoun earns a little money sometimes working for her parents.

Mr. Goodman has regular employment at a local restaurant as a cook and works graveyard and weekends.

More information on the daily functioning will need to get gathered by the next worker.

Describe each parents'/caregiver's support system and how these support systems can help protect the children.

Mrs. Calhoun's parents have been a support for her and the children. The children are currently placed with her parents.

Mr. Goodman has a girlfriend who is a resource for him especially when Sherrie visits him.