



IN THE MATTER OF:

Kristy Husman

JN2021-1111

DATE: May 4, 2021

PERSONS CONTACTED

Kristy Husman

Gary & Kathy Elliot

Emily Cage

Kim Jordan

Sara Nesbitt

Chip Husman

Chip Husman, Jr.

Frita Lays

Barbie Q. Lays

RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD

Child (Age 7)

Current Custodians

Adult daughter of Mrs. Elliot

Guardian *ad Litem*

BCCS Caseworker

Biological Father

Half-brother

Biological Mother

Adolescent daughter of Frita Lays

BACKGROUND

This CASA was appointed to this case on November 24, 2021 by Judge Romans. **Kristy** was removed from her mother's care on September 23, 2021 due to drug use and concerns of neglect. She was placed with Charles Lays & Marybeth Lays on September 24, 2021. In October, **Kristy** was placed with Gary and Kathy Elliot where she remains. The next court hearing is scheduled for May 11, 2022. Since the last hearing, this CASA has visited with the child 14 times.

CURRENT SITUATION

Overall, **Kristy** continues to be a bright, joyful, gregarious, energetic, observant, generous, and well-behaved little girl. She is thriving in the Elliot home. There have been some changes regarding her interactions with Mr. Husman and Ms. Lays since the last court hearing.

From a physical standpoint, **Kristy** continues to be well-cared for at her current placement. Mr. and Mrs. Elliot have taken care of any medical and dental needs. **Kristy** has been relatively healthy, only enduring a cold and a bout with the flu. Recently, this CASA asked **Kristy** her favorite and least-favorite foods. During the conversation, Mrs. Elliot added that they were introducing **Kristy** to some new foods, especially vegetables. **Kristy** admitted that she had not really eaten many vegetables before coming to the Elliot home. **Kristy** is told to try a few bites of food that is new or disliked by her, and she complies. This CASA observed **Kristy** quickly eat, without complaint, her whole portion of eggs, a food previously disliked by her. In general, **Kristy** appears to be healthy and energetic.

From an emotional standpoint, **Kristy** has faced some challenges. **Kristy** had been referred to counseling, following a victim interview ordered by this Court in November. Mrs. Elliot did make the first available appointment for counseling, which was in February. Mr. and Mrs. Elliot met with the counselor, and then **Kristy** met with her. After that meeting, the counselor had to cancel two appointments for various personal reasons. The Elliots later received a phone call informing them that the counselor was no longer working at Comprehensive Counseling. Mrs. Elliot called to secure the first available appointment with a new counselor, however more than one month elapsed in which **Kristy** had no counseling. When this CASA asked **Kristy** about her new counselor, **Kristy** grinned and responded, "she's real nice." The Elliots place high value on counseling for **Kristy** and have been active in placing necessary phone calls, making their schedules flexible for counseling, and making it



their first priority that **Kristy** attends counseling. Mrs. Elliot has reported a school bus incident to Sara Nesbitt and this CASA. **Kristy** was sitting on the bus with another girl, playing “puppies.” The other girl placed her head in **Kristy**’s crotch area. According to **Kristy**, she told the girl that she did not want to play that way, but the other girl did not stop and **Kristy** allowed the girl to continue. Mrs. Elliot reiterated to **Kristy** the boundaries that the counselor had explained during the initial family counseling session and used the same words as the counselor. Mrs. Elliot called the bus supervisor and requested that **Kristy** sit in a seat by herself.

