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Moyer Family Status Report/Treatment Summary

9/26/2024

Service agreement stipulation: Clients agree that Ms. Keilin's written treatment summaries will be the only information shared with the court or other parties about therapy. Written summaries detail attendance, participation, goals, progress towards goals, relevant collateral information, current status, status at termination, and referrals and recommendations. You agree that you will not otherwise attribute behavior, statements, opinions, conclusions or recommendations to Ms. Keilin or any other participant as coming from or related to therapy.

This family was referred to me by their legal counsel in May of 2024. The presenting issue was "the impaired relationship between the father and children." I agreed to assess the family's readiness family systems therapy and to develop a treatment plan.

I had the following individual and joint sessions:

Christine Moyer

5/30/2024

6/11/2024

6/13/2024 – Christine, Max and Adrian

7/16/2024

Robert Moyer

5/28/2024

6/24/2024 – Robert and Adrian

7/17/2024

8/09/2024

8/21/2024 – Robert and Adrian

Adrian Moyer

7/16/2024

8/14/2024

Max Moyer

7/16/2024

8/14/2024

Collateral

Kari Betts - 6/25/2024, 8/14/2024

Residential Time: Adrian has six hours supervised visitation every other week. Max has no regular contact with Robert.

Assessment Process

I met with each parent individually several times, with the children (except for Max with Robert), and individually with each child twice. Both parents and the children attended sessions as requested. Max participated quite reluctantly, but he did participate. My focus was to assess the resist/refuse dynamics present.

There was a fair amount of chaos in the system which would die down and then re-emerge. This made the assessment process difficult. Robert's desire/need for contact with the children was very strong and he exhibited some impulsive behavior and poor boundaries. His insight into his behavior was poor.

Regarding factors contributing to and sustaining parent-child contact problems¹:

- Intense marital conflict before/after separation - yes
- Humiliating separation - no
- Lack of functional co-parenting - yes
- Divorce conflict and litigation – yes
- Rejected parent's reactions, negative beliefs and behaviors – Robert blames Christine for the parent-child contact problems
- Personality of rejected parent – Robert has big energy, poor insight, and is impulsive
- Parenting of rejected parent – Children report exposure to parent conflict
- Child's age, cognitive capacity, and temperament - Adrian, 12, runs anxious, but sees positives in both parents; Max, 16, is outspoken and firm in his negative beliefs regarding Robert, his reasoning and problem-solving seem immature
- Child's vulnerability – unknown beyond already identified
- Sibling relationships – mixed, it is unknown if Max influences Adrian against Robert; Max likely influences Adrian some just by the fact that he is refusing contact.
- Aligned parent's parenting - Christine struggles to hide her anxiety and distress related to Robert's behavior and accommodates Adrian's anxiety. She is open to coaching.
- Personality of aligned parent - Christine also runs anxious
- Aligned professionals – not to my knowledge
- Extended families – not to my knowledge

Key challenges I noted in the family included:

- Very limited time between Robert and Adrian
- Robert's poor boundaries and impulsive behavior related to Christine
- Christine's porous boundaries related to Robert
- Max's strong rejection of Robert
- Adrian's anxiety related to Robert

Adrian's resistance to contact with Robert is low-moderate. He wants contact and it makes him anxious. Adrian is anxious about Robert's self-control, behavior, judgement and decision making. Christine has

¹ Kelly & Johnston, 2001

accommodated Adrian's anxiety, but it remains active. I don't think accommodation is helping to decrease Adrian's anxiety. Christine's anxiety towards Robert is generally pretty high and easily activated. Christine needs to feel less anxiety about Robert's behavior so that she can better support Adrian in addressing his anxiety.

Robert and Adrian's very limited time was a significant barrier to reunification services. Robert's behavior also was a barrier, keeping the system in chaos. I'm concerned about Robert's impulse control and whether he can sustain appropriate behavior. I do not recommend this family for family-based systems/reunification currently.

To be appropriate for therapy, I recommend the following:

1. More contact between Robert and Adrian (minimum of 2 contacts of 2 – 4 hours per week)
2. A 60-to-90-day period of stability in the family system prior to starting the intervention (stability equals no major conflicts, no new litigation, compliance with court orders, and no significant boundary violations).
3. Behavioral-based benchmarks for Robert to gain more/liberalized contact hours
4. A structured residential plan that provides for regular increases in contact based on Robert's behavior and Adrian's adjustment
5. A PC to implement the plan, monitor Robert's progress towards benchmarks and compliance with communication stipulations, monitor the children's adjustment, and to facilitate parent communication and minor dispute resolution.
6. This family may benefit from a team approach to family-systems therapy, such as individual therapists and a family therapist, all focused on addressing the resist/refuse dynamics.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen Keilin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jen" and last name "Keilin" clearly distinguishable.

Jennifer Keilin, LICSW