

Bio-Psycho-Social Assessment

Southern Adventist University

Bree Adams

Professor Guster

School Social Work Core Concepts

3 April 2022

Social and Developmental History

Date of Interview: March 30, 2022

Person/s Interviewed: Angie Dover
Devin Hall

Client Name: Devin Hall

Date of Birth: March 21, 2009

Address: 1217 Lead Mine Valley Road
Cleveland, TN 37311

Phone: Angie: 423-933-7246
Jack: 423-933-7629

Mother's Name: Angie Dover

Date of Birth: August 18, 1982

Father's Name: Don Hall

Stepfather's Name: Jack Dover

Date of Birth: September 14, 1980

Stepbrother: Gabe Dover

Date of Birth: January 25, 2005

Stepsister: Bella Dover

Date of Birth: June 15, 2009

Presenting Situation/History

Devin Hall is a 13-year-old white male who is in the seventh grade at Oaks SDA School. He lives with his biological mother, Angie Dover, stepfather, Jack Dover, and stepbrother, Gabe Dover. His stepsister, Bella Dover, currently lives with her biological mother, Rachael Dover.

Don Hall, Devin's biological father, is not in Devin's life. Angie Dover and Don Hall have been divorced for 9 years. Devin has a strong relationship with Angie, Jack, and Gabe. However, Devin expressed that his relationship with Bella is strained.

Reason for Referral

Devin was referred to me because of recent struggles in school as well as anger issues. He is struggling to have a good relationship with his teacher as well as some classmates. This has expressed itself in being excessively argumentative, blaming others, having difficulty paying attention and sitting still in class, and lashing out verbally and physically towards his classmates. Devin's grades have also been dropping lately. These behaviors became apparent about 4 months ago.

Devin easily gets angry at his classmates when they tease him about a girl he likes or when they say things they know will get on his nerves. He has a challenging time controlling his anger and often retaliates verbally as well as physically by kicking or punching them. About two weeks ago, a classmate said something to Devin that made him incredibly angry. Devin did not disclose what was said, but it resulted in a fight with language and kicking. Devin's classmate ended up falling into a bucket of soapy mop water. Devin feels that his actions were appropriate and that his classmate got what he deserved.

Devin can often be observed chasing and hitting his classmates as well as verbally lashing out at them. However, his classmates are not the only ones receiving his anger. His teacher is also experiencing him lashing out saying unkind, disrespectful things to her and spreading rumors about her. When the teacher confronted Devin about his actions, Devin became very argumentative and blamed it all on another classmate. His teacher noted that "he is not a bad kid, but he seems stressed and is having a challenging time controlling his anger." She also

expressed that “he does not like to own up to any of his actions. He would rather blame everyone else and try to prove that someone else did it.”

Mental Health

Devin went to counseling from 2018-2020 to help him process and deal with his father not being able to be in contact with him anymore. He struggled to accept that it was in his best interest to be separated from his father and was angry that his father was not taking steps to be able to see him again. Devin feels that his father abandoned him which increases his anger.

No medications were prescribed to Devin during the time he was attending counseling and no official diagnoses were made. Devin stopped going to counseling in 2020 mostly because Angie felt he no longer needed to go. Devin expressed that his anger has gotten worse recently and he does not understand why. Devin feels that Angie would not understand and would not want to pay for counseling again.

Family Background

Angie and Don met in college and got married shortly after they graduated. They were married for 4 years before becoming pregnant with Devin. Angie never planned to have kids due to Don being an abusive husband, both emotionally and physically. Don also struggled with drug addiction and spent all their money to support his addiction. While Angie did everything, she could not shield Devin from the abuse, she knew it was not enough and decided to take steps to divorce Don.

Angie Dover and Don Hall have been divorced for 9 years now. Don was allowed to have visitation and contact with Devin up until about 4 years ago when Don assaulted Angie and Devin in a parking lot. The courts found it to be in the best interest of Devin to have no contact with his father until he received counseling and worked a case plan to provide the courts with

assurance that Don would not hurt Devin again. Don has made no progress on his case plan to date and has not attempted to contact Devin.

Growing up, Devin hit all of his milestones, some earlier than usual. He was crawling at 5 months, walking at 8 months, and saying words such as “mamma” and “dada” at 4 ½ months old. He was a healthy, easy to take care of, and intelligent child. He was talking with phrases at 6 months, feeding himself at 9 months, and clothing himself at a year and a half old. Growing up, Devin enjoyed playing outdoors and enjoyed riding horses with Angie.

Angie and Jack have known each other since college but got married 5 years ago. Angie and Jack struggle financially but can care for their family as well as their horses. They have been renting land and a horse for the past 5 years and are currently taking steps to buy their first house with some land for their horses. Jack works as an architect while Angie currently does not work. She has training in massage therapy but has not been able to practice in a few years due to a shoulder injury.