Kristy has also faced some emotional issues regarding Ms. Lays and Mr. Husman. Mr. Husman has court-ordered weekly visits at Family Healing Center. The first couple of months of 2022, Mr. Husman was somewhat consistent in attending those visits. **Kristy** reports that she loves her dad, smiles when she sees him, and hugs him. When she is asked about her dad, she speaks fondly of him. At a visit in February, he informed her that he was scheduled to have his arm amputated. He explained that his arm would be cut off. After that visit, **Kristy** was very upset and worried. Mrs. Elliot carefully explained to **Kristy**, in a manner understandable and re-assuring to a seven-year-old, the general need for this surgery, the benefits of it, and all the ways that her daddy would be the same after the surgery. This talk calmed **Kristy**. Mrs. Elliot asked that this CASA talk to **Kristy** about it as well. This CASA re-assured **Kristy** with the same words. This CASA observed that Mrs. Elliot’s words had already resonated with **Kristy**. After the surgery, on February 25, 2022, Mrs. Elliot took **Kristy** to see Mr. Husman at the home where he was staying. **Kristy** handled the visit well. Since that time, Mrs. Elliot has taken **Kristy** to visit him at a rehabilitation home and at The Family Healing Center. Recently, he has missed approximately three visits. Mrs. Elliot reported that **Kristy** was disappointed after he missed the first two visits. Since then, she seems to have let go of the expectation of a visit and does not inquire about it.

Ms. Lays was released from jail and had court-ordered weekly supervised visits at The Family Healing Center. This CASA observed the first visit with Ms. Lays. Mr. Husman visited at the same time on that first visit. **Kristy** appeared excited to see her mother and embraced her. **Kristy** sat by her mother, read a book, and discussed extended family members that she had seen. **Kristy** appeared a bit uncomfortable when Ms. Lays discussed older topics such as Justin Bieber or complained about Mrs. Elliot cutting **Kristy**’s hair. Mrs. Elliot reported that **Kristy** was disappointed when Ms. Lays missed visits. At times, **Kristy** attempted to make excuses for mother’s absences. On another visit this CASA observed, Ms. Lays brought her adolescent daughter Barbie Q. **Kristy** enjoyed playing with Barbie Q. Near the end of the visit, Ms. Lays devoted approximately 15 minutes to saying goodbye, telling **Kristy** how much she missed her; instructing **Kristy** to say goodnight to her every night, and so on. This routine upset **Kristy**. Mrs. Elliot reported that this has happened on other occasions as well.

Ms. Lays has not attended the last several visits. On at least one occasion for a scheduled visit with Mr. Husman and a separate one for Ms. Lays, **Kristy** was taken to The Family Healing Center and waited there, only to discover that her parent was not going to appear. Those occasions were particularly difficult for **Kristy**. **Kristy** loves her Mother, but **Kristy** has adjusted to the missed visitations and does not ask about upcoming visits or contact with Mother.

This CASA is concerned about the emotional toll on **Kristy** caused by the inconsistencies. **Kristy** loves her Mother and Father. When Ms. Lays or Mr. Husman inserts themselves in her life, expressing their love and desire to establish a home with her, and promising eminent reunification, **Kristy** sets expectations that she will continue an ongoing, consistent relationship with her parents and that reunification will soon occur. When Ms. Lays and Mr. Husman then misses a visit, **Kristy** is disappointed and sad. Over time, **Kristy** lets go of those expectations. Once she no longer expects anything from Mother or Father, she sets her heart and mind on her life as a seven-year-old girl who is a member of the Elliot family, whose home is the Elliot home, who is a first-grader at East Elementary, and who, for the most part, thinks about and dreams about typical seven-year-old girl things. When Ms. Lays and Mr. Husman re-insert themselves and start making promises, the pattern of disappointment and sadness emerges. In March, this CASA asked **Kristy** if she wanted to ask the Judge for anything. **Kristy** responded that she wanted “her mom to

get better.” At the end of April, this CASA asked **Kristy** if she needed this CASA to tell the Judge to change anything. She smiled and simply responded, “no.”

At the Elliot’s home, **Kristy** is a joyful, personable, well-mannered little girl. She takes pride in her home. She eagerly points out the fish in the small garden pond behind the house. She has proudly showed this CASA the tomato and corn crops that she helped plant. She talks about the surprise flower pot that she had painted for Mrs. Elliot and the flowers that she and Mr. Elliot had secretly purchased for that pot. She has showed this CASA where she practices riding her new bike without training wheels. She has adorned the kitchen with the colorful potholders that she weaved. She shares songs that she has learned from school and shows off her craft creations. She has planned a tea party, with real tea, for one CASA visit. She often wants to play dolls with this CASA. She is creating wonderful, childhood memories, such as the recent Easter egg hunts.

