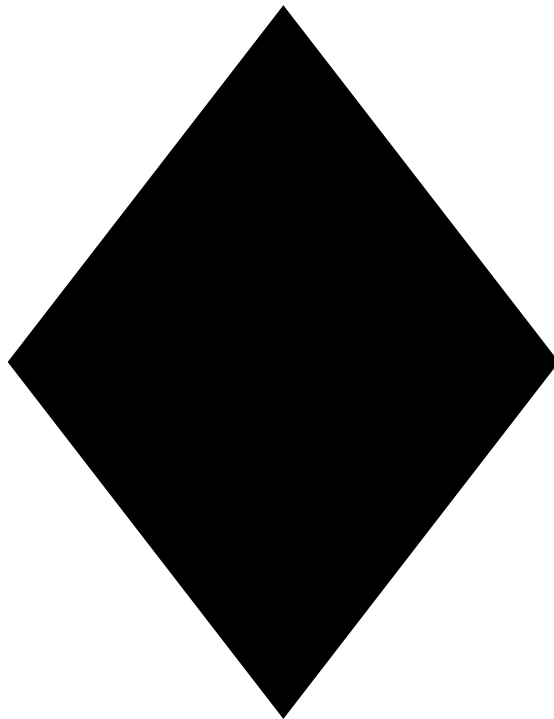


# **Common Core 3.0**

**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 domestic violence incidents that were reported and allegations that Samantha was not being supervised or fed
- During one of the domestic 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 domestic 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. She is a freshman at the high school. Samantha 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 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. 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. He also said that sometimes she is on the phone a lot and he has to take care of Amalia. The worker asked Willy if Samantha or his parents are always there. Willy said usually but there has been a couple of times lately where Samantha is at dance practice and his parents are not home. Willy said he takes good care of Amalia, except one time he was playing in his room and Amalia got out on the back balcony. Willy said he pulled her back in when he heard her crying from getting her leg stuck in the railing. 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. As she gets closer to turning two 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. Willy said Samantha was at her friend Taylor's house so she didn't know what happened. 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 wishes 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 along with a police officer did a joint response to 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. She does worry that Amalia is a little bit behind in her language skills. Ms. Lacey has tried to address this with Ms. Hernandez but says that Ms. Hernandez



shrugs it off. 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. 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. Samantha was at her friend, Taylor's, house and did not know about what 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 would 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 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. 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 and Ms. Powell involved in the safety plan.



The worker sat down with Mr. Polk, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Powell (the neighbor), and Samantha 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. 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, and Ms. Powell are worried that Mr. Polk will drink too many beers, become frustrated with Amalia, and hit Amalia with an object or his hands, leaving marks and bruises or hurting Amalia even worse.

The worker, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Polk, and Ms. Powell are worried that Willy and Amalia will be left home alone while Ms. Hernandez and Mr. Polk are working and Willy and Amalia will not be well supervised and could get hurt.

The network, family, and worker developed a safety goal that: Ms. Hernandez and Mr. Polk will work with child welfare and their network of Ms. Powell to develop a plan and show everyone that Mr. Polk will not drink around his children and will not hit the children for discipline. They will also show everyone that they always have a safe adult to care for Willy and Amalia. 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 immediate safety plan:

1. Mr. Polk will live with Leann and will not be alone with Amalia during this time.
2. Ms. Hernandez will call on Ms. Powell to watch Willy and Amalia if she and Mr. Polk have to be at work.
3. 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.
4. Ms. Powell will supervise visits between Mr. Polk and Amalia. She agrees to not allow Mr. Polk to use any physical discipline with Amalia.
5. The worker will refer the family to PG&E program to lower their gas and electric bill.
6. Mr. Polk agrees to call his previous sponsor again and start attending at least 3 AA meetings per week.
7. Ms. Hernandez agrees to attend at least 2 Al-Anon meetings per week.

**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 is 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. The worker asked Ms. Hernandez about Amalia's speech. Ms. Hernandez said they are not worried. 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.

Two weeks after the safety plan is enacted, the worker makes an unannounced visit to the home. Ms. Hernandez is hesitant to let the worker in but eventually does. The worker asked Ms. Hernandez if everything is okay. She starts crying and admits that they have still been very stressed with money. She called Mr. Polk last night because she had to go to work and nobody else was able to watch the kids. He left his sister's house to come help watch the kids. Ms. Hernandez said he smelled like he had been drinking but she didn't know what else to do. When Ms. Hernandez got home from work a few hours later, Willy told her he saw Mr. Polk hit Amalia on the arm with his belt. Ms. Hernandez said she knew the children were going to get taken away and begged the worker not to remove them. She said that she knew she should not have called her husband but Ms. Hernandez did not have anyone else she could ask. The worker asked Ms. Hernandez if they could reach anybody else at the moment to try to work on another safety plan. Ms. Hernandez said she didn't think she could do that right now. She was so embarrassed and did not want to have to tell others about what is going on in their family. The worker said she was going to interview the children, then go speak to Mr. Polk and then return to the house. She asked Ms. Hernandez to think about including other people in the safety network.

The worker attempted to interview Amalia but she just kept saying "Ouch, hurt daddy". The worker interviewed Willy and he confirmed the story. Willy said he was having fun with his dad when Amalia started throwing her toys at the TV. Willy said that at first his dad tried to stay calm but then got really mad, took off his belt and hit Amalia's arms three times. Willy said he tried to stop his dad from doing it but was afraid he would get hit too when his dad turned and swung the belt at him. Amalia was crying and very scared. Willy said after that, he took Amalia to his room and laid with her until she fell asleep. When his mom got home, he told her everything. Willy said his dad has never been like this before and he doesn't understand why he is acting like this.

The worker interviewed Samantha who said that she was at her friend's house again. She has been spending a lot of time over there. She's in high school now and that's what you do in high school. Samantha said she also doesn't like getting stuck watching her siblings all the time so she prefers to go to Taylor's house to get her homework done and relax. Samantha felt really badly that she wasn't home and her sister got hurt again.

The worker went to interview Mr. Polk and his sister. When the worker arrived at aunt Leann's house, Leann was surprised to see her. The worker asked Leann how everything was going. Leann said that things were going very well. She was sure her brother was attending his meetings and "he can't be drinking because I don't have any alcohol in the house." The worker told Leann she needed to speak with Mr. Polk so Leann went in the house and got him.



Mr. Polk came out and immediately asked the worker not to tell his sister about what happened. The worker asked Mr. Polk to explain what happened. He said that his wife called him last night crying. She had called Leann but Leann didn't answer her phone. Ms. Hernandez needed to go to work and did not want to ask Samantha to babysit again. Samantha was at Taylor's house and needs to be a teenager. Mr. Polk said he knew he should not have gone over to the house. He had stopped at a bar after work with two friends. He wasn't going to have a drink but then his friends convinced him to just have one. By the time they left, Mr. Polk had drank three beers. Mr. Polk said he thought he could handle being with the kids and he could show his wife that he was changing. He said that at first things were fine. He was playing video games with Willy and Amalia was playing on the floor. Mr. Polk said then Amalia started throwing her toys at the TV. He said he tried to ask Amalia what she wanted but it's really difficult with her because she doesn't talk very well. Mr. Polk said he lost his temper quickly – he knew it was because he had been drinking. He stood up, took off his belt, and smacked Amalia on the hand. He said Willy got pretty scared and even yelled for Mr. Polk to stop. Mr. Polk said he felt terrible when he saw the look on Willy's face – "like he thought I would hit him too." Mr. Polk said that he told his wife what happened as soon as she got home. She was sobbing and was so scared that the children would get removed.

The worker asked Mr. Polk if we should tell Leann since she is part of the safety network. He agreed to tell his sister. When Leann heard the story she couldn't believe it. She said that she knew they grew up getting spanked but they live in different times, and Amalia cannot keep getting hurt like this. Leann said she was so sorry that she couldn't pick up her phone last night. She was helping their sister with her children. Leann said she saw her brother when she got home last night but he just looked tired. They didn't say much to each other and it didn't seem like he had been drinking.

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. Leann said that she would 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.

The worker returned to Ms. Hernandez's house. Ms. Hernandez was home but did not have anybody else with her to safety plan. 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 Willy being hit by Mr. Polk. A new Danger statement was developed stating: CWS is 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 Leann could not recognize the signs of when Mr. Polk was drinking and preferred to have the children somewhere else until a TDM could be held.

The worker spoke with Ms. Hernandez 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 felt Leann could not recognize the signs of when Mr. Polk was drinking 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. 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 the Jones foster home.



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 the Jones foster parents 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, and aunt Leann came to the TDM. The family also brought Grandma Beverly with them. The Jones foster family was also present for the TDM as the current caregivers for the children. 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. Mr. Polk admitted that he is having a hard time staying sober and that he did have a few beers after the Detention hearing.

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.

## **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 substance use for Mr. Polk, parenting skills for both of them, 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 had been living with her and was drinking and she couldn't identify the signs when he was there. The supervisor said she would have concerns about Aunt Leann's ability to know when Mr. Polk is drinking and not allow him to be around the children then that is happening. They would only feel comfortable with placing with Aunt Leann if someone else supervised the visits. Grandma Beverly was not able to volunteer to supervise. Mr. Polk agreed to have his visits at a visitation center so that Willy and Amalia could live with his sister. 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.

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. Ms. Hernandez asked if she could have unsupervised visits with the children. The supervisor agreed as long as Mr. Polk was not at the visit at the same time. The Jones family agreed to have Ms. Hernandez pick up the children on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and then on Saturday afternoons. Willy and Amalia would also get to see Samantha during those visits.

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 Aunt Leann and Grandma Beverly to develop a plan and show everyone that Mr. Polk can remain sober around his children and that he 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 has been drinking or if he is getting angry with the children. 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. The worker also addressed Amalia's speech delays with Ms. Hernandez. At first, Ms. Hernandez was defensive but she was at least open to having a developmental assessment of Amalia to better determine if Amalia needs some extra help with her speech. Ms. Hernandez said that Willy has an IEP at school for some behavioral problems.

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 wanted to learn how to better handle Amalia's tantrums. He said that his other two children listened better than she does and he gets angry that he has to tell her "no" so many times. 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 identify two additional people that she can use as childcare for the children.
  - b. Ms. Hernandez will write out her childcare plan for the worker in case she has to work after the children get home from school.
  - c. Ms. Hernandez will demonstrate that she utilizes her safety network to provide childcare for the children, rather than relying on 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 one person that he can use as a mentor for learning how to better parent Amalia.
  - c. 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. CWS Social Worker will work with Willy, his school, and his caregiver to resolve challenges that Willy can maintain problem-free school behavior.
  - a. Willy will continue to participate in his IEP services for school counseling to help him resolve conflicts at school.



- b. Willy will talk to his school counselor, his social worker, or Aunt Leann if he is not feeling safe at school and feels like he is going to get into a fight.
- 2. Willy agrees to receive age-appropriate services.
  - a. Willy will receive medical/dental care in accordance with CHDP requirements.
  - b. Willy will continue to receive updates to his IEP in accordance with legal standards.

### **Amalia Polk**

#### **Objectives:**

- 1. Amalia will receive age-appropriate services.
  - a. Aunt Leann will ensure Amalia's developmental evaluation and follow-up referrals for services are completed.
  - b. Aunt Leann will attend all speech therapy appointments for Amalia.
  - c. 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 she will attend Amalia's speech therapy appointment.

#### **William Polk**

Mr. Polk will have 2 supervised visits per week for 2 hours each time as arranged by the visitation center. Mr. Polk will demonstrate that he can interact with Willy and Amalia without threatening to hit them or without physically disciplining them. Mr. Polk will demonstrate that he understands Amalia's developmental stages and why she may say "no" so many times.

