



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 (diagno:
Trauma therapy highly recor

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
 nile Division

PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY

DGE OF SAID COURT:

e Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Service Agency, res

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

That the alleged dependent child be detained and placed in shelter
 s Petition for Custody for the following reasons: On August 19, 2019
 erns of homeless, neglect and ongoing substance abuse. Both par
 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.

Where it starts for COBYS

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.

The heartbreaking step

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.

COBYS steps in to comfort a scared and confused child, finding them a safe and loving foster home. Resource families play a vital role in providing stability in a foster child's life.



Resource Family

- Foster Family Members:
- Thomas Weston
 - Lily Weston
 - Emma Weston
 - Mason Weston
 - Bethany Weston

Approval Date:
9/15/2017

Type of Care

- Foster
- Respite
- Foster/Ado

In the Interest Of:
Layla Jackson, a Minor

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Court of Common Pleas - Juvenile Division
County of Lancaster
2nd Judicial District

Docket No: CP-17-00000
FID: 17-00000
County Local No: _____

Dependency Petition
 Aggravated Circumstances Alleged (Attached)
 Initiated by Private Petition

Shelter Care Application
 Application Protective C

Name: Lancaster County Child Youth Social Service Agency
Address: 150 N. Queen St., Suite 111
Phone: 717-290-7926

Name: Layla Jackson
Address: Homeless

Race: Asian/Pacific Islander
 Black
 White

Type of Dependency: The child is in the care of the court because:
 (1) is without proper care or supervision
 (2) has been placed for care and protection
 (3) has been abandoned

August 23, 2019

Andy Gonzalez
COBYS Permanency Unit
134 E. King Street,
Lancaster PA 17602

Re: Layla Jackson

Dear Mr. Gonzalez,

On August 21, 2019, your agency placed Layla Jackson in the foster home of Thomas and Lily Weston. Their address and phone number are 1879 Franklin Street, Denver PA 17517, 717-656-6580. As a provider agency, COBYS will:

- Visit Layla once a week for the first four weeks, with at least one of those contacts occurring in the resource home.
- After that, a minimum of twice monthly visits, at least one contact occurring in the resource home. (We understand that you, as the county caseworker, will also need to conduct occasional home visits with Layla and the Weston family. If at all possible, we like to schedule these home visits together to reduce the number of appointments for the resource family).

As Layla's caseworker, I will:

- Make referrals for any services that are necessary or beneficial for her after consulting with you and her birth parents.
- Notify birth parents of Layla's medical/dental appointments
- Conduct safety assessments
- Assist Resource Parents with discipline strategies
- Discuss conflicts within the resource home
- Help the child understand why they are in foster care
- Follow up on support services that are in place
- Work with the team to create and follow up with Individual Service Plan goals
- Supervise visitation, follow up on issues/behaviors after visits
- Frequent phone and email contact with Resource Parents and various team members
- Attend all required court hearings and when called on, testify to the Layla's progress
- Complete an Individual Service plan and Child Safety Assessment review every six months
- Complete monthly reports, record log notes of behavior, appointments and activities
- Inform about potential home and family changes

Maintaining connections

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.

The first days

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.

COBYS staff present the situation to resource parents and the child with honesty, compassion and hope, spelling out the process and possibilities. The early goal is to keep the child safe and get them comfortable in their new surroundings.

Coordination of services

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.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	LAYLA	1	2 cobys @ home 4pm	3 therapy 3 PM	4	5 MOM 11am @ COBYS
6	7	8 Dr. Appt 2:30 PM	9 Book Club @ Library 6:30	10 therapy 3 PM	11 MOM visit team in the park	12 FAMILY VISIT EMMA
13	14 COURT 10:30 AM	15	16	17 therapy 3 PM	18	19 MOM visit 11 @ Cobys
20	21	22	23 Book Club @ Library 6:30	24 therapy 3 PM	25	26 MOM visit 11 @ Cobys

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.

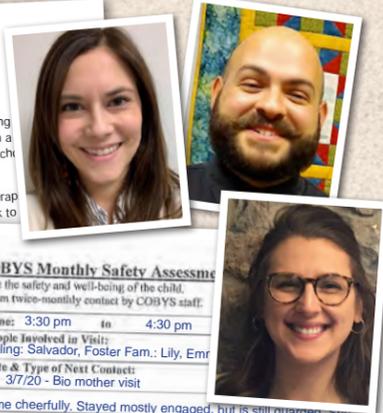
Without a consistent, positive role model, her path forward is uncertain.

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 since 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 on your side as well. She has made some progress. I don't want her to fall back to where she was before.

Thank you again for notifying me –
Heather Martin
Senior Foster Care Caseworker



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.

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.



THERAPY RECORD

Child's Name: Layla Jackson
DOB: 7-27-08
Resource Parent Name: Lily & Thomas Weston
Type of Therapy: Individual Distraction
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	
11/21/19	LN	
12/5/19	LN	
12/12/19	LN	
12/19/19	LN	
1/2/20	LN	
1/9/20	LN	

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.

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 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.

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



At the center of compassionate care



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.

School:
When she applies herself, Layla does very well in school. She sometimes neglects doing the work in classes she doesn't see as important. She has run into a few issues because she didn't ask for help when she needed it. She feels she has to do it by herself.

Community Activities and Reasonable and Prudent Decisions Made:
A weekend trip to the shore (lucked out with hot weather – for April), Disney on Ice, Church banquet, Philadelphia art museum visit, went with us to go on Emma's college tour

any household member changes and the date that it occurred this month (individuals moving in, moving out, adopted):

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.



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.

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.

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.



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

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

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

Sarah Jackson will complete these tasks.

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"/>		
Request assistance when help is needed (transportation, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Submit to random drug test as deemed necessary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

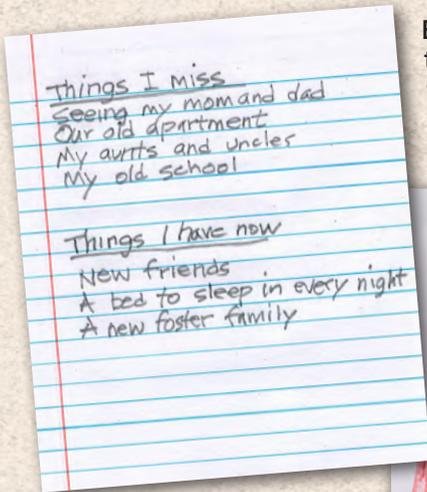


Ending with hope

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.



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

1417 Oregon Road, Leola, PA 17540 • 717-656-6580 • www.cobys.org