Her educational needs are being fulfilled. **Kristy** continues to excel at East Elementary even though this is a new school for her. This CASA attended **Kristy**’s Spring Sing at school. **Kristy**, dressed in her new spring outfit and shoes purchased specifically for the event, was excited but admittedly nervous. She sang and played her instrument fabulously. She even sneaked in a couple of waves to Mrs. Elliot and her daughter Emily. Afterwards, **Kristy** reported that once she started singing, she was no longer nervous.

SUMMARY

It is this CASA’s opinion that **Kristy** is well-cared for in her current placement. This CASA has observed nothing that would warrant her removal at this time. As she stays in the Elliot home, she appears more and more to be a typical seven-year-old girl, engaging in little girl activities and making little girl memories. There are moments when she will reflect on a memory, such as the night she was “really scared” sleeping in a car with her mom, fearful that someone would break a window and harm her. But with her current placement, she is seeing that things such as sleeping in a bed are what normal little girls do. It is this CASA’s understanding that Mr. Husman and Ms. Lays could be required to call the morning of a visitation to confirm their visit. Therefore, this CASA recommends:

RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN:

1. **Kristy** remain in her current placement.
2. Mr. Husman and Ms. Lays call to confirm their visit with Family Healing Center for each visitation by 10 am of the day of their scheduled visit.
3. This CASA will continue to monitor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vera Smiley
CASA

Tonya Buchanan
Executive Director

The **BOLD** portions of this document are “Personal Identifiers” as that term is used in Sup. R. 44 of the rules of Superintendence for the courts of Ohio and are subject to redaction in the event of a request for production of court records by a non-party.



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IN THE MATTER OF:

Wednesday Addams

Pugsley Addams

JN2017-3333

JN2017-3334

DATE: October 14, 2018

Persons Contacted

Wednesday Addams

Pugsley Addams

Mortisha Addams

Gomez Addams

Foster Father & Mother

Paul Cook

Katie Nieman

Peggy Woods

IEP Team

Relationship to Children

Child (age 3 yr 7 mo)

Child (age 7 yr)

Biological Father

Biological Mother

of **Wednesday & Pugsley**

BCCS Case Worker

GAL

Family Healing Center Supervisor

for **Pugsley & Wednesday**

BACKGROUND

This CASA was appointed to this case by Judge Romans on February 12, 2017. This case initially came before the court due to an emergency order regarding allegations of neglect and dependency on October 9, 2016. The children were placed into the temporary custody of Butler County Children Services, hereinafter BCCS, and are currently living in a licensed foster home where they have been since the filing. This case is due for review on October 16, 2018. This CASA has visited the **Addams** children 20 times, five times since August 21, 2018. This CASA observed the **Addams** children one time in the foster care home, three times at Family Healing Center, as well as one time in their respective educational settings.

CURRENT SITUATION

Pugsley continues diagnostic evaluations through Cincinnati Children's Medical Hospital (CCMH) and as of this report date maintains the ADHD and ODD diagnoses. **Pugsley** has been fitted with glasses (currently broken) and will return for a follow up eye appointment on November 5, 2018. **Pugsley** also transitioned from his partial hospitalization program administered through Cincinnati Children's Home into a full day of academics on September 29, 2018. His behavior has been exceptional during the morning hours with some breakdown occurring in the late afternoons. The current process to address this issue includes delaying his morning medication for 60-90 minutes. The effect of this delay will be documented through school generated behavioral reports to the foster parents and evaluated at **Pugsley's** next appointment scheduled for October 31, 2018. **Pugsley** has also begun to receive the balance of his tutoring (2-3 hours) 2 times a week in his current educational setting and attends one on one therapy at Cincinnati Children's Home one time a week.