### **6-month review:**

Ms. Hernandez got started on her case plan immediately. She's 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 they are still struggling but will figure out a way to manage. 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. The worker asked Ms. Hernandez what would happen if the children were returned to live with her and she had to work. She said that Aunt Leann said she can continue to stay more involved with the family and help with childcare. The worker said she was worried about that because Aunt Leann was part of the original safety plan and that didn't work very well. Ms. Hernandez said that Samantha can help sometimes but she also wants to give Samantha the opportunity to be a teenager.

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 of about child development and why Amalia acts the way she does sometimes. 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 have continued unsupervised visits with their mom on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The developmental assessment of Amalia did show that she has a speech delay. She was referred for speech therapy and Ms. Hernandez has been participating in her speech therapy appointments. Willy remained in his school of origin and is doing well in school. His IEP continues to be appropriate. Aunt Leann reports that Willy enjoys visits with his father. 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 has made all but two of his visits. Aunt Leann continues to use Amalia's daycare, Ms. Lacey, to provide childcare for Amalia while Aunt Leann works part-time. This has also helped Amalia's development since she is remaining in the same environment.

The visitation reports for Mr. Polk state that he visits regularly but still has difficulty controlling Amalia's behavior. He struggles to redirect her without getting angry. He also tends to ignore Amalia when he is playing with Willy and hasn't learned how to integrate both children into whatever activities they are doing.

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. 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. 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 her friend's house. 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 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. CWS Social Worker will work with Willy, his school, and his caregiver to resolve challenges s that Willy can maintain problem-free school behavior.
  - a. Willy will continue to participate in his IEP services for school counseling to help him resolve conflicts at school.
  - b. Willy will talk to his school counselor, his social worker, or Aunt Leann if he is not feeling safe at school and feels like he is going to get into a fight.
2. Willy agrees to receive age-appropriate services.
  - a. Willy will receive medical/dental care in accordance with CHDP requirements.
  - b. Willy will continue to receive updates to his IEP in accordance with legal standards.



### **Amalia Polk**

#### **Objectives:**

1. Amalia will receive age-appropriate services.
  - a. Ms. Hernandez will attend all speech therapy appointments for Amalia.
  - b. 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 she will attend Amalia's speech therapy appointment.

#### **William Polk**

Mr. Polk will have 2 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. Mr. Polk will demonstrate that he understands Amalia's developmental stages and why she may say "no" so many times.

## **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. Aunt Leann, Grandma Beverly, and Ms. Laub, a new friend, 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 is able to have 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 continues to participate in Amalia's speech therapy appointments and Amalia's speech has greatly improved. 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.

After 9 months, a second reunification assessment is done and the children are returned to Ms. Hernandez. She is allowed to supervise Mr. Polk's visits as long as they are outside of the home. Mr. Polk has been sober for 7 months and has completed his outpatient treatment. He continues with his aftercare program and attending his 12 step meetings. Both parents have completed their parenting programs and feel they have learned a lot from them.

In preparing for the 12-month review, the worker discusses their progress with the parents. Ms. Hernandez and Mr. Polk have demonstrated their ability to keep the children safe while together. Ms. Lacey will continue to provide childcare until 5:30 pm. Aunt Leann, Grandma Beverly, and Ms. Laub will provide after-hours childcare on a regular basis. Steve, Mr. Polk's sponsor said he is willing to notify the social worker if Mr. Polk has a relapse or is no longer participating in his recovery program. Gary said that he is also in recovery. He attends meetings with Mr. Polk and will be sure to call Mr. Polk if he notices he is not attending meetings anymore.

The family continues to do well over the next few months and demonstrates that they can utilize their safety network. All of the network members report that their check-ins have shown the family to be utilizing their new skills and protective capacities. Mr. Polk has remained sober and Ms. Hernandez has demonstrated her ability to intervene if Mr. Polk becomes angry with Amalia. Ms. Hernandez is working less as the family has been able to reduce some of their costs.

In preparation for the 12-month review hearing, another reunification assessment is done, the social worker will be recommending that Mr. Polk be allowed to return to the home.

### **Stop and complete the Risk Reassessment**