



A Case for COBYS

Behind each data point, unit of service, hour of therapy and class delivered, is a face and a case. Who are COBYS clients, the cases we receive? What exactly does COBYS do for them?

We serve a broad segment of society, but many COBYS clients receive services through county foster care and state adoption programs.

This representational case presents an overview of the work done by the hearts and hands of COBYS staff as we walk with our clients through their realities, times of uncertainty.

REFERRAL FORM

COBYS Intake Worker: Kristin Kuhn

Referent: T. Martin Agency: Lancaster CYA

Child's Name: Layla Jackson DOB: 7/27/08 Age: 11 Gender: F Race: Bi-racial

Date placement is needed: 8/21/19 Current goal: 1. F

Mother's Name: Sarah Jackson DOB: 11/5/90

Father's Name: Christopher Jackson DOB: 3/26/85

Siblings (name, age, location): Salva

Visitation (participants, location, length)
Mother: 2 hours/week, Permanent

Family background & placement history
Family was homeless. Parents h
Abandoned children for long stre

Child's needs and behaviors:
Needs stability and structure as

Any indicated abuse reports or sus
Indicates father's abuse and c

Mental health information (diag
Trauma therapy highly recom

Child's services (therapy, I.U., I



We invite you

Join us on a journey through this example of 11-year-old Layla, **a representational case**, to deepen your understanding of the need for care and for generosity.

Today's investments in those we serve, by our staff and by you, mean hope for a brighter future.

The case presented here is fictional. Part of our job is to protect the identity of our clients, so we don't share details of actual cases. Only the names of COBYS staff are real, all other names, accounts and descriptions are fictitious. The photos are stock images.

In the inter
Layla Jackson,
Docket No.: CP-45-DP-82
FID: 45-FI

ia
while Division

PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY

DGE OF SAID COURT:

the Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Service Agency, res

custody of the above alleged dependent child will be filed by Petitioner
ing custody of the above alleged dependent child. The averments s
custody are incorporated herein by reference.

that the alleged dependent child be detained and placed in shelter
services, foster care is the planned placement for this child. Despite the ef
to prevent or eliminate the need for placement, continuation in the home i
tested positive. The family is also homelessness and have not obt
stable housing for themselves or their children.

and residence of the alleged dependent child's parent, guardian(s),

Sarah Jackson, homeless
Father: Christopher Jackson, homeless

4. The minor is presently in the custody of: Parents.

5. This placement child is at imminent risk of removal from her home. Absent
services, foster care is the planned placement for this child. Despite the ef
to prevent or eliminate the need for placement, continuation in the home i
welfare and best interests of the child and placement in foster care is nec

6. WHEREFORE, your Petitioner respectfully requests that an Order be en
of the alleged dependent child to the Lancaster County Children
such other relief of as may be proper.

A child's journey usually starts with intervention by county Children and Youth Services. Children can enter into care for reasons of neglect, abuse, addiction and homelessness, among others. Once in care, and depending on the need, children are assigned to receive foster care, adoption, counseling or family life education services provided by COBYS.

It's official. With a stroke of a pen a court order separates a child from their biological parents. This systematic, seemingly cold process includes a flurry of activity by judges, clerks, lawyers, Guardian Ad Litem and caseworkers.

Foster Family Members:

Thomas Weston
Lily Weston
Emma Weston
Mason Weston
Bethany Weston

Type of Care
☐ Foster
☐ Respite
☒ Foster/Adopt

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	LAYLA	1	2 Coby's @ home 4 pm	3 Therapy 3 PM	4	5 MOM 11 AM @ Coby's
6	7	8 Dr. Apot 2:30 PM	9 Book Club @ Library 6:30	10 Therapy 3 PM	11 MOM Visit 4pm in the Park	12 FRANK VISIT EMMA
13	14 COURT 10:30 AM	15	16	17 Therapy 3 PM	18	19 MOM Visit 11 @ Coby's
20	21	22	23 Book Club @ Library 6:30	24 Therapy 3 PM	25	26 MOM Visit 11 @ Coby's

Visits and interactions with biological family members don't necessarily stop when a child is in care. Reunification is usually the goal before adoption is considered. COBYS caseworkers make sure these visits occur and are beneficial for the child.

During the very hectic first days in the foster care system, COBYS strives to provide calm. The child's life has been disrupted even further than it was before as they are placed in a completely foreign environment. Establishing safety and stability along with trust is paramount in the early days.

Beyond a safe place to call home, there are health and education services to set up and coordinate. Care professionals at every level offer a myriad of therapies and support to help move a foster child toward healing.

Don't forget activities like sports, music, clubs and more. COBYS helps resource parents make sense of it all.

A Case for COBYS – Connected Care

The Child

Our 11-year-old girl, Layla, has already been through a lot. Her family has been homeless before. She has seen addiction, neglect and abuse first-hand. She has cared for her younger brother while just getting by herself. She's a bright girl, but truancy issues challenged the chance for good grades in school. Although she doesn't have the anger issues to the degree of her brother, she has engaged in dangerous behavior.

Without a consistent, positive role model, her path forward is uncertain.

Caring for the whole child

A child in foster care needs services to address their unique challenges. COBYS, with the help of resource parents, coordinates care in a way that builds and nurtures the positives in a child's life, while addressing the challenges.

After all, every child should be praised and should be able to have fun, play with friends or siblings, have a hobby and participate in a sport. Each person is more than just the challenges they face.

The Therapist

Crucial for healing and wholeness, therapists at COBYS provide evidence-based trauma therapy for children and adults giving them tools to heal broken relationships and move forward with hope.

Family Life Education

Evidence-based programs give parents, children and teens the knowledge they need to parent and act appropriately. Some classes are court-ordered, some are elective, all provide lessons toward responsible behaviors.

The System:

The courts, county, state and federal governments

The system can be an ever changing maze of regulations, meetings and people. Navigation of these interlocking supports requires compassionate experts, like the professionals at COBYS.

From: Heather Martin <heather@cobys.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 8:23 AM
To: 'Lily W.' <lily345@gmail.com>
Cc: Thomas W. <tomtom1583@gmail.com>; Ashley Naque <anaque@cobys.org>
Subject: RE: Update

I appreciate the update on Layla's recent meltdown at school. It is a little disheartening since she had been doing lately. We know flare ups happened with more regularity in the past before and after placement, but it has been a while. I know she showed this kind of anger and inappropriate behavior. I'm glad it didn't escalate further. I know the school officials are aware of her situation. Hopefully that will come into play with their course of action.

I know she sees the therapist on Thursday. I will reach out to her to encourage her to discuss this with the therapist. I will do so on your side as well. She has made such progress. If we can find out what triggered her action.

Thank you again for notifying me –

Heather Martin
Senior Foster Care Caseworker

Home Visit Log Note & COBYS Monthly Safety Assessment

Purpose of Contact: To ensure the safety and well-being of the child.
Caseworker Action Plan: Minimum twice-monthly contact by COBYS staff.

Date of Contact:	2/24/20	Time:	3:30 pm	to	4:30 pm
Child's Name:	Layla Jackson	People Involved in Visit:	Siblings: Salvador, Foster Fam.; Lily, Emma		
COBYS Staff Name:	Heather Martin	Date & Type of Next Contact:	3/7/20 - Bio mother visit		

Child's Interactions with Caseworker: Layla greeted me cheerfully. Stayed mostly engaged, but is still guarded. She opened up gradually and we shared some laughs when talking about favorite books. And she shared some stories from school.

Description of Personality and Interests: Layla shared that school is going mostly good. She has developed a couple of friends in Book Club, but still keeps to herself and gets through the day. She is interested in science this year.

Relationship with Resource Family: Seems comfortable with foster family. She is learning when it is appropriate to join in family activities and hovers/corrects/argues with him.

Diet and Sleeping Habits: Sleep has been getting better. Most issues with her mother or other family member.

Behaviors and Emotions Displayed: Improved behavior. Much fewer outbursts at home, although they are still occurring. She seems to look to her mother for positive outlook. Emma is patient with her.

Skills (Gross & Fine Motor, Speech/Hygiene/Executive Functioning): Layla is very clear when she chooses to do so. Does seem to be interested in FF activities. Still often needs to be reminded of daily hygiene.

Age & Developmentally Appropriate Activities/Relationship with Peers/Social Skills/Strengths & Areas of Concern/Religious: Layla is a bright girl and despite missing time in school over the years is academically on track. She is not beyond her years, but doesn't overtly display that. Remains shy in social settings.

Medical: Layla is now up to date with all vaccinations.

Monthly Resource Parent Report for the Month of: April

Child's Name: Layla Jackson Caseworker: Heather Martin

Behaviors in the Resource Home: (List positive as well as negative behaviors): Layla had an overall good month. She still fights/argues with Sal frequently. Partly in self-defense of his aggression, but she starts her share too. She can't find the line between letting the parenting to us. She is learning when it is appropriate for her alone time, which we know she needs, but there are times she needs to be a part of family duties and responsibilities. Still has flare ups of shouting and storming off from seemingly small, undefinable triggers.

Interactions with Members of Resource Home: Layla argued with Emma this month. That hasn't happened before. She has always been a bit in awe with Emma. Perhaps she is feeling comfortable enough to engage more with her, even if it is to challenge. Maybe the realization that Emma is leaving for school in the fall has something to do with it. She has been good with Bethany and likes to read to her.

