

Social and Developmental History

School Social Work

March 27, 2023

Courtney Krajesky

Social and Developmental History

Date of Interview: March 27, 2023

Person Interviewed: Kelsey Jensen

Client Name: Kelsey Jensen

Date of Birth: 10/13/2013

Address: 5276 Jarnigan Drive, Chattanooga 37350

Phone: (423) 883-9863

Mother's Name: Shannon Jensen

Date of Birth: 12/22/1988

Father's Name: John Jensen

Date of Birth: 10/30/1988

Sibling(s): One boy, Jaden

Date of Birth: 03/12/2011

Presenting Situation/History

Kelsey Jensen is a 9-year-old Caucasian female who is currently in the fourth (4) grade at Lookout Valley Elementary School. She lives with her mother, Shannon Jensen and her brother

Jaden Jensen who is in the fifth (5) grade at Lookout Valley Elementary School. John Jensen and Shannon Jensen divorced one year ago. John moved out of the Jensen home soon as they separated a year ago, and resides in Houston, TX to date. Shannon reports that Kelsey and Jaden have restricted and limited interactions with their father, John Jensen.

Reason for Referral

Kelsey was referred to me today due to her recent history of acting out in the classroom and refusal to do any of her work over the past three weeks. According to her teacher Amanda Thacker, Kelsey appears disheveled and unorganized each day that she comes into her classroom. She has dark circles and bags surrounding her eyes and finds it difficult to pay attention and stay awake in the classroom. One minute she is sweet, and the next minute she is throwing things and attempting to turn her desk over. Ms. Thacker has attempted to talk to Kelsey separately, however stated that she has a room of 29 students and cannot adequately assist Kelsey with her current needs. Ms. Thacker proceeded to share of an incident that happened a few days prior. Kelsey was asked by Ms. Thacker to step out with her into the hallway and sit at a desk that was outside of her classroom doorway due to Kelsey's disruptive behavior. Next thing she knew, Kelsey became angry and turned the desk over while throwing her pencil that proceeded to hit Ms. Thacker in the nose. She then began to scream "I hate you!" and "Get away from me!" as loud as she could, which echoed down the school hallway. Other students in the classroom could hear the screeching sounds of Kelsey lashing out at their teacher. Students from other classrooms that were passing by, witnessed the disruptive nature that Kelsey was demonstrating.

Kelsey has struggled academically over the past few years. Her poor grades seem to be in part due to a lack of intent according to her teacher and she tends to call all of her work and

school “boring” Ms. Thacker mentioned. She is uninterested in her classroom and refuses to pay attention to instruction. Her peers are seemingly nervous around her as one minute she is kind to them and the next minute she is angry and yelling at them for no apparent reason. Kelsey begs to go home each day, as soon as her mother Shannon drops her off at the school. Teachers and administrators are struggling to know how or what to do with her behavior.

Kelsey has spent all of her elementary years up to date at Lookout Valley Elementary School. She has had multiple tardies and unexcused absences due to her poor morning behavior according to her mother, Shannon. Her current failing grades and lack of intent to do her schoolwork has had the school in a position of telling she and her mom she will likely be held back at this point and need to repeat the fourth grade. When her teacher explains this to Kelsey, she reacts and says that she “never wants to grow up so it is ok.” Administrators have voiced frustrations with Kelsey as well as with her mother, Shannon. They believe that Shannon may be potentially rewarding the bad behavior from Kelsey due to personal guilt from the divorce or due to wanting her daughter to need her. They have mentioned that her mother has rewarded her bad behavior in the past by coming to get Kelsey from school early each time that she wanted to go home. Lookout Valley Elementary has been unsuccessful in lessening the behaviors of Kelsey to date.

Mental Health

Kelsey was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder three years ago in 2020. She was prescribed Vyvanse to assist her with her lack of focus. At the time, in 2020, Kelsey did not appear to have any other mental health concerns outside of the ADD.

Kelsey’s mother Shannon, reports not being able to keep her daughter on the medication at all times due to having health insurance and then losing it last year during the divorce process

and her ex-husbands everchanging career paths. This in turn had Shannon unable to afford to keep up with the Vyvanse refills.

The administration and teachers at Kelsey's school believe that she may have current mental health concerns, such as Autism and may need further evaluation. Shannon has mentioned that she wishes to have Kelsey reevaluated to see if there is something like this going on that is hindering her academics and emotional well-being.

Family Background

John and Shannon Jenson met in Southern California where they attended a local college together. Both John and Shannon enjoyed heavy drinking throughout their college days and reported years of alcoholic consumption together. When the children were very young, they had a terrible car accident due to Kelsey's father John being heavily under the influence and wrecking them into a tree. Fortunately, the children were back in California with Shannon's parents/Kelsey's grandparents. Shannon reports being in the hospital for one month with severe injuries and a concussion. She stated that the children went through extreme stress and anxiety due to not having their mom at home with them for this period of time, as well as the unknown possibility of ever having their mother leave that hospital bed.

John and Shannon wed one another two years post college. They shared thirteen years together and divorced this past year. Shannon stated that she was and has always been a stay-at-home mother for her children. John on the other hand has had fickle on and off careers which fluctuated with each passing year. The inconsistency continued to disrupt normal life and activities for the family due to financial barriers and constraints. Shannon noted that her ex-husband continued to drink throughout their marriage which caused a cascade of fights and arguments which the children witnessed time after time. Shannon stated that she would cry and

plea for her then husband to just stop, that her children were watching. He refused to listen and one day things escalated and Shannon was forced to lock herself and the children in the bathroom due to fears that John would beat her up, or worse, in front of Kelsey and Jaden. She vividly recalls her children crying and pleas for their father to leave their mother alone.