Wednesday continues diagnostic evaluations through Cincinnati Children's Medical Hospital (CCMH) Results from testing performed September 17, 2018 indicating she requires speech therapy and possible physical therapy. **Wednesday** does receive therapeutic speech services through her pre-school program and is awaiting additional referrals for OTPT services. She has a follow up exam scheduled for November 20, 2018. **Wednesday** has also been fitted with glasses (currently broken) and has been non-compliant with the recommendation to wear an eye patch. **Wednesday** continues to work on potty-training and has had excellent behavioral report from her pre-school. This CASA observed that **Wednesday** had a black eye on September 11, 2018. Per her foster parents the black eye was a result of jumping on the bed with **Pugsley**.



During observations at the foster home both children appear to be healthy, fed, and with proper attention to personal hygiene. Both children play, talk and interact with this CASA as appropriate for their age. **Pugsley** has a preference for technical toys, while **Wednesday** prefers to play mother to a host of baby dolls. Both children appear happy and relaxed when observed in their current foster placement, however the foster mother does report that upon occasion **Wednesday** will cry at bedtime and she can sometimes be found sleeping on the floor. **Pugsley's** behavioral outbursts have decreased both in the foster setting and in school, as the foster parents continue to work closely with school officials to provide a highly structured environment. During observations made at the Family Healing Center, both children appear happy to see their parents, however in this less structured environment, behavioral boundaries are either unwilling or unable to be set, effectively putting the children in charge.

Dad has indicated he has begun working approximately 30 hours per week at a fast food establishment. He still resides with his paramour in Indiana and shares transportation with her, his mother and his brother. Mom indicated that she has obtained her own housing and also her own transportation. She continues to look for employment. Parents have re-instated joint visitation at The Family Healing Center.

The children report being happy at their current foster home, but do desire to return to their parents' care, either one or both of them.

SUMMARY

Although this CASA is happy to see both parents working hard to improve their personal situations, this CASA cannot recommend reunification at this time due to the lack of an established stable environment. Each parent has initiated major case plan objectives only within the last 30 days. This CASA also maintains that the parents will require additional resources to help them establish the structured environment that **Pugsley** must have for continued success.

This CASA reports that although dad has re-engaged in therapeutic services, he reported to this CASA that he still does not believe he needs therapy. However, the psychological evaluation summary dated February 2017 states that he is, "certainly in need of individual psychotherapy and possibly additional forms of treatment" [and] "at this point no effort should be made towards reunification until Mr. Addams has become involved in treatment and begun to accept some responsibility for the need for BCCS to be involved in his life." This CASAs concern extends from dad's inability to recognize his own mental health needs as it translates into recognition for his child(ren's) mental health needs. This CASA reports that as of this report date mom had also re-initiated contact with her mental health services provider.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN:

1. The **Addams** children should remain in their current foster location
2. Parents should participate in educational services as available via Children's Hospital per diagnoses of **Pugsley** (ADHD/ODD) and **Wednesday** evaluations (pending)
3. This CASA will continue to monitor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Happy
CASA

Tonya Buchanan
Executive Director

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THE MATTER OF:

Opie Taylor

JN2013-4444

DATE: May 6, 2013

PERSONS CONTACTED

Opie Taylor

Andy Taylor

Debra Rothstein

Amy Hensley

Foster Parents

Dawn Mills

RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD

Child (Age 17 months)

Father

GAL

BCCS Caseworker

of **Opie**

Case Aid

BACKGROUND

This CASA was appointed to this case on March 12, 2013 by Judge Craft. BCCS opened a case and **Opie** was placed in foster care on August 7, 2012 where he remains. The next court hearing is scheduled for May 8, 2013.

