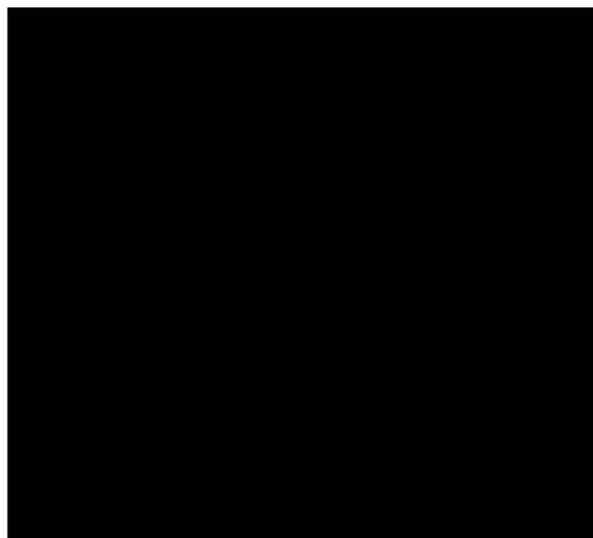


Common Core 3.0

**Deepening Assessment Skills
Assessment Block 200 Level Curriculum
Polk/Hernandez Case Vignette**



Polk/Hernandez Family Vignette

- Gloria Hernandez – age 32 – Mother, Hispanic
- William Polk – age 34 – Father, African American
- Samantha Polk – age 14 – Daughter, African American/Hispanic
- William Polk, Jr. – age 7 – Son, African American/Hispanic
- Amalia Polk – age 1 – Daughter, African American/Hispanic

Referral:

Received on Thursday, at 1:45pm

The Child Abuse Hotline received a report that Amalia had suspicious bruises on her buttocks and back at daycare today. The daycare provider, Michelle Lacey, reported that Amalia seemed fussier than usual today. When they changed Amalia's diaper, they noticed that she had bruising on her back and buttocks. They did not notice any bruises yesterday. The daycare provider asked the mother, Gloria Hernandez, about the bruises and she could not explain how they happened. The daycare provider was concerned that Amalia may have been physically abused.

Initial Investigation:

This referral was assigned as a 24 hour response. The worker called the reporting party. Ms. Lacey, the daycare provider, reported that she has known the family since William, Jr. (aka Willy) was a baby. She was his daycare provider as well. She has not ever had any concerns as long as she has known the family. Ms. Lacey said that she does know both parents had a substance abuse history when Samantha was little but they have not had any problems that she knows of for many years. Ms. Lacey says that the mother is usually the one to drop off and pick up Amalia, although the father will pick her up on occasion. Ms. Lacey said that Amalia appears comfortable with her mom and always runs to her mom at the end of the day when she is picked up. Ms. Lacey knows that both parents work very hard but struggle to make ends meet. Mr. Polk is often working multiple jobs, picking up odds and ends when he can. Ms. Hernandez cleans houses for a living. Ms. Lacey says that Ms. Hernandez usually picks Amalia up around 5:30pm.

CWS History

- Three prior referrals and one prior case from when Samantha was little
- Two for general neglect and one was substantiated for physical abuse of Samantha
- Ms. Hernandez was abusing prescription drugs and Mr. Polk was drinking alcohol to excess
- Family had two intimate partner violence incidents that were reported and allegations that Samantha was not being supervised or fed
- During one of the intimate partner violence incidents, when Samantha was two years old, Ms. Hernandez was holding Samantha and Mr. Polk struck Samantha in the face while he was swinging at Ms. Hernandez. Samantha was removed from their custody.
- Both parents completed their substance abuse treatment and intimate partner violence treatment and reunified with Samantha after 9 months.
- Since that time the family has not had any additional referrals.

Criminal History

- Mr. Polk has one arrest for a DUI when he was 20 and another arrest for Battery for the incident in which Samantha was hit. Mr. Polk served 3 days in jail and then was released on probation.
- Ms. Hernandez does not have any criminal history.

School Visits

The worker goes to visit Samantha at Madison High School. The worker takes the time to engage Samantha and finds out that Samantha is a dancer. She is a freshman at the high school. She made the team at the high school and has been dancing since she was about 4 years old. Samantha used to go to dance classes through the Parks and Recreation Department. She is very excited about being on the high school dance team. Her coach is Ms. Rebecca and she has two friends on the team, Lyanna and Kyra. The worker completes a genogram and ecomap with Samantha and discovers that the family is very connected to Mr. Polk's side of the family, having several aunts, an uncle, and the paternal grandmother living close by. They are also very connected to their church and Samantha has a strong connection with her youth pastor, Pastor John. Samantha also says she is close with her best friend's family. Her best friend's name is Taylor and Taylor's mom is Mrs. Powell. They live next door to the Powell family. Samantha says things with her family are good. She sometimes has to help watch Amalia and Willy because her parents work a lot. She says that sometimes her mom picks Amalia up from daycare and comes home to drop her off with Samantha and then goes back to clean one more house. She said that Willy and Amalia are never home without her or her parents to watch them. Samantha said her dad works a couple of different jobs. He helps his uncle work at his auto repair store. Samantha also said her dad is a driver for a company but didn't know exactly what. Samantha denied that her parents fight in front of them or that they use alcohol or drugs to excess. She said her dad has a few beers sometimes but that nothing changes about him when he drinks. Samantha says her mom does not drink very often and has never seen drugs in her house. Samantha says there is always food in the house and the kids do not go hungry. When asked about discipline Samantha said that she gets her iPhone taken away or gets grounded. She said that sometimes Willy gets spanked but mostly gets toys taken away. Samantha said her parents just tell Amalia no or will smack her on the hand. The worker asked Samantha if any of the kids have any bruises or injuries right now. She said they do not. Samantha denied any sexual abuse for herself or her siblings. When asked about medical care Samantha said they go to the community clinic when they need to.