Shannon and the children currently live in the same house that she once shared with her ex-husband located in Lookout Valley. Shannon is unable to continue to be a stay-at-home mother due to lack of finances. She relies on John to pay child support however this is an ongoing situation due to John's unwillingness to pay at times. Shannon now works part time as a housekeeper for a local family that lives nearby. She mentioned that this allows her to pick up and drop off her children to school and still have the ability to provide a little bit of income. John currently has supervised visits with Kelsey and Jaden due to alcoholism and witnessed physical abuse to Shannon. As much as this pains Shannon that the children lost their father in the divorce, she continues to be thankful that he can no longer threaten or hurt her family.

Education

Shannon seems to be invested in Kelsey's education however, she is unsure as to what to do as her daughter is having so many behavioral issues at school. At home Shannon mentioned that Kelsey will read and appear to be doing her work and then her grades and her teacher demonstrate a much different situation. John has nothing to do with Kelsey and her brother and is uninvested in his children, let alone their education. Shannon feels as though she is juggling everything all alone and is bearing the weight on her shoulders as John is living a separate life at the current. Shannon continually stresses to the school that she is unsure of what to do next and is debating calling a Dr. to see if her daughter may possibly be on the spectrum.

Family Activities

Shannon, Kelsey, and Jaden do very little together as a family unit. Shannon stressed that there is very little time to fit any activities in and that she lacks the financial ability to take her kids to do anything. Week nights and weekends are spent at home most of the time and the children are often left for a few hours at a time at home alone while Shannon finishes housecleaning for her work. Kelsey wishes that her family spent more time doing fun things and has mentioned that she and her brother Jaden often fight and that her mother takes Jaden's side. She feels as though she cannot do anything right and that she feels as though her mother hates her which is why they do not spend much time together as a family. Shannon stated that Kelsey tends to fight with she and Jaden each time that they attempt to spend time together so she just lets Kelsey and her brother spend time on their bunkbeds playing on their Nintendo Switch.

Health

Kelsey is a rather healthy child. At her latest physical which was in August of 2023, she had a good report. She is of average weight and height of a child her age.

Kelsey is currently on and off taking her Vyvanse with the occasional Melatonin that Shannon gives her to assist her with adequate sleep. A local child psychiatrist prescribed the Vyvanse medication. Shannon gives her Melatonin only when she feels as though her daughter really needs it. Dr. Alli Jones currently monitors her medication and states the vitality of continuing its use in order to improve Kelsey's condition.

Current Perceptions

Kelsey is not sure why or what causes her to act out like she does. She describes internal monsters that come out and lash out at those around her. Kelsey believes that other students do not like her and that she has no friends. She also believes that her mother does not love her and

that she upsets her mother on a regular basis. Kelsey feels like she has “something wrong with her.”

Kelsey knows that her actions and poor behaviors are wrong. She reports wanting to go home each day and be with her mother. Kelsey fears something bad will happen to her mom, especially while she is at school during the day. She would like to see her father, John, however does not trust him and fears that he may try to hurt her mother again. She expresses the desire to spend more time with her family as a whole, however, believes that no one wants to be around her and that she is a problem child. No matter how much her mother tells her that she loves her, Kelsey still struggles to believe her.

Conclusion

Kelsey is a nine-year-old child who is struggling with emotional regulation. She has difficulty focusing and doing her schoolwork and lacks any friendships. Kelsey wishes she could have her family all back together although she is fearful of her father’s behavior. Kelsey has trouble making or maintaining connections at school or outside of school.

Kelsey has numerous conflicts with her teacher, peers, as well as the administration at her school. She struggles with anger management and regulation of emotions. Kelsey struggles with focus and only takes her Vyvanse sporadically when her mother can afford the medication. Her mother made mention that she will soon have Kelsey assessed for Autism Disorder.

Kelsey and her mother are aware of the consequences of failures to adhere to school rules and classwork and the likelihood of having to repeat the fourth (4) grade. Her lack of emotional regulation and focus are of great concern. Kelsey knows that her behavior is unacceptable, however does not know how to go about channeling her anger and repairing what she feels is wrong with her.

Recommendations

- Kelsey will be referred to a new doctor who sees patients without insurance. The school nurse will administer any medications at the school.
- Kelsey will meet weekly to check-in and attend group meetings with the school social worker. Intended outcomes will consist of ways to channel her anger as well as emotional regulation techniques and friendship building. Kelsey will be able to address any current issues at home or at the school and have a safe place to demonstrate feelings about herself, her family, and her school.
- Kelsey will meet with an individual tutor at school in order to assist her in her coursework.
- Kelsey will have a review of her current IEP plan in order to address her schoolwork modifications.
- Kelsey will be allotted more time for test taking.
- Kelsey will take part in Lunch Bunch for four weeks in order to improve upon social skills and building relationships at school.
- The school will work as a team in collaboration and meet again in one month to review her progress/or revise current recommendations.
- Kelsey's mother Shannon will make sure to assist her at home with any needs to include adequate rest at night and proper nutrition.
- Kelsey will receive outside counseling weekly to address needs and potentially incorporate CBT methods.
- The School Social Worker plans to meet Kelsey and her mother each morning in the front lobby and walk Kelsey to her classroom as a check-in and assist Kelsey in being in her

classroom on time. This will take place for a few weeks to see if there is improved outcomes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Krajesky

School Social Worker