Education

Devin has attended Oaks SDA School only since 2018. Before that, he attended Apison SDA School for 3 years and was homeschooled before that. Although Angie and Jack are supportive of Devin’s education, they do not put much value on any school events or performances that Devin has with the band. This makes Devin angry as he sees other parents are incredibly supportive of these outside school hours activities and wishes his parents were as supportive. Angie is strict about Devin getting all A’s in his schooling and expressed to me that “...if he doesn’t get an A, that means he wasn’t trying....” When Devin does not get an A on an assignment, he tends to put the blame on his teacher for “not being clear on expectations” or on classmates for “distracting him.”

Family Activities

Angie, Jack, Devin, and Gabe live on a 20-acre farm where they own several horses. This takes up a lot of their time during the week and on weekends, but Devin enjoys it. He has not known life without horses, so the work involved he views as normal. However, as Devin gets older, he wishes that he could explore other things such as sports. While Angie and Jack do not discourage him from playing sports, they are so busy that it leaves no time to actively encourage exploring new hobbies. Devin understands that his parents have a lot to do but it makes him angry that they do not seem to notice or care how badly he wants to play sports. Devin is also reaching the age that he is interested in girls. However, Angie views having “crushes” as stupid and pointless. Because of this, Devin feels that he cannot share everything with Angie as he always has because she will ridicule him for having interest in girls.

Devin’s day consists of getting ready for school in the morning, eating breakfast, heading to school where he stays until 3:00. After this, the rest of the day is spent taking care of horses and working on the property until supper. After supper, Devin gets ready for bed and heads to bed. Devin gets about 10 hours of sleep every night as he does not function well on less sleep. Devin expressed to me that he has not been sleeping good recently due to overthinking. He is worried about his mom finding out about a girl he likes. He also is angry about his biological father abandoning him and recalls thinking about it more recently.

Health

Devin is a healthy child that currently has no medical issues. He broke his arm back in 2020 but that has healed correctly and does not cause any issues. Devin eats a healthy vegetarian diet and gets regular exercise. He and his family live on a farm and have horses which contributes to him getting regular exercise. Devin struggles with mild seasonal allergies but does

not take any medication currently. Angie stated that Devin is a healthy child who is good at whatever he puts his mind to do. There are no health issues at this time.

Current Perceptions

Devin knows that he does not control his anger well, but he does not think it is an issue that needs addressing. He describes his anger as hot lava that just builds up inside him and he does not know what to do about it. He feels that he cannot tell Angie or Jack the reasons for his anger as he feels the need to protect his mother from bringing back her pain. He knows that his anger is pushing his friends away because of how he lashes out at them, which makes him even more angry as he does not know how to deal with his emotions.

Devin feels that his issues lately have been caused by a classmate who is going through a rough time of losing his abusive dad to divorce. Devin feels that what his friend is going through is remarkably like what he went through. This has brought back feelings and emotions of when he first lost his own dad. Devin describes these feelings as being “overwhelming” and “infuriating.” Devin acknowledges that he does not know how to process everything he is feeling which results in trouble sleeping at night, bottling his emotions up, and lashing out at school.

Conclusions

Devin is a 13-year-old white male who is struggling with issues in school because of anger issues. He is having difficulty concentrating in class and often lashes out verbally and physically towards his teacher and classmates. He feels that this stems from unresolved anger regarding his biological father that was recently stirred up due to a classmate facing a comparable situation. Devin is reluctant to share the root of his anger with his mother, Angie, as he does not want to bring back any of her pain.

Devin had gone to counseling previously to cope with the loss of his father but stopped going when Angie felt he was doing fine. He is not on any medications and does not receive any extra services currently. Devin feels pressure to get certain grades from Angie and feels she would not understand his life if he were to explain it to her.

Devin's behaviors are concerning because of the escalation in their nature. Devin has not been suspended or expelled for his behavior in the past. However, Devin realizes that something must be done to change his current actions or else he might very soon end up on the suspended list. Although Devin understands this, he is unsure of what will help him and part of him feels that the issues will resolve themselves on their own.

Recommendations

- ❖ Devin will do a check in twice a week with the school social worker to monitor behavior and address any new issues that arise.
- ❖ Devin will receive points and prizes for positive interactions with classmates and teachers to encourage positive behavior.
- ❖ School Social Worker will cautiously discuss situation with Angie and recommend that Devin return to counseling to learn to process these feelings and emotions.
- ❖ School Social Worker will refer Devin to counselor.
- ❖ Devin will return to counseling to learn to process these feelings and emotions.
- ❖ Devin will create goals with the School Social Worker and actively work towards those goals. This is intended to increase positive coping skills and decrease outbursts of anger towards classmates and teacher.
- ❖ Devin will find positive ways to channel his anger and practice utilizing those ways to decrease negative outbursts of anger.

- ❖ School Social Worker will reassess Devin month by month to review progress to goals created by Devin and change recommendations if needed.

Respectfully,

Bree Adams

School Social Worker