The worker went to visit Willy at Parker Elementary School. The worker talked with Willy and learned that he is in second grade at Parker Elementary School. Willy said that he likes to play basketball. The worker showed Willy the genogram and ecomap from his sister and asked if Willy would add anyone to them. Willy added his best friend, Juan, and Juan's parents. Willy said sometimes he and Juan play together after school and he goes to Juan's house to play on the weekends sometimes. Juan lives on the next street over from him. The worker utilized the 3 Houses tool to interview Willy. In his House of Good Things, Willy put that he likes to play basketball with his dad. He said he and his dad play basketball on the weekends when his dad is not working. Willy also put his mom's cooking in his House of Good Things. He said his favorite thing that his mom makes is "mole" but she doesn't make that very often because it takes a long time to cook. Willy also put that everyone gets along in his house and he likes spending time as a family. In his House of Worries, Willy put that he is worried about his parents working so much because Willy and Amalia are left home with Samantha. He said he likes his sister but Samantha doesn't play with him when they are home and he gets bored. The worker asked Willy if Samantha or his parents are always there. Willy said yes. In Willy's House of Worries he added that he worries that Amalia will get in trouble more. The worker asked Willy about that. At first he was reluctant to give more details, but then Willy said that Amalia has been getting in trouble a lot lately. Their dad is getting madder at her because Amalia gets into things. Willy told the worker that last night his dad smacked Amalia with a wooden spoon because she took out all of the DVDs from the TV stand. The worker asked Willy what his mom did when this happened. Willy said she was yelling at his dad to stop. The worker asked Willy if he knew what alcohol or drugs were. Willy said he knew alcohol is beer and drugs are marijuana – they had learned about them at school. The worker asked Willy if his parents had been drinking alcohol or using drugs. He said that his dad had been drinking beer last night before he spanked Amalia. Willy did not know how many beers his dad had. The worker asked Willy to draw in his House of Wishes. Willy put that he wish his parents didn't have to work so much. He also drew that his dad would not drink beer and that Amalia would listen better when his parents tell her no.

Daycare Visit

The worker went to go visit Amalia at daycare. Amalia was able to say her name and her siblings' names. She was comfortable with Ms. Lacey, the daycare provider, wanting to stay with her and wanting to be held. Ms. Lacey changed Amalia's diaper and showed the worker the bruises she had noticed. The worker was able to take pictures of the bruises. Amalia just kept saying "no, no" when Ms. Lacey was pointing at her bruises. Ms. Lacey said that Amalia is always clean and she likes the family. Amalia gets breakfast and lunch while at daycare. Ms. Hernandez arrived to pick up Amalia while the worker was there. The worker explained that they had received a referral regarding bruises on Amalia and would like to speak to Ms. Hernandez about it. Ms. Lacey allowed them to go into a back room to conduct the interview.

Ms. Hernandez was crying and said that she did not want her babies taken away again. She said that they learned so much when Samantha was taken away and have not had any fights since then. The worker helped calm Ms. Hernandez down. She showed Ms. Hernandez the genogram and ecomap. Ms. Hernandez filled in some more members of her family but said she is not close to them. She also said that they are very involved with their church. Their pastor helps them whenever they are having problems. Ms. Hernandez was asked about fighting in the home. She reiterated that she and Mr. Polk do not fight anymore and they learned better ways to communicate with one another. The worker asked about alcohol or drug use. She said that she stopped drinking or using. Ms. Hernandez said Mr. Polk was sober for a long time but then about 3 years ago started drinking a few beers on the weekend. She said recently he has been very stressed about money and Mr. Polk has started to drink during the week also. Ms. Hernandez said that they are both working a lot. Amalia was not planned and they have struggled to make ends meet. Ms. Hernandez said that Mr. Polk works in his brother's auto repair shop and then drives for Uber to try to make some extra money. Ms. Hernandez cleans houses. When asked about who watches the children, Ms. Hernandez said that Samantha sometimes stays home with Willy and Amalia while they are at work late but Samantha is very responsible and takes good care of them. She said sometimes she also calls Will's sister, Leann, who comes over to help. Ms. Hernandez denied that any of her children have been sexually abused. When asked about mental health history, Ms. Hernandez stated she has been diagnosed with depression in the past but has not experienced any bouts recently. The worker asked Ms. Hernandez about the bruises on Amalia's back and legs. Ms. Hernandez said that Amalia fell down and hit her bottom on the stairs. The worker told Ms. Hernandez that does not seem like a possible way for Amalia to get the bruises. Ms. Hernandez started crying again and admitted that last night Mr. Polk had drank a few beers. Amalia went into the TV stand and started pulling all the DVDs out onto the floor while Mr. Polk was watching TV. Mr. Polk got very upset at Amalia, grabbed a wooden spoon, pulled Amalia's diaper down and started smacking Amalia on the bottom with the wooden spoon. Ms. Hernandez said she yelled at him to stop but she was afraid he would hit her if she tried to intervene. Ms. Hernandez said that after Mr. Polk stopped she took Amalia and put some cream on her legs and put her to bed. She said that Willy was very upset at what had happened. The worker explained to Ms. Hernandez that this was very serious. The worker would need to talk with Mr. Polk as well and work with the parents on a safety plan or Amalia may need to be removed from the home. Ms. Hernandez said that the worker could follow her home and Mr. Polk would be there. Ms. Hernandez said that she could call Mr. Polk's sister, Leann, as well as Mrs. Powell and Pastor John to come to the house to help with a safety plan.

Home Visit

The worker arrived at the home and Mr. Polk was very upset that the worker was there. He said they have dealt with CPS in the past and done everything they needed to keep their kids safe. The worker explained the allegations and Mr. Polk immediately denied them. The worker asked to speak with Mr. Polk separately. She showed him the genogram and ecomap. He did not add anyone to them. Mr. Polk said that he and Ms. Hernandez do not fight anymore. They haven't fought since Samantha was taken away. He denied any mental health issues. He said that he does occasionally have a few beers but doesn't see it as a problem. Mr. Polk was asked about the bruises on Amalia's back and buttocks. Mr. Polk said he didn't know what the worker was talking about. The worker showed him the pictures and he said Amalia must have fallen. The worker explained the 3 Houses tool to Mr. Polk and showed him the drawings that Willy

had done. Starting with the House of Good Things, Mr. Polk did say that he and Willy love to play basketball together. When the worker showed Mr. Polk the House of Worries, he became very angry that Willy would have told the worker about what happened last night with Amalia. Mr. Polk did admit that he used the wooden spoon on Amalia. He said he had a long day at work and has told Amalia a hundred times not to play with the DVDs. She didn't listen and he got mad and hit her probably too hard. Mr. Polk said he had only had a couple of beers last night. The worker explained that they would need to develop a safety plan with people who are willing to help out, otherwise Amalia will need to come into custody. Mr. Polk agreed to have his sister Leann, Ms. Powell, and the pastor involved in the safety plan.

The worker sat down with Mr. Polk, Ms. Hernandez, Leann (Mr. Polk's sister), and Pastor John to develop the safety plan. The worker asked the family to explain why we were here tonight. Mr. Polk explained to the network members that he had hit Amalia with a wooden spoon last night. He admitted to being under a lot of stress lately with bills, working two jobs, and barely having enough money to cover rent and food. Ms. Hernandez said they were especially worried about paying for Samantha's dance expenses but didn't want to tell Samantha that because they are very proud of her. The worker shared the 3 Houses that Willy drew with the network members. They were surprised by the amount of stress the family has been feeling lately and all expressed a desire to support the family. Leann did say that she wasn't too worried though. They all grew up getting a whooping and it taught them a good lesson. The worker asked if Leann could understand the concerns since Amalia is so young and had bruises. She said she did and Leann would like to participate in the safety plan. Together the network, the family, and the worker developed the following Danger Statements.

The worker, Ms. Hernandez, Pastor John, and Aunt Leann are worried that Mr. Polk will become frustrated with Amalia, and hit Amalia with an object or his hands, leaving marks and bruises or hurting Amalia even worse.

The network, family, and worker developed a safety goal that: Ms. Hernandez and Mr. Polk will work with child welfare and their network of Aunt Leann, and Pastor John to develop a plan and show everyone that Mr. Polk will not hit the children for discipline. Child welfare needs to see this plan in place and working continuously for 30 days to determine the outcome of the investigation.

Based on the safety goal, the network and the family developed the following safety plan:

1. Mr. Polk will live with Leann and will not be alone with Amalia during this time.
2. Mr. Polk and Ms. Hernandez will tell two other people they are close to about the problems they are facing and ask them to participate in the safety plan.
3. Aunt Leann and Pastor John will supervise visits between Mr. Polk and Amalia. They both agree to not allow Mr. Polk to use any physical discipline with Amalia.
4. Pastor John is going to help the family apply for some financial assistance for daycare and to help talk to school about ways to cover the cost of Samantha's dance expenses.
5. The worker will refer the family to PG&E program to lower their gas and electric bill.

Stop and complete the Safety Assessment

Further Investigation:

One week after the safety plan is enacted, the worker conducts a home visit to check on the family. In talking with Ms. Hernandez, the worker learns that Ms. Hernandez does not have a history of abuse as a child; however, Mr. Polk does. Ms. Hernandez said that Mr. Polk does not like talking about it but his father used to burn him with cigarettes as a child. Mr. Polk's father was also an alcoholic. Ms. Hernandez said that things have been hard this week with Mr. Polk out of the home but Leann and Pastor John are helping out a lot. Ms. Hernandez said that she knows that things will be back to normal once Mr. Polk is sober again. The worker also checked in with Willy. He said he misses seeing his dad every day but he did go to his aunt Leann's house a couple of times to see his dad. Willy said that he thinks his dad is doing better because he didn't smell beer when Willy went to visit. The worker also saw Amalia who was playing with her toys. Amalia was happy and wanted to play with her brother. The worker did not see any marks and bruises. Ms. Hernandez changed Amalia's diaper and showed the worker that the bruising from the previous week was almost entirely gone.

After about two weeks of enacting the safety plan, the worker receives a phone call from Pastor John stating that Amalia has a bruise on her cheek. Pastor John said he had seen the children today with their mother. Ms. Hernandez came to the church to get some food from the food bank. Pastor John said that when they arrived, he noticed the bruising. He said that he asked Ms. Hernandez what happened. She tried to cover it up but then broke down in tears saying she couldn't reach anyone last night to watch the kids and she had to go to work. Samantha was supposed to be watching the kids but was in her room working a project for school. Amalia knocked down Willy's Legos and Willy hit Amalia, leaving a bruise on her cheek. They have still been very stressed with money and it has been difficult to take on extra cleaning jobs without a babysitter.

The worker immediately went to the home of the Hernandez family. Ms. Hernandez initially did not want to allow the worker in but then eventually did. The worker first asked to interview the children. The worker saw the bruise on Amalia's cheek and attempted to interview Amalia but she just kept saying "Ouch". The worker interviewed Willy and he confirmed what Pastor John said. Willy said Samantha was supposed to be watching them but she was in her room "as usual". He was playing with his Legos and Amalia knocked them over. Willy said he got mad and hit Amalia. He didn't mean to and he felt very sorry. When his mom got home, he told her everything. The worker asked if there have been any other times that Samantha was not watching them. Willy said yes that a few days ago, his dad came over because mom had to go to work and Samantha was at dance practice. Willy said his dad did not smell like beer this time and nothing bad happened to Amalia.

The worker interviewed Samantha who said that she felt really badly that Amalia got hurt again. She was in her room working on a big project for school. Samantha said she wishes she didn't have to watch her brother and sister so often.

The worker interviewed Ms. Hernandez and she was crying. She knew the children were going to get taken away and begged the worker not to remove them. The worker asked Ms. Hernandez what happened and she provided the same information that Willy and Pastor John had provided. She said that she knew she should not have left the kids alone but did not have anyone else she could ask. She has never had problems with Samantha watching them before. The worker told Ms. Hernandez that Willy told her about Mr. Polk coming to watch the children a few days earlier. Ms. Hernandez apologized and again said she didn't know what to do for daycare. She said that nothing happened and he was good with Amalia. She could tell Mr. Polk had not been drinking that day. The worker talked with Ms. Hernandez about her breaking the safety plan and that they would need to reconsider if the children could remain in her home.

The worker called Mr. Polk and explained what was happening. He admitted to coming over to the house a few days ago. Mr. Polk said he knew he should not have gone over to the house. Mr. Polk said he hadn't been drinking and he thought he could handle being with the kids and he could show his wife that he was changing.

The worker told Mr. Polk that the safety plan is not working and there is a chance that the children could be taken into custody. Mr. Polk was upset but said he understood. He said his sister Leann might be willing to have the children come live with her if that was necessary. Mr. Polk said he would find somewhere else to stay if it meant the children could be with his sister instead of with strangers.

After the worker finished her phone call with Mr. Polk, Pastor John arrived at the house. Ms. Hernandez knew the children were going to get taken away and begged the worker not to remove them. The worker reiterated the Danger statements to Ms. Hernandez and she said that she felt like they still accurately represent everyone's worries. Ms. Hernandez and the worker discussed adding the worry about not having a safe adult to care for Willy and Amalia. A new Danger statement was developed stating: The worker, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Polk, and Pastor John are worried that Willy and Amalia will be left home without a safe adult while Ms. Hernandez is working and Willy and Amalia will not be well supervised and could get hurt. The worker stated that she is also worried about Ms. Hernandez not being able to protect the children from Mr. Polk, allowing him to be around the children when he has been drinking, and that Mr. Polk could hit Willy and Amalia, leaving marks or bruises or even more serious injuries.

The worker stepped outside to consult with her supervisor who agreed that Willy and Amalia would need to be taken into protective custody. Both the worker and the supervisor felt that Samantha was not at risk and could safely remain in the home. The worker asked about detaining with the aunt, Leann. The supervisor was worried that there would not be anywhere for Mr. Polk to live and preferred to have the children somewhere else until a TDM could be held.

The worker spoke with Ms. Hernandez and Pastor John and explained that Willy and Amalia would need to be taken into custody. Ms. Hernandez asked if the children could stay with Leann. The worker explained that her supervisor did not know where Mr. Polk would live so they wanted the kids to stay with someone else until a family meeting, called Team Decision Making, could be held to further assess if Leann can keep the children safe. Pastor John volunteered to keep the children, as long as it was only going to be for a few days. The worker asked Pastor John for the information about him and his wife and was able to get an emergency clearance. Ms. Hernandez helped load the children in the car. The worker told Ms. Hernandez she would call when the TDM is scheduled. The worker took Willy and Amalia to Pastor John's home and completed the home inspection.

The worker explained to Willy that they could not live with their mom and dad right now because Amalia keeps getting hurt and because Willy thought he might get hurt too when his dad gets angry. Willy was crying but said that he understood. He said he would help Amalia not feel sad. She has never been away from their mom before.

Stop and complete Risk Assessment

SDM Risk Assessment decision: The worker closed the referral as substantiated for physical abuse for Amalia and substantiated as general neglect for Willy and Amalia. The worker will be promoting the referral to a case.

The Detention hearing was held three days later and the judge ordered that Willy and Amalia remain out of the home with Pastor John and his family and that the Agency continue to assess the Aunt Leann for possible placement.

Case Planning:

A few days after the Detention hearing, the worker held a Team Decision Making Meeting with the family. Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Polk, Pastor John, and Leann came to the TDM. The family also brought Uncle Sal, Grandma Beverly and Coach Rebecca with them. During the TDM, the family talked about the problems they had been having financially and all of the stress of caring for three children. Mr. Polk was honest about struggling to work two jobs and the impact of Samantha’s dance costs on the family. Mr. Polk admitted that he is having a hard time staying sober and that he did have a few beers after the Detention hearing.

Ms. Hernandez shared that there have been a lot more struggles in their family. She was upset that none of her family members were there and said that her family has never liked Mr. Polk. They were very angry with him when Ms. Hernandez first became pregnant with Samantha when they were young. Ms. Hernandez’s mother was angry that Ms. Hernandez had thrown away her chance to go to college because of Mr. Polk. Ms. Hernandez said that after Samantha was removed, her family told her to leave Mr. Polk and was upset when they got back together. Ms. Hernandez wished they had support from her family.

The worker talked with the family about the need to develop a case plan and the areas covered in the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment. for

Stop and complete the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment

At the TDM, the worker shared that she identified the priority needs for the family as, parenting skills and social support for the family as the priority needs. Everyone in attendance agreed that those were the primary focus areas.

At the TDM, Aunt Leann asked about being a placement for the children. The supervisor expressed the worry that Mr. Polk is living with her and doesn't have another place to stay. Grandma Beverly said that Mr. Polk could live with her for the time being so that Leann would have a better chance of the kids being placed with her. The worker asked about who would supervise Mr. Polk's visits. Uncle Sal volunteered to supervise all of the visits with Mr. Polk so that Aunt Leann could have placement without worrying about Mr. Polk being around. He told the group what Mr. Polk's signs are and Mr. Polk and Ms. Hernandez confirmed those were true. The supervisor said that Aunt Leann would need to finish the clearance process before final decisions could be made about placement but that they would consider her. Coach Rebecca said that she would go back to the school and ask about getting a scholarship for Samantha's dance costs. Ms. Hernandez asked if she could have unsupervised visits with the children. The supervisor said that she felt Ms. Hernandez needed more time to develop a childcare plan. Pastor John agreed to have Ms. Hernandez come to the house for visits on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and then on Saturday afternoons. Willy and Amalia would also get to see Samantha during those visits. Leann agrees to continue this schedule if the children are placed with her

Toward the end of the TDM the worker shared what she had been developing as a safety goal. Mr. Polk and Ms. Hernandez will work with CWS and their safety network of Pastor John, Aunt Leann, Uncle Sal, Grandma Beverly, and Coach Rebecca to develop a plan and show everyone that Mr. Polk can always discipline the children without hitting or threatening to hit them. Ms. Hernandez will be able to protect the children from Mr. Polk if he is getting angry with the children. Mr. Polk and Ms. Hernandez will show that they always have a safe adult to watch the children rather than leaving the children home alone. CWS needs to see this plan in place and working continuously for 6 months to consider returning the children home. The family agrees that this sounds like the plan they have been discussing with the worker.

Following the TDM, the worker met with Ms. Hernandez and Mr. Polk separately to develop the case plan. Ms. Hernandez identified that she needed a better support system for herself, that she really didn't have any friends. She also said she wants to be stronger to protect the children and stop Mr. Polk if he gets angry again. Ms. Hernandez said that she wants to be able to stop working so many jobs so that she can be home with her children after school. She wasn't sure how that could happen financially but said her children are her priority.

Mr. Polk said that he wants to stay sober again. He knows he needs to work his steps again and meet with his sponsor. He was willing to complete a substance abuse assessment to determine the level of treatment he might need. Mr. Polk said that he doesn't want to hit Amalia anymore. Mr. Polk said that they need to save up some money to have a buffer. He said that he could pick up some extra Uber shifts. He knows it will be hard but if they save now while the children are out of the home, maybe Ms. Hernandez can only work during the day once the children come home.

The case plan was presented to the court at the Juris/Dispo hearing three weeks later. The social worker also provided the relative placement information and recommended that the children be placed with Aunt Leann on the condition that Mr. Polk not reside in the home and that Aunt Leann not supervise Mr. Polk's visits. A true finding was made on WIC 300(b) counts for Mr. Polk and Ms. Hernandez. Reunification services were ordered for both parents.

Polk/Hernandez Initial Case Plan

Case Plan Participants:

Mother: Gloria Hernandez
Father: William Polk
Children: Willy Polk
Amalia Polk

Gloria Hernandez

Objectives:

1. Develop positive support systems with family and friends.
 - a. Ms. Hernandez will identify two new people that she is willing to trust and tell what is happening with her family and invite them to participate in the next family meeting.
 - b. Ms. Hernandez will identify two additional people that she can use as childcare for the children.
2. Show that you will not permit others to physically abuse your children.
 - a. Ms. Hernandez will identify and list three things that she will do to stop Mr. Polk from threatening or abusing Willy and Amalia.
 - b. Ms. Hernandez will demonstrate during visits that she is able to stop Mr. Polk from threatening or abusing Willy or Amalia.
3. Be willing and able to arrange appropriate childcare and supervision when you are away from home.
 - a. Ms. Hernandez will write out her childcare plan for the worker in case she has to work after the children get home from school.
 - b. Ms. Hernandez will demonstrate that she utilizes her safety network to provide childcare for the children, rather than relying on Samantha Mr. Polk.

William Polk

Objectives:

1. Develop positive support systems with family and friends.
 - a. Mr. Polk will identify two new people that he is willing to trust and tell what is happening with his family and invite them to participate in the next family meeting.
 - b. Mr. Polk will identify at least two people he can call when he feels like drinking who will help him maintain his sobriety.
2. Interact with your child without physical abuse or harm.
 - a. Mr. Polk will list five ways he can discipline Amalia without using physical discipline.
 - b. Mr. Polk will demonstrate during visits that he can discipline Amalia without using physical discipline.
3. Stay free from alcohol and show your ability to live free from alcohol dependency.
 - a. Mr. Polk will participate in outpatient drug treatment program.
 - b. Mr. Polk will have all negative drug tests.
 - c. Mr. Polk will participate in regular 12 step meetings and demonstrate progress in completing his 12 steps.

Willy Polk

Objectives:

1. Willy agrees to receive age-appropriate services.
 - a. Willy will receive medical/dental care in accordance with CHDP requirements.

Amalia Polk

Objectives:

1. Amalia will receive age-appropriate services.
 - a. Amalia will receive medical/dental care in accordance with CHDP requirements.

Visitation Services

Gloria Hernandez

Ms. Hernandez will have visits at the placement with Amalia and Willy on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 2 ½ hours. She will ensure that Willy’s homework is complete, and will help with the nighttime routine for Amalia and Willy. Ms. Hernandez will also visit with the children on Saturdays for 4 hours. She will ensure the children have a meal.

William Polk

Mr. Polk will have 3 supervised visits per week for 2 hours each time. Uncle Sal will supervise Mr. Polk’s visits. Mr. Polk will demonstrate that he can interact with Willy and Amalia without threatening to hit them or without physically disciplining them.

6-month review:

Ms. Hernandez got started on her case plan immediately. She joined a Women’s Support Group at the church which is geared toward helping wives of alcoholics and drug addicts. She has made several friends whom she is starting to trust. She’s also been taking her Nurturing Parenting Program parenting class. She said it has helped her learn how to build up resilience in her kids and to understand her role in protecting them. Ms. Hernandez said that she and Mr. Polk have been talking and decided on some things that she can do if she notices Mr. Polk starting to get angry with Amalia. Ms. Hernandez said that they agreed that she would point out to Mr. Polk that he is getting angry, then ask him if he would like her to intervene. She said if that doesn’t work then she will pick up Amalia and take her to another room if Mr. Polk is not able to calm down. Ms. Hernandez says that the current visits have been going very well. She feels like the children could come live with her since Mr. Polk is not living with her anymore. The worker asked Ms. Hernandez about their financial status. She said that Coach Rebecca was able to get all of Samantha’s fees waived for her dance competitions so all they have to pay for is her uniforms, which has made things much easier. Ms. Hernandez said that it has been difficult for Mr. Polk to pick up extra shifts because of participating in his services. She has been working multiple cleaning jobs still. Having the children out of the home has been very hard on Samantha and she feels guilty for not being around to watch them more. Ms. Hernandez said that Samantha can help sometimes to watch the kids.

Mr. Polk went for his substance abuse assessment and was recommended that he participate in outpatient treatment. He was enrolled about two weeks after the Juris/Dispo hearing. Mr. Polk said that he was going to treatment every day and building a support system. He reconnected with his sponsor and started working his steps. Mr. Polk admitted that about 1 month after going into treatment he did have one more relapse. His coworkers took him out for his birthday and bought him some drinks. Mr. Polk said that the next day he went back to treatment and told them about his relapse and he got started again. He identified that he needs to develop new friendships with other people who do not drink until he feels strong enough to say “no” when he is with his coworkers. He said that he did have to miss a couple of visits with the kids – one due to his relapse and the other due to his work schedule. Mr. Polk enjoys visiting with his kids. He did say that dealing with Amalia sometimes is still hard but he is learning. He is participating in the Incredible Years parenting class and is learning a lot. Mr. Polk said that Uncle Sal is helping him learn how to use his new skills when he visits with Amalia. Mr. Polk wants to have the kids go back home with Ms. Hernandez. He said that he and Ms. Hernandez have talked about how she can protect the kids if he is starting to get angry. Mr. Polk said that he agreed that she can stop him if Ms. Hernandez notices he is getting angry with Amalia.

Following the Juris/Dispo hearing, Willy and Amalia are placed with Aunt Leann. They enjoy living with her and start to have unsupervised visits with their mom on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays after two months. Willy remained in his school of origin and is doing well in school. Aunt Leann reports that Willy enjoys visits with his father. Mr. Polk and Uncle Sal take Willy and Amalia to the park or go to Uncle Sal’s house. Aunt Leann told the social worker that Amalia was shy to go with her dad at first, but is doing much better now. She said that Mr. Polk visits 2-3 times per week, usually for 3 hours at a time. Aunt Leann continues to use Amalia’s daycare, Ms. Lacey, to provide childcare for Amalia while Aunt Leann works part-time.

In talking with Uncle Sal, he reports that Mr. Polk is doing better in parenting Amalia, although he still gets easily frustrated with her. Uncle Sal said he is trying to role model for Mr. Polk. Mr. Polk has difficulty with Amalia because she is not talking yet.

Samantha said that it has been really hard having her brother and sister out of the home. Samantha said she wants to help watch them more so that her parents don't have to worry so much about daycare. She said that she likes getting to visit with them when they pick them up and it is better now that they are living with Aunt Leann. Samantha said that she thinks her dad has learned and that he would never be mean to Amalia like that again.

Willy enjoys school. He and Juan are still really good friends and sometimes he gets to go to Juan's house after school. Willy says that living with Aunt Leann is going well but he misses home and wants to go home with his mom. He doesn't understand why they can't be home with her since she didn't hit Amalia. Willy said that he knows his parents are taking their classes so they can come home. He likes visiting with his dad and said they have fun at the park. Willy said he is not afraid of his dad anymore.

After 4 months, Ms. Hernandez is allowed to have overnight visits. For the first 3 weeks, Willy and Amalia spend the night from Friday to Saturday. However, the worker learns that she left Willy and Amalia home alone for about 30 minutes while she finished up a job and Samantha was at dance practice. Ms. Hernandez went back to having unsupervised visits since she did not have enough people to help her care for the children while she is working.

Stop and complete the Reunification Reassessment

Polk/Hernandez 6-month Case Plan Update

Case Plan Participants:

Mother: Gloria Hernandez
Father: William Polk
Children: Willy Polk
Amalia Polk

Gloria Hernandez

Objectives:

1. Develop positive support systems with family and friends.
 - a. Ms. Hernandez will ensure that two new network members attend the next family meeting to help with childcare.
2. Show that you will not permit others to physically abuse your children.
 - a. Ms. Hernandez will demonstrate during visits that she is able to stop Mr. Polk from threatening or abusing Willy or Amalia.
3. Be willing and able to arrange appropriate childcare and supervision when you are away from home.
 - a. Ms. Hernandez will write out her childcare plan for the worker in case she has to work after the children get home from school.
 - b. Ms. Hernandez will demonstrate that she utilizes her safety network to provide childcare for the children, rather than relying on Samantha Mr. Polk.

William Polk

Objectives:

1. Develop positive support systems with family and friends.
 - a. Mr. Polk will identify two new people that he is willing to trust and tell what is happening with his family and invite them to participate in the next family meeting.
 - b. Mr. Polk will identify at least two people he can call when he feels like drinking who will help him maintain his sobriety.
2. Interact with your child without physical abuse or harm.
 - a. Mr. Polk will list five ways he can discipline Amalia without using physical discipline.
 - b. Mr. Polk will demonstrate during visits that he can discipline Amalia with using physical discipline.
3. Stay free from alcohol and show your ability to live free from alcohol dependency.
 - a. Mr. Polk will participate in his aftercare program
 - b. Mr. Polk will have all negative drug tests.
 - c. Mr. Polk will participate in regular 12 step meetings and demonstrate progress in completing his 12 steps.

Willy Polk

Objectives:

1. Willy agrees to receive age-appropriate services.
 - a. Willy will receive medical/dental care in accordance with CHDP requirements.

Amalia Polk

Objectives:

1. Amalia will receive age-appropriate services.
 - a. Amalia will receive medical/dental care in accordance with CHDP requirements.

Visitation Services

Gloria Hernandez

Ms. Hernandez will pick up Amalia and Willy from Ms. Lacey's daycare on Tuesdays and Thursdays and have the children for 2 ½ hours. She will ensure that Willy's homework is complete, and that Amalia and Willy receive dinner and are bathed before returning them to Aunt Leann's home. Ms. Hernandez will also have the children on Saturdays for 4 hours. She will ensure the children have a meal and are not left home alone.

William Polk

Mr. Polk will have 3 supervised visits per week for 2 hours each time. Mr. Polk will have visits at the visitation center. Slowly Ms. Hernandez will begin to attend Mr. Polk's visits to demonstrate that she can protect the children from Mr. Polk. Mr. Polk will demonstrate that he can interact with Willy and Amalia without threatening to hit them or without physically disciplining them.

12-Month Review

At the 6-month court hearing, the worker recommends that the parents continue to receive services and that the children remain placed with Aunt Leann.

Following the 6-month review hearing, the family has a meeting to discuss another safety plan trying to make plans to move forward with overnight visits for Ms. Hernandez. The worker asked Ms. Hernandez what would happen if the children were returned to live with her and she had to work. Ms. Hernandez said that one of her friends from church, Ms. Laub, volunteered to help watch the children. She also said that Grandma Beverly and Aunt Leann said they can continue to stay more involved with the family and help with childcare. Ms. Hernandez also said that Ms. Powell, the neighbor, said that all the kids are welcome to go over to her house, not just Samantha. Ms. Lacey, Ms. Powell, Aunt Leann, Grandma Beverly, and Ms. Laub, a new friend from church, agree to provide childcare for Ms. Hernandez.

Ms. Lacey can continue to provide daily childcare for Amalia until 5:30 and for Willy from after school until 5:30pm. Aunt Leann will pick up the children on Mondays, Grandma Beverly on Wednesdays, and Ms. Laub on Fridays. All of them are able to keep the children until 7:00pm. Ms. Hernandez said that her jobs end early on Tuesdays and Thursdays so she can pick the children up by 5:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If Ms. Hernandez were to get overnight visits, Aunt Leann, Grandma Beverly, and Ms. Laub all agree that they would be available to help Ms. Hernandez if her work schedule was to change at all. Everyone agrees that for now, Mr. Polk is not allowed to be in the home.

Throughout the next couple of months, Samantha, Willy, and Amalia all report that things are going well. One month after the 6-month hearing, Ms. Hernandez starts her overnight visits again. She is able to use her safety network. Samantha and Willy say that their mom uses their daycare plan.

Ms. Hernandez also starts attending Mr. Polk's visits when possible. Willy reports that one time during a visit with his dad, his mom was able to intervene when their dad was getting angry with Amalia. Ms. Hernandez reports that she and Mr. Polk are doing much better and things are how they were when he was sober previously. She did admit to one time where she had to intervene with Mr. Polk and Amalia but she was able to do so.

Mr. Polk showed the worker his list of behaviors he has learned to do when he is becoming frustrated with Amalia. Mr. Polk says that he can walk away, redirect Amalia to another activity, count to 10 taking deep breaths between each number, call Ms. Hernandez for help when he notices he is becoming frustrated, and take a self time-out. Mr. Polk talks about several times when he has utilized these skills during visits with Amalia. When the worker has stopped by unannounced during a few visits, she has seen Mr. Polk redirect Amalia or walk away from the situation. The worker, however, also sees Mr. Polk getting frustrated with Amalia when he doesn't understand her and cannot communicate with her.

After 9 months, the worker gets a call from Aunt Leann saying that Willy called her last night. Willy told her while they were on a visit with their mom last night, Mr. Polk watched the kids while Ms. Hernandez worked. Willy said his dad

wasn't drinking but got mad at Amalia because he couldn't understand what she was trying to say and he spanked her. Aunt Leann said she didn't think there were any bruises but thought the worker should know about this. Aunt Leann said that Mr. Polk should be at her mom's house right now.

The worker went to Aunt Leann's house to interview Willy and Amalia. The worker spoke with Willy first and he told the same story that Aunt Leann had given. Willy said it was not as bad as when his dad hit Amalia before. The worker spoke to Ms. Hernandez and said that she knew Mr. Polk had watched the children the night before. Aunt Leann changed Amalia's diaper and the worker saw that Amalia did not have any bruises.

The worker went to Grandma Beverly's house and asked if Mr. Polk was there. Grandma Beverly said he was and she hoped that everything was okay. The worker met with Mr. Polk and asked him how things had been going. He said they were fine. The worker asked Mr. Polk if he watched the children last night. At first, he tried to deny it but then admitted he did. He said that Ms. Hernandez got a call for an extra job and they figured he was doing so well he could be left alone with the kids. Mr. Polk said he doesn't know why Amalia can't talk yet and thinks if she could communicate, things would be easier with her. He said he didn't mean to get so frustrated with her. Mr. Polk admitted to spanking Amalia but said he didn't leave any bruises this time. He just tapped her. The worker explained that she would need to speak with Ms. Hernandez but there is a chance the children could be removed again. Mr. Polk promised they would follow the safety plan.

The worker went to Ms. Hernandez's home. Ms. Hernandez was very apologetic and promised not to let it happen again. She thought Mr. Polk was ready because he was doing so well. The worker explained that she is worried that the family could not follow the safety plan and Amalia was physically disciplined again. The worker told Ms. Hernandez that she would have to go back to supervised visits.

In preparing for the 12-month hearing, the worker talks about permanency with Leann. She said she is not sure about adoption but would be willing to take guardianship of the children, if that was necessary. She wondered why the parents could not be given another chance. The worker explained the reunification timelines to Aunt Leann who said she would provide permanency for the children.

At the 12-month review hearing, the worker recommends that reunification services be terminated and that Aunt Leann take guardianship of the children.

Stop and complete the Reunification Reassessment