

ACTIVITY 4-2: MISSION POSSIBLE

TRAINER HANDOUT 4-1

Slone Family: Building on Strengths

Family Composition:

Leah Slone, age 18, Waitress/Student

Jeremy Slone, age 7 months

Case Summary:

A report was made by Phillip Lanier, father of Jeremy, with allegations of child neglect and inadequate supervision. He alleged that Jeremy's mother leaves him with an eleven year old while she is at school or working late at night. He added that he is often left in soiled diapers for hours causing him to get a rash.

Ms. Slone and Jeremy live in a small trailer. It is old and not in very good repair. The trailer is cluttered but does not appear hazardous. She admitted that her eleven year old cousin stays with Jeremy while she goes to school two nights each week until 10 o'clock, and works two nights until 11. She stated that her aunt was close by and is available if needed. Also, her employer is very supportive and will give her time off in case of emergency.

Jeremy was found to have a serious diaper rash. Ms. Slone says she has been treating it, but cannot get to clear up. She doesn't have insurance, so she uses the health department when Jeremy is sick or needs shots. However, it takes so long to be seen, she doesn't go unless it is absolutely necessary. She admitted that her cousin probably didn't check Jeremy and change him as much as he needed, but she thought it would be okay for a few hours at a time.

Ms. Slone says that Jeremy's father pays no child support, but sends her money pretty regularly. Her mother helps as much as she can with paying the cost of things for Jeremy. She has to sneak to do this as her father has not forgiven her for getting pregnant. Her sister, who is a seamstress and has an alterations business, helps to provide clothes for the baby. Ms. Slone has to work to pay for rent and living expenses. She is also a skilled seamstress and occasionally earns extra money sewing for her friends.

Ms. Slone received a scholarship to the university, but couldn't go due to her pregnancy. She got loans to enroll in a few classes at the local community college. She takes evening classes so her cousin would be available to baby sit.

Prior Reports/Services

A report was made by a health department employee alleging medical neglect as Jeremy had not had his immunizations and had not had regular checkups. The report was closed with some indicators. The mother agreed to schedule him for a check up immediately.

Disposition:

The case has been referred for voluntary protective services.

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SOLUTION: USING STRENGTHS TO MEET NEEDS

DIRECTIONS

Your mission is to use the scenario that you have received to identify the child/family needs and create tasks that meet the identified needs and are based on using family or family member strengths to do so. The strengths-based tasks are not expected to meet every need you've identified . . . and a strengths-based task may or may not fully meet the need. The idea is to be creative in terms of how strengths can be used to meet needs, where possible/appropriate.

Child/Family needs your group identified:

Strength-based tasks that could be used to meet the identified needs: