**GUARDIAN *ad Litem* REPORT TO COURT**

**CASA KANE COUNTY**

**CASE NUMBER(S)**: 19 JA-51 / 19 JA-93

**HEARING DATE**: 10/19/2021

**PURPOSE OF HEARING**: Status of Order of Protection

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

 DOB AGE

John Smith 05/05/2013 8

Nancy Cooper 11/11/2019 23 months

**FINDINGS UPDATE RELATED TO THE CHILDREN:**

**John Smith** (8 years old)

Child Description and Developmental Observations

John was returned home to his mother Angela Jones on August 9, 2021. He had been spending most weekends with his mother over the course of the summer, and the final transition was successful. He attends school nearby and shared with CASA/GAL that he has made several friends. He enjoys riding his bike in the neighborhood and going to the park. His grandmother and former foster mother, Samantha L., picks him up regularly for visits with his extended family.

Placement/Living Situation

John resides with his mother and his sister, Nancy Cooper. Their home is close to stores, restaurants and parks and has a fenced in back yard where John likes to hunt for rocks. The home is well maintained and comfortable and he has many age-appropriate toys and activities.

School

John attends 3rd grade at Edwards Elementary School in Chicago. He shared with CASA/GAL that he likes his teacher, Ms. Jackie Martin. Ms. Martin shared with CASA/GAL that John has had good attendance since the start of the school year and is doing well socially. He has made many friends and seems to enjoy school. Ms. Martin shared that John exhibits ADHD type behaviors in class which she believes have been impeding his ability to learn. She inquired if an evaluation can be completed to determine if John would benefit from therapy services. CASA/GAL shared this information with One Hope United Caseworker, Martha Montgomery

Medical and Health

John is up to date on all required examinations and immunizations. He has no health issues.

Services

The Client Service Plan dated November 4, 2020, recommended individual therapy services for John. John has attended weekly counseling sessions with Howard Counseling since February 2021. He no longer attends counseling as a result of returning home. According to his mother, John struggles with understanding the change in his living situation. He is used to being entertained and engaged in activities with his extended family while in his grandmother’s care, and the transition home has at times been confusing for him. CASA/GAL spoke with Ms. Montgomery regarding the continuation of counseling. Ms. Montgomery stated she is checking to determine if the agency is able to provide this service during the After Care period which is scheduled to end on February 9, 2022. As of the date of this report writing, an answer has not been determined.

Visitation

John told CASA/GAL that he sees his father, Mark Smith, when he spends time at his grandmother’s home in Aurora.

**Cooper, Nancy** (23 months old)

Child Description and Developmental Observations

Nancy was returned home to her mother on August 9, 2021. She had been spending multiple days a week at her mother’s home during the summer and the final transition was successful. She is a very happy and healthy toddler who is extremely active and exhibits typical behavior for her age. CASA/GAL has observed on multiple occasions that Nancy has formed a strong bond with her mother.

Placement/Living Situation

Nancy resides with her mother and brother John. She sleeps in her mother’s room in a portable crib. Nancy has acclimated to the new home and has many age-appropriate toys and activities.

Daycare

Nancy is not currently enrolled in daycare. Her mother has researched several facilities in the area and has selected one and provided the information to Ms. Parks so that the appropriate paperwork can be sent for financial assistance by the agency.

Medical and Health

Nancy is up to date on all required examinations and immunizations. Her last pediatrician visit was on May 13, 2021, and no issues were found.

Services

No services have been recommended for Nancy.

Visitation

Ms. Jones stated that Nancy sees her father when she goes to visit her family at her grandmother’s home in Aurora.

**FINDINGS UPDATE RELATED TO THE PARENTS:**

**Angela Jones** (Mother)

Living Situation

Angela resides in a two-bedroom apartment in Chicago. The home has a full bathroom, kitchen, and a living room area. It is clean and comfortably furnished.

Employment

Ms. Jones is currently trying to obtain employment. The barrier to this goal has been securing daycare for Nancy. Now that After Care has been identified as a service that can continue up to 6 months and includes financial assistance for daycare, Ms. Jones will increase her employment search effort. Her goal is to secure a part time job so that Nancy can transition into daycare slowly.

Medical and Health

Ms. Jones is prescribed Subutex (BUP) to manage cravings and withdrawal symptoms. Following are the current medications she is prescribed from Mathers Recovery:

Adderall XR 30m once a day

Gabepentin 300 mg 1 tablet tid oral

Prozac 40 mg oral 1 cap(s) capsule once a day

Subutex (BUP) 8 mg three times a day

Following are the dates and results of recent drug tests:

9/29/2021 Negative for ALC, MDA, MDEA, MDMA, BAR, BZO, COC, MTD, OPI, 6-MAM, PCP, THC. Positive for AMP which has occurred in the past and has been attributed to Ms. Jones’s prescription for Adderall.

Services

Ms. Jones has completed all recommended services and continues to participate in drug testing with negative results, mental health counseling, and is an active and regular participant at NA/AA meetings.

Ms. Montgomery discussed with Ms. Jones during a call on August 2, 2021, that the agency will apply for Norman Funds to assist with necessities for the children. The application was to be submitted on August 4, 2021. As of the date of this report writing, a determination on the availability of this benefit has not been determined.

**Mark Smith** (Legal Father)

No contact has been made by CASA/GAL with Mr. Smith.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. John Smith should be provided with an evaluation to determine if the behaviors exhibited during school are related to ADHD; if positive, appropriate treatment should be identified and provided.

Respectfully submitted by CASA/GAL: Amanda N. Date: 09/28/2021