

Teen Mother

I have been working with this 17 year old female since June 2009. I attended the initial TDM for this minor as she had been a runaway since May 3rd, 2009. She came back to the Department because she tested positive for marijuana at the time of birth of her baby boy, and a hospital hold was done by CPS. This minor was considered a chronic runner.

During the TDM she spoke very intelligently, and had goals for herself and her baby. This minor has been in the system for over 10 years, and she had been parenting her little brother, sister, and sometimes, her biological mother.

The TDM decision was for the minor to go into a home with someone she knew through the FFA. I could see the potential in this minor and requested to work with her because she needed some guidance. This minor was linked into mental health services for herself and Infant Mental Health for the baby.

She and I worked very hard over the past few months (along with her Therapist and foster parent) to get her back into school because she is striving to be a better mother to her son than her mother was to her. I continually stressed the need for her to think of her baby first before anyone. The minor and I would always talk about the triggers that make her run, and the need for her to stay in placement for the safety of herself and the baby. She was also warned of the repercussions if she ran away with the baby.

She had a long road ahead of her before she turns 18 in December. She is determined to get out of the system because at times she feels as if the Social Workers let her down because she always has to wait for court orders to get things done. I kept her encouraged, and informed her that everything will work out for the best.

She has been consistently attending her therapy appointments, and is in school getting ready to take the GED test. Her baby is healthy, and has a strong bond with his mother. She has been applying for jobs, attending drug treatment groups, attending church, and has an apartment set up for when dependency is dismissed.

Although I wanted the minor to stay in the system until the age of 19 when the baby is older, I feel that we have worked very hard to build up her confidence, and she has the determination to make the right decisions for her baby and keep him safe when she goes out on her own.