

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Children of:
Maria Reid, Mother; Sean Thompson, Alleged Father; and
Isaac Jackson, Presumed Father

**SOCIAL WORKER
REPORT TO COURT –
DISPOSITION REVIEW HEARING (IDH)**

CHILDREN

Jeremy Reid, DOB 43 days ago, age 48 days
Samuel Thompson, DOB 6/4/2008, age 10

	Jeremy Reid	Samuel Thompson
Date removed from home by agency or law enforcement	48 days ago on date of birth	48 days ago on date of sibling's birth
Date court ordered out of home	45 days ago at EPC Hearing	45 days ago at EPC Hearing
Total length of out of home placement (including last 5 years)	45 days	45 days
Number of moves while in out of home placement (including last 5 years)	1 move from hospital to nonrelative foster care	1 move from home to relative foster care

REASON FOR HEARING

This is an Intermediate Disposition Review Hearing (IDH) to review the services offered by the agency and the parents' progress related to the disposition ordered issued by the court 45 days ago.

An EPC Hearing was held 45 days ago on a CHIPS Petition filed with the court regarding Jeremy Reid and Samuel Thompson, the children of Maria Reid, Samuel Thompson, and Isaac Jackson. During the EPC Hearing Ms. Reid admitted the allegations in the petition and the judge issued an initial disposition order.

ADJUSTMENT and PROGRESS SINCE LAST COURT HEARING

Jeremy Reid, Child

1. Jeremy Reid was born 48 days ago, which was one month premature and at a lower birth weight. At the time of his birth he tested positive for opioids and marijuana. Because of his prenatal exposure, Jeremy continues to have some medical issues, including trouble breathing and agitation. After 20 days in the NICU, Jeremy was discharged and is currently placed with nonrelative foster parents (see confidential

information form 11.4) who have special training in caring for infants who have been prenatally exposed to drugs.

Samuel Thompson, Child

2. Prior to giving birth, Ms. Reid dropped Samuel off at the home of his maternal grandmother, Lucille. At the EPC hearing 45 days ago, the court ordered Samuel into the care, custody, and control of Northland Social Services Agency for placement in foster care in the home of his maternal grandmother.
3. Licensing of maternal grandmother is nearing completion.
4. Over the summer, grandmother was able to take a week of vacation to stay home with Samuel, who is adjusting well to living with his grandmother. Samuel told Petitioner that he likes staying with his grandmother, but he misses seeing his mother every day.
5. Since the start of school, grandmother has been able to drop Samuel off at school before she goes to work. Samuel spends an hour after school at the home of a friend and grandmother picks him up from the friend's home. Samuel is adjusting well to 5th grade.

Maria Reid, Mother (Custodial Parent)

6. As ordered by the court, in the last 45 days Ms. Reid submitted to and passed two random UAs. She failed to complete a third UA as she was not feeling well.
7. Petitioner made a referral for a chemical health assessment. Ms. Reid has an appointment in 10 days for that assessment.
8. Ms. Reid has supervised visits with Samuel at her mother's home several times a week and on weekends. No concerns about those visits have been expressed. Ms. Reid has had supervised visits twice each week with Samuel since he has been in foster care. Ms. Reid has requested additional visits so she can breastfeed and spend more time with Samuel. Northland County Social Services (NCSS) has limited resources for supervised visitation.
9. In 2015 Ms. Reid was diagnosed with PTSD and depression, and she continues to struggle with both. The inability to see her children as often as she would like, coupled with the stress of the Jeremy's medical concerns and the child protection case, has exacerbated her symptoms. Petitioner has made a referral for a mental health assessment and Ms. Reid is in the process of scheduling an appointment.
10. Ms. Reid was ordered to complete a parenting capacity assessment. Northland County has only one person who can conduct such assessments and he is unavailable for several weeks. Ms. Reid has an appointment for an assessment four weeks from today, which is the first available appointment.

Sean Thompson, Presumed Father of Samuel Thompson

11. Mr. Thompson lives in another county 125 miles from Northland County. He is often required to travel for his work on a construction crew. Since this case began, Mr. Thompson has been working in Missouri.
12. Since the EPC Hearing 45 days ago, Petitioner has left three voicemail and two text messages with Mr. Thompson in attempt to discuss the status of this case, the results of the EPC Hearing, his interest having placement of his child, and the court-ordered parenting capacity assessment.
13. Two weeks ago he sent a text message indicating that he has received my voicemail and text messages. He said he is in a deeply rural part of Missouri that does not have good cell phone connectivity, which makes it difficult for him to connect with petitioner. We have made an appointment to talk in five days, when he will be in a larger town with better phone connections.

Isaac Jackson, Alleged Father of Jeremy Reid

14. In April 1999 Mr. Jackson was convicted of an offense that required him to register as a predatory offender pursuant to Minn. Stat. 243.166, subd. 1b. Because Mr. Jackson is registered as a predatory offender, pursuant to [Minn. Stat. 260C.503, subd. 2\(a\)\(6\)](#), the county is required to immediately file a petition seeking termination of his parental rights. However, the statute provides in subd. 2(d) that the requirement to file a termination of parental rights (TPR) petition does not apply if the county files a petition alleging the child to be in need of protection or services documenting a compelling reason why filing a TPR is not in the child's best interest. The county does not intend to file a TPR regarding Mr. Jackson and, instead, has filed a CHIPS petition to provide services to Mr. Jackson on the compelling grounds that his conviction was nearly 10 years ago, he has no other criminal record, he has expressed an interest in engaging with and parenting his son, the mother intends to continue a relationship with him and does not want his rights terminated, and it is in Jeremy's best interests to have a relationship with both his mother and his father.
15. Mr. Thompson was ordered to complete a parenting capacity assessment. Northland County has only one person who can conduct such assessments and he is unavailable for several weeks. Ms. Reid has an appointment for an assessment four weeks from today, which is the first available appointment.

