**CASE FAMILY HANDOUTS**

**CORE WEEK 1 INTERVIEWS**

**Interview with referent Courtney Shores**

Courtney Shores reports she has been working with Travis providing intensive in- home services for about 3 weeks. She stated she has only been able to meet with Travis a few times due to having difficulty getting Mrs. Steward to respond to her calls and texts. Due to Travis’ recent hospitalization and suicidal ideation, they developed a safety plan for him and agreed to lock up all sharp objects. Travis stated he still has access to sharp items and at times feels like cutting himself. She reports Travis has been able to identify a number of coping skills through treatment but at times his mother denies him access to lifting weights or going to his grandparent’s house. She states the times she has been able to talk to Mrs. Steward, she minimizes the seriousness of the situation and has told her that Travis just needs to “grow up and obey the rules.” There were a few occasions when she was in the home that Travis and his mother got into verbal altercations and yell at one another.

**Steward Home Visit**

When you arrive at the Steward family home, Jacob Steward was in the garage picking up some items. He stated Marilyn had left the home but would be returning shortly and he text her to inform her you were at the home and needed to speak to her. He stated he moved out of the home about a year ago but still has personal items in the home. He said they have tried to work their marriage out, but it is not going well, so he has decided to file for divorce. He states he met Marilyn shortly after Travis was abused by Andrew. When he and Marilyn first got married, she wanted to focus her time and attention on Travis and Michael since they were adjusting to Andrew being out of the home, so she quit her job and was a stay-at-home mother for seven years. He said although she stayed at home with the boys, he fells like she is not consistent with discipline. He describes her as letting them get away with all kinds of things until she loses her temper and yells at them. He reports he tried to be a good role model to the boys, but Travis doesn’t like him and says he is too strict on them. He works at a local factory and helped Marilyn with her bills at first but now they are getting a divorce, he has to focus on getting his life in order.

Marilyn arrived at the home and gave permission to enter the home. The house is a single-story brick ranch style, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home. It is located in a neighborhood and has a small yard that Travis and Michael are responsible to mow. Travis and Michael have their own bedrooms and a bed, dresser, and clothing in each room. Travis’ room has clothing on the floor and bed and partially drank water and soda bottles spread throughout the room. He has a video gaming system and posters on the walls of musical groups. Michael’s bedroom is fairly, clean and organized. He has posters of his favorite sports teams on the walls and enjoys playing games on his phone and iPad. The living area is cluttered but clean overall. There are a variety of food items in the kitchen pantry and refrigerator. The home has electricity and running water.

After you interview Mrs. Steward, Travis arrives at the home via the school bus and you requested to speak to him alone and Mrs. Steward agreed. Michael had gone to his grandparent’s house after school, so he was not available to be interviewed.

**Interview with Marilyn Steward**

Marilyn has an Associate Degree in Business Administration and returned to work last year when she and Mr. Steward separated. She had been a full-time parent for seven years prior to this time. She describes herself as “very religious.” She attends the same church as her father and his wife. There are numerous extended family members in the area, and she has several friends from church. Marilyn reports feeling overwhelmed with all the changes in her life. She is divorcing, she has returned to work, and she is frustrated with Travis’ behaviors.

Despite receiving family counseling on several occasions over the past few years, Marilyn still struggles with disciplining and interacting with her sons. It is reported she frequently loses her temper and yells. Marilyn states she does not understand why counseling and support services continue to focus on her when it is Travis who has problematic behavior. It is her belief services should be focused on making him behave. While there are various family stories about the length of time Travis was abused, Marilyn states it was very brief, and it “wasn’t that big of a deal.” She believes Travis has been given an “excuse” for his own behavior, and he enjoys the attention he gets from telling others he was abused.

Marilyn maintains frequent contact with both of her parents. She states she and her mother, Grace Wilson, are close, but they still argue. She appreciates the support her father and stepmother give her and her children. They have also assisted the family financially since she and her last husband separated. She does not want custody granted to the Wilsons; however, she states the boys behave better for their grandparents. She states they are “spoiled” and there is “nothing to argue about when you get everything you want.” She loves her sons and wants them to stay with her.

Earlier this year, Marilyn filled an unruly petition against Travis. She stated that Travis was beyond her control. Marilyn stated that Travis is frequently argumentative and will not obey her instructions. He was also frequently in trouble at school.

**Interview with Travis**

Travis expresses frustration with his mother and states he does not want to live with her. He reports she has a horrible temper and when she becomes “really angry” she “slams dishes and throws things.” He states during previous family counseling, he learned how to manage his anger by finding a quiet place and focusing his attention on something else. His favorite activities include working out with weights in his garage, listening to music, and working on cars with his grandfather. He states his mother “doesn’t get it” because she punishes him by not allowing him to go to the garage or to his grandfather’s house as punishment when she gets angry with him, although that is his way of controlling his emotions. He said has hasn’t seen Andrew in years but still thinks about what he did to him. He states when he feels overwhelmed, he must do something, or he turns to cutting himself. He denies any current suicidal ideation but expresses he is not sure how much longer he can take his mother and her yelling. He states working with Courtney from CCFT is “okay”, but he is not sure what she will be able to teach him that he hasn’t heard before. Travis states his stepfather is an okay guy but he knows they are getting divorced and won’t see him much anymore. He said he would like to go live with his grandparents since his grandfather pays attention to him and works on cars with him. Travis skips school on occasion, so he does not have to “deal with the stupid people at school.”

He reports he has an okay relationship with his father but has become more distant since he moved to Virginia. In addition, he has a new family to worry about since he got married and they have a baby. He reports he gets along well with Michael as they work on cars together, play video games, and lifting weights. He said they do fight at times but “nobody better mess with him or else they will be sorry.”