According to records reviewed by this CASA, BCCS opened a case with Andy Taylor (father) and **Opie Taylor** on December 12, 2011. Subsequently, the case was closed. However, five months later a new referral was received stating that father and son were homeless and that because the father suffers from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and has significant delays, it was difficult for him to care for an infant. The case was again closed because a non-relative, Barney Fife, advised that he would allow father and baby to live with him. Two months later the case was re-opened because Mr. Fife was concerned about the lack of parenting skills displayed by Andy Taylor, It was alleged that dad screamed and yelled at the baby, ignored his needs when talking on the phone, and would spank the child on his bottom and hands. Dad admitted to becoming angry, frustrated and upset. He stated that he tries not to spank him (**Opie** – approx. 8 months old) too hard or he cries. Mr. Fife claimed, that in his opinion, dad has mental health issues and has the mentality of a twelve-year-old. As far as this CASA can tell, this is **Opie's** 3rd open case with Children Services.

CURRENT SITUATION

This CASA has visited with **Opie** 9 times since being appointed to this case. These visits have taken place at the foster home, The Family Healing Center and the father's apartment. **Opie** is a beautiful child. He appears healthy, smiles readily and loves his stuffed animals.

This CASA truly likes and has enjoyed getting to know father. He is a lovely person and to be honest is the nicest and sweetest parent this CASA has ever worked with. It is easy to see why so many are working diligently to give him every chance to parent **Opie**. He has been very open about his upbringing with this CASA and stated that he has no family to care for **Opie**. This CASA has observed dad's apartment to be sufficient, clean, appropriate but very sparse. He has a baby mattress, but no bed. Dad has no bed himself and sleeps on the sofa in the living room. In this CASA's opinion, **Opie** likes his dad, but this CASA has observed very little activity taking place during their visits. They will play together, on the floor with some of the toys. However, **Opie** loses interest quickly and will walk away and find a stuffed animal to sit and cuddle with. This CASA has observed very little language skill while with his father at visits.

This CASA does have some concerns about visitation. Once, while dad and **Opie** were at The Family Healing Center for their two hour visit, within the first half hour, dad called the person in charge of transporting **Opie** and told her that the **Opie** was fussy, had a cold and should go home



now. Just this week when this CASA drove to dad's apartment to observe the visit, I arrived around 1:35 (visit was scheduled from 12:00 – 2:00) and no one was home. I looked all around outside and saw no one. I knocked again, but still no answer. This CASA called the foster mother to check on the visit, and the foster mother stated that the driver, **Opie** and dad had taken a little walk. When they returned to the parking lot dad put **Opie** in the car, cutting the visit short by 30 minutes.

Visiting **Opie** in the foster home was a joyous affair. This CASA observed a different child. I found out that he loves music and loves to dance. He runs, jumps, talks and laughs. The foster parents talk to him, they ask him questions, they work on his words. The foster mother and I were sitting on the sofa and **Opie** quickly jumped up and sat between us. Looking at both of us, he said "Hi guys!" He loves his foster dads teasing and dotes on his attention. He appeared very happy and comfortable in this home. This CASA was very surprised at how outgoing and rambunctious **Opie** was in the foster home compared to the dad's home.

This CASA asked the foster parents to see pictures from when **Opie** arrived in their home to the present. This CASA noticed an observable difference in the child. Initially in the first two months, he looked small and frail, his hair appeared dull and stringy and he did not show a lot of expression on his face. As this CASA looked at pictures, he looked healthier and his face took on more expression of smiles and laughter.

SUMMARY

This CASA sincerely believes that dad wants to be a good father to **Opie**, but this CASA is concerned that he may not be able to physically, mentally or emotionally achieve that goal. Due to his Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and his significant delays, this CASA has concerns that he will not be able to meet **Opie's** needs long term. This CASA has never seen a case where so many people have been brought on to help a parent. This is admirable, all are doing a fine a job, offering a great deal of support to dad, and in some instance going beyond their call of duty. This CASA must ask however, how much is he able to process? Put into practice? Comprehend?

RECOMMENDATIONS IN BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD:

1. **Opie** should remain in his current foster home.
2. Dad's visits with **Opie** should remain the same.
3. In the 8/21/12 Social Summary, BCCS recommended dad participate in a psychological through CDC to fully assess his abilities as a parent and IQ. If this has NOT been completed, this should take place. If completed, this CASA would request a copy.
4. This CASA will continue to monitor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy Full
CASA

Tonya Buchanan
Executive Director

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