



**CASA REPORT
FOR THE 22nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

*This report presents findings of the CASA volunteer serving in an advisory capacity to the Court.
This report is confidential and is intended only for the parties listed on the signature page.*

In the interest of:	DOB:	Case #:
Lucy Barton	9/23/2015 (2 y.o.)	16 JA 14
Corey Barton	8/17/2011 (6 y.o.)	16 JA 15
Heidi Barton	7/25/2010 (7 y.o.)	16 JA 16

Hearing Date: June 19, 2018 – Review

HEARING DATE SUMMARY:

Shelter Care Hearing: 11/22/2016
Adjudicatory Hearing: 04/25/2017
CASA Appointed: 05/30/2017
Disposition Hearing: 05/30/2017
Last Permanency Hearing: 12/12/2017
Last Court Date: 03/15/2018 - Review

CASE HISTORY:

The family was receiving intact services due to parents' history of substance abuse. Neither parent complied with the safety plan or treatment recommendations. The case entered Juvenile Court when the natural parents left the children with someone who was unwilling to care for them. The three children were placed in foster care together. On February 3, 2018, Corey were removed from the foster home and placed in a separate foster home. The goal for all three children is Return Home within 5 months.

CONTACTED PARTIES:

Lucy: 3/28/18 Daycare Visit; 5/1/18 Foster Home Visit; 3/24/18 and 4/29/18 Phone Calls
Heidi: 3/22/18 and 5/1/18 Foster Home Visits; 3/28/22 Daycare Visit
Corey: 4/9/18, 5/11/18 and 6/6/18 Foster Home Visits
Foster Mother 1 (Heidi & Lucy): 3/22/18 and 5/1/18 Foster Home Visits; 3/24/18, 4/29/18 and 6/1/18 Phone Calls; 5/30/18 ACR
Foster Mother 2 (Corey): 4/9/18, 5/11/18 and 6/6/18 Foster Home Visits; 5/31/18 Phone Call; 4/4/18, 5/1/18 and 5/31/18 Texts; 4/13/18 CIPP Follow-Up; 5/30/18 ACR
Caseworker: 4/13/18 CIPP Follow-Up; 5/30/18 ACR

CASE MEETINGS:

ACR: 5/30/18
CIPP Follow-Up (Corey): 4/13/18
CFTM: 5/9/18 (CASA did not attend)

FINDINGS:

Lucy

Foster Mother 1 (FM1) stated Lucy continues to do well in her foster home. CASA observed Lucy smiling, laughing, and hugging at each visit. Lucy attends a nursery school where FM1 works. CASA observed Lucy at play at the nursery and noted that, when playing with a difficult toy, she puts in a lot of effort to get things to work.

At the ACR, Natural Mother (NM) said the current visitation schedule does not allow her enough time with Lucy to establish bonding before the targeted return home date of November. Caseworker (CW) stated an additional visit would be added once NM completed five additional parenting classes.

Heidi

CASA observed Heidi and FM1 have established a comfortable relationship. FM1 reported they work on homework together, make weekly visits to the library, go on daily walks with FM's dog, and participate in school activities, such as a recent ice cream social. FM1 said Heidi likes to read and ride her bike.

During visits, CASA observed Heidi loves board games and plays with good humor, makes jokes, and keeps up a constant banter. Although she is competitive and plays to win, she is a good sport when she does not win. FM1 reported this upbeat demeanor is typical of Heidi, which contrasts with her moodiness during the previous school year (per CASA's observations). At the ACR on 5/30/18, NM said she has seen a major change and Heidi is much happier now.

FM1 told CASA Heidi was sympathetic and helpful after FM1 sustained a hand injury (from which FM1 has now recovered).

FM1 reported Heidi likes school and, although she struggles a bit with math, is mostly at grade level. She usually attends the before and after school program at her school. FM1 reported Heidi has made friends at school and has periodic playdates with several sets of classmates.

When FM1 has an early meeting at work, Heidi goes to the daycare where her sister Lucy attends. CASA observed Heidi play age-appropriate games with Lucy at daycare. Both girls were laughing during a hide-and-seek game, and then both girls worked together on a coloring project. CASA did not observe parenting-type behaviors in Heidi that were evident at previous visits.

FM1 reported Heidi's school is out for the summer on 6/6/18. She will go to an overnight camp for five days starting on 6/11/18. This is a camp specifically for children in foster care and is the same camp she attended last summer. FM1 said she enrolled Heidi for three days per week in a park district camp, which includes twice-weekly visits to a pool. FM1 reported she plans to take Heidi and possibly some of her friends to a pool at a health club where FM1 has a membership.

Corey

Corey has been doing well since moving into his new specialized foster home, according to Foster Mother 2 (FM2). CASA observed a second foster child in the foster home, a boy who is a few years older and has similar interests, giving Corey the opportunity to interact in a more connected and positive way than had often been the case in the former foster home. FM2 reported the previous concerning behaviors, especially aggressiveness, have not been a concern at the home.

During the CIPP Follow-Up meeting, FM2 reported Corey is still not receiving the recommended services identified prior to his placement in her home. She stated providers have not been identified.

Corey receives partial occupational therapy services at his current school. He began receiving additional occupational therapy after it was recommended by his psychological assessment. However, due to distance, this therapy was discontinued when he moved to the new foster home and a new provider has not yet been identified. Sensory Integration therapy, which was recommended after Corey's psychological assessment, is not yet in place. CW stated paperwork has been submitted for the ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) therapy but is still awaiting final approval.

CASA observed significant improvement in the quantity and quality of Corey's speech. During visits, Corey has been laughing and talkative, and his speech is easier to understand than before. FM2 said Corey's teacher told her he is talking more than he used to be. At the ACR on 5/30/18, NM said Corey is doing much better than he was a year ago. CW reported Corey now has the proper shoes indicated as a need in the last report.

On 6/1/18, the second foster child moved out of the foster home. FM2 said she would try to help Corey's adjustment to the child's departure by increasing his contact with her young niece and nephew. FM2 reported they live nearby and Corey likes to play with them.

With transportation provided by taxi, Corey is able to remain in the all-day special education kindergarten classroom at the school he attended while in the former foster home. FM2 reported Corey enjoys school and is very attached to his teacher.

After the current school year is over on 6/12/18, FM2 stated Corey will attend summer school at the school where he will be attending in the fall. FM2 said Corey knows children from the neighborhood who attend the school and ride the bus, so she hopes this will make the move to a new school easier for him. FM2 looked into summer recreational programs but could not find any suitable for Corey.

CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS CASE SUMMARY:

- All three children appear to have adjusted to their foster homes.
- Heidi now likes school and has recently made friends.
- Corey continues to show improvement in his speech and behavior, both at school and home.
- Not all recommended services for Corey are in place, including occupational services (no new provider yet), sensory integration services, and ABA therapy.
- Natural Mother would like more visitations with Lucy to build attachment.
- Number of months in child welfare: 19 months
- Number of placements: Lucy – 1, Heidi – 1, Corey – 2,

Respectfully submitted,

Court Appointed Special Advocate

Date: _____

CASA Advocate Manager

Date: _____

CASA of McHenry County
630 State Route 31, Suite 101
Crystal Lake, IL 60012
(779) 994-4398
(224) 357-0199 Fax

Original: Court

Copies: Judge Alpha; ASA Beta; ASA Chi; GAL Delta; Attorney Epsilon; Attorney Gamma

Good Report