ACTIVE EFFORTS TO REUNITE THE FAMILY

Relevant to the safety and protection of the child:

Ms. Reid has admitted to using opioids and marijuana for many years, including during the pregnancies of both Jeremy and Samuel. Jeremy tested positive at this birth. Placement of Jeremy in foster care is necessary to maintain his safety while his mother works on treatment options. Placement of Samuel in relative foster care with his grandmother is necessary to maintain his safety while his mother works on treatment options.

Adequate to meet the needs of the child and family:

Ms. Reid has been unable to keep her children safe from the effects of her drug use, which warranted foster care placement. Ms. Reid has chemical health needs to address as well as parenting support needs. The recommended services will help the parents gain the skills needed to prevent future relapses and keep the children safe from harm.

Culturally appropriate:

NCSS is actively working with the parents to ensure services and foster care placement are culturally appropriate and sound. NCSS is also consulting with family members to identify and support the family's cultural needs.

Available and accessible:

NCSS has referred both Ms. Reid and Mr. Jackson to a parenting capacity assessment, and the parents are working on making appointments which are difficult to set because only one assessor is available in the county.

Both Ms. Reid and Mr. Jackson have participated in case planning.

Mr. Thompson has not made himself available to participate in case planning.

NCSS will coordinate services with the family that are near their residence while also considering Ms. Reid's and Mr. Jackson's availability to participate in any recommended services.

Consistent and timely:

NCSS will seek out service providers that are readily available to provide consistent service and care for the family.

Realistic under the circumstances:

It is realistic to expect Ms. Reid to address her chemical dependency issues that impact her ability to safely parent Jeremy and Samuel and meet all of their physical, developmental, and emotional needs.

FOUNDATION FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Child's current functioning and behaviors:

Jeremy is 48 days old and was recently discharged from the NICU after a slightly premature birth and at a lower birth weight. At the time of his birth he tested positive for opioids and marijuana. Because of his prenatal exposure, Jeremy continues to have some medical issues, including trouble breathing and agitation. Jeremy is currently placed with nonrelative foster parents who have special training in caring for infants who have been prenatally exposed to drugs.

Samuel Thompson is 10 years old. He presents as a friendly but anxious child. He is in 5th grade and is doing well in school. He is in relative foster care with his grandmother.

2. Medical, educational, and developmental needs of the child: Because of prenatal exposure, Jeremy is experiencing some medical conditions related to his weight and breathing. Samuel has no medical, educational, or developmental needs.

3. Child's religious and cultural needs: Samuel's cultural and religious needs are provided for by him by his parents and grandparents.

4. Child's connection with a community, school, and place of worship: Samuel enjoys school and is close to his teacher. He enjoys playing with his friends. Math is his favorite subject.

5. Child's interests and talents: Samuel is a curious child who reports liking animals. Although he can be shy, he demonstrates interest in others. He is friendly and talkative.

6. Child's relationship to current caretakers, parents, siblings, and relatives: Samuel is currently in the care of his maternal grandmother. Various family members have contacted the County Agency to express an interest in involvement in the care of the children. At the time of this report, Petitioner has been unable to contact Mr. Thompson because he is in Missouri for construction work.

7. Reasonable preference of the child if the court deems the child to be of sufficient age to express preferences: Samuel is 10 years old and expressed a preference to return home to his mother. Jeremy is too young to express a preference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Petitioner recommends the following as reasonable efforts to reunify the children and their parents and as being in the best interests of the children:

1. Jeremy Reid and Samuel Thompson shall continue under the care, custody, and control of Northland County Social Services for placement in foster care.

2. Maria Reid shall complete a chemical dependency assessment and a mental health assessment and follow all recommendations.
3. Isaac Jackson and Sean Thompson shall each complete a parenting capacity assessment and follow all recommendations.
4. Maria Reid shall abstain from the use of illicit substances, unprescribed medication, inappropriate use of prescribed medication, and alcohol. She shall submit to random drug testing as requested by Northland County Social Services. A refusal to provide a sample, failure to appear for a requested sample, or evidence of tampering, including dilution, shall be considered a positive drug screen result.
5. Maria Reid, Isaac Jackson, and Sean Thompson shall each sign all necessary releases of information and authorizations on behalf of Jeremy Reid and Samuel Thompson Lexi Plaster as requested by Northland County Social Services. In the event the parents are unable or unwilling to sign the requested authorizations, Northland County Social Services may provide authorizations for the children's medical, educational, and other necessary care.
6. Maria Reid, Isaac Jackson, and Sean Thompson shall have supervised visitation with their children.
7. Maria Reid, Isaac Jackson, and Sean Thompson shall complete and return the Financial Statements sent to them, within 14 days of receipt, providing all requested information and verification of same, for the purpose of determining their contribution toward the cost of care of said child. If it is determined that a fee is due from the parents of said children, the parents shall sign and return the Support Agreement and shall pay their support-as due, monthly, for each calendar month for which Northland County Social Services makes a payment to a provider which equals or exceeds the monthly parental fee. Parents are responsible for any and all medical costs incurred by said children during placement or receipt of services from Northland County.

Petitioner's Certification

I certify that the content of this report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and is based on personal observation, first-hand knowledge, or information and belief.

Date: 5 days ago

James Watson

James Watson
Northland County Social Services

cc: Attorney for Mother
Attorney for Father Isaac Jackson
Attorney for Child Samuel Thompson
Sean Thompson, Father to Samuel Thompson
Lori Majors, Guardian Ad Litem