COBYS FAMILY SERVICES

At the center of compassionate care

Therapy Record

Child's Name: Layla Jackson D.O.B. 7-27-08

Resource Parent Name: Lily & Thomas Weston

Type of Therapy: Individual Outpatient

Therapist Name: Lynette Nisly, LSW

Therapist Signature: Lynette Nisly, LSW

Address: 1417 Oregon Rd, Aceto, PA Phone: 717-661-5548

Date of Visit	Therapist Initials	Additional Comments
11/14/19	LN	
11/20/19	LN	
12/5/19	LN	
12/12/19	LN	
12/19/19	LN	
1/2/20	LN	
1/9/20	LN	

Incredible Years

(Approved program of the Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Service Agency)

13 sessions, 1.5 hours each session

A free comprehensive program designed to support parents and their children (birth to 12 years old). Using the evidence-based Incredible Years Parenting Program, this 13-week program supports attachment and parent-child interaction, encourages positive parenting, and increases parents' ability to promote children's social, emotional, and academic development.

Individual Service Plan and Monthly Report

☐ Initial ISP or ☒ 6 Month Review

Child's Name: Layla Jackson
Date of Birth: 7/27/2008
Date of Placement: 8/21/2019

Report Period: 2/23/2020-8/23/2020
Date of ISP Meeting: 8/30/2020
ISP Meeting Participants: Andy Gonzalez, Sarah Jackson, Heather Martin
Date of Report: 08/21/2020

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Mother: Sarah Jackson
Address: Milagro House, 669 W Chestnut St, Lancaster, PA 17603
Phone: 717-509-1401
Invited to Participate in Meeting? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Receiving ISP? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☒ Copy to Attorney

Father: Christopher Jackson
Address: Lancaster County Prison, 625 E King St
Inmate Number 2019-0001701
Phone: 717-696-2832
Invited to Participate in Meeting? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Receiving ISP? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☒ Copy to Attorney

PLANS/ACTIONS FOR SARAH JACKSON, REVIEW PERIOD: 2/23/2020-8/23/2020

Sarah Jackson will complete these tasks,

Task to Accomplish Goal:	Ongoing Action	Date Completed	Date Discontinued
Provide the caseworker with the date and time of the intake appointment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Report progress, share verbal/written report from Provider to caseworker checks in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Provide the Agency Caseworker with written proof of successful completion of therapy.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Take all medications at the appropriate time and follow directions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
E. Request assistance when help is needed (transportation, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
F. Submit to random drug test as deemed necessary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

The Caseworkers

Stable force. Advocate. Compassionate counsel. Passionate supporter. Truthful companion. These are some of the roles of a caseworker for a child in care at COBYS.

Caseworkers walk with the children, foster families and biological families through their journey towards permanency in whatever form that takes.

Investing in quality

Caseworkers receive 40 hours of training annually to provide expert, quality care. They are knowledgeable of best practices on topics including reporting abuse, human services regulations, ethics, trauma, attachment, resilience and strengthening parents and families. All for the children and families in our care.

The Resource Parents

Called to serve, resource families provide love, safety and a semblance of stability for foster children. Acceptance and patience are key as these families manage with the hard truths in the lives of the foster child.

The path forward

Trauma and broken relationships effect our brains in tangible ways, impacting our behaviors.

COBYS therapists connect with children to address challenges, providing coordinated care between multiple services received at COBYS and in the community, giving them the best chance for a brighter future.

An uphill climb

Meeting the needs of children is challenging even for those with all the resources in the world.

Homelessness makes it nearly impossible. How do you provide for the health and safety of a child if you have no place to sleep at night? Imagine trying to recover from addiction if you are constantly wondering where your next meal will come from.

COBYS can't solve problems for biological parents, but we do encourage them, walk with them and connect them to services, providing a path towards successful parenting.

The Biological Parents

"There but by the grace of God, go I."

We all experience challenges. Some of us are fortunate enough to be equipped to handle challenges and have a support structure for assistance. Many are not so fortunate. Bad choices, circumstances and past trauma can compound to spiral into issues beyond our control and ability to fix alone. The hopes and dreams of the past crumble. Social institutions step in, and the process begins to work toward a path to recovery.

Ending with hope

Not all endings are happy. There's a reason those stories that end "...and they lived happily everafter," are called fairy tales. Because in social services, even in the seemingly happiest, most secure outcomes like adoption, which can be filled with hope and promise, there has still been loss.

A child may have a new adoptive family that loves them as one of their own, but there are biological parents who lost their child. That child lost their first parents. Reunified families rejoice in being together again, but live with the history and face a life-long journey to stay on the right path.

Even in the joy, there is still underlying trauma and sadness. But hope is tenacious, and it is our goal to make sure children like Layla are never without it on their journey toward their future.

Things I miss
Seeing my mom and dad
Our old apartment
My aunts and uncles
My old school

Things I have now
New friends
A bed to sleep in every night
A new foster family

*Pages from
Layla's Lifebook*



Motivated by Christian faith, COBYS Family Services educates, supports and empowers children and adults to reach their full potential.



Foster Care • Adoption • Counseling • Family Life Education

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