

# YCPRT Service Vignette: Supporting Permanency



## Referral and Background Information

Taylor is a 16-year-old female, who was referred for YCPRT services as the team has struggled to identify a long-term caregiver for her following Permanent Custody with the agency. Her siblings currently reside with her maternal Aunt; however she is unable to reside in the same home with them due to presenting sexually reactive symptoms in the past. Taylor has connections to other family members and prior foster parents; however, she has expressed that she is not interested in adoption due to her past trauma history. Taylor has a part-time job at a restaurant and enjoys baking, cooking, and sports. She is not currently interested in pursuing counseling, but does receive Psychiatry services, takes medication as prescribed, and participates in case management services with the agency.

## Youth Prep: Session 1

The Caseworker coordinated a warm handoff between the Facilitator and Taylor for the Youth Preparation process. The Facilitator shared an overview of the YCPRT process and explained what to expect from the meetings. Taylor is a little nervous at first, and asks a lot of questions to understand the process. The Facilitator invites Taylor to participate in some "getting to know you" art activities, building trust and comfort for next steps. Together, they go over resources such as the YCPRT binder, program brochure, and begin to explore key logistics preferences for the meeting. Taylor shares she likes "salty snacks," and would like to have chips and pretzels for the meeting. She also notes that she enjoys baking, and would like to bring some cookies to share with the group.

When Taylor is ready, they complete the Circles of Support activity, and Taylor identifies many important family and kinship supports she has lost connection with in recent years. The Facilitator schedules their next meeting and encourages Taylor to continue thinking about important people in her life and ways to make the meeting as comfortable as possible for her to participate. They share about the upcoming Permanency Roundtable (PRT), and ask if Taylor would like anything to be shared with the team for their portion of the "prep" process. Taylor jokes with the Facilitator, "They just need to know that I'm going to be me, and I'm not going to do anything just because some person tells me to. They need to listen to what I want, too."

## Permanency Roundtable (PRT)

The Facilitator hosts the PRT, convening existing professionals and important people in Taylor's life for an initial exploration of needs, strengths, and planning. The Case Management team presents information about the family and shares that placement stability has been difficult as Taylor continues to leave the home unexpectedly and returns after curfew. The Case Management team presents that the father's side of the family is unavailable due to the disconnection related to Taylor's trauma history. The Facilitator does note that Taylor included a paternal Aunt and Cousin on her Circles of Support.

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## Youth Prep: Session 2

At the next Youth Prep meeting, the Facilitator shares the action plan with Taylor. She is nervous but excited to reconnect with her father's family, and shares some additional people she is interested in connecting with, including a neighbor and prior Coach. As they go through the proposed action items, Taylor notes that she would be interested in more information about the culinary program, but is still not interested in pursuing counseling. The Facilitator also explores ways to support Taylor's participation in the day, and they make a plan for the snacks that were mentioned during the prior youth prep, and fidgets to be available during the meeting.

## YCPRT Process

The YCPRT has robust attendance, including the maternal Aunt Taylor had previously resided with, paternal Aunt, and the Coach Taylor had identified. They are glad to see Taylor, and share multiple strengths during the Strengths Bombardment activity. When Taylor is invited to introduce herself, she beams as she presents the cookies she baked for the team. Over the course of the YCPRT meetings, they discover that Taylor was leaving the foster homes to spend time with her friends in the neighborhood she lived in with her Mother. The long bus ride between the neighborhoods was causing her to be late for curfew. She also has been experiencing some increased symptoms of depression and anxiety, and the team makes a plan for Taylor to have a sooner appointment with her psychiatrist. The team explores counseling again, but Taylor is adamant that she "doesn't want to tell this story to another person."

Additionally, they determine that the paternal Aunt lives in a neighborhood that is within the same school district, and closer to the neighborhood where Taylor's friends reside, so she can maintain her relationship with the current school, explore the culinary program, and visit with her friends on the weekends. The Coach identifies a community sports program that is a good fit for Taylor, and offers to transport her for practice and sporting events when the Aunt's work schedule conflicts.

## Service Conclusion

Within the year, Taylor has transitioned to her Aunt's home, and reports improved mental health, well-being, and connection with family and friends. Taylor has continued her part-time job at the restaurant, where she earns credits towards the new culinary program she has enrolled in through the school. The Aunt is interested in supporting permanency for Taylor, and the Case Management team is working on a plan for guardianship through Kinship Care, which will maintain connections with Taylor's birth parents and honor her request to not pursue full adoption.