

Newaygo County Department of Human Services

DRAFT  
Transition Plan for

Amber and Alyssa Keast

04/03/07

The following constitutes the Newaygo County Department of Human Services (DHS) transition plan for the placement of Amber and Alyssa Keast at the home of Timothy and Barbara Atwood. This plan is set up to make a successful transition of the children to the Atwood's home while first and foremost meeting the needs and keeping in mind the best interests of Amber and Alyssa Keast.

Two hour visits have taken place on 03/12/07, 03/19/07, 03/22/07, 03/27/07, and 03/29/07. Another visit is scheduled for 04/03/07 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM. On 4/03/07, DHS staff, as well as the children's therapists from Community Mental Health, will meet with Timothy and Barbara Atwood to discuss the progress of the visits, concerns, recommendations and the transition plan. The goal of this meeting is also to provide the Atwoods information about the children from their therapists including treatment goals, process in treatment, concerns and issues for the children, and further treatment plans. Attached is a list of issues that will be discussed with the Atwoods on 4/03/07.

To increase the chance of successful long term stability, which is in the children's best interest it is essential to work at the children's pace for the placement. Amber and Alyssa Keast have not seen their grandparents in a significant period of time. They also have several psychological and behavioral issues stemming from past removals and replacement that need to be addressed. An introductory and get acquainted period is appropriate and has already been initiated. To have a successful reunification plan it is imperative that all parties practice open/honest communication for the best interests of these children.

Further specifics of this transition plan including visitations will be mutually agreed upon at the meeting on 4/03/07. Timothy and Barbara Atwood play one of the most important roles in the successful transition of the children to their home. The Atwood's ability to recognize the children's developmental and behavioral issues, as well as recognizing and supporting their significant relationship with their current foster mother, will assist the children in becoming productive members of society and promote the success of the long-term placement in the Atwood's home. To date both the Atwoods and DHS have verbalized a commitment to work together. This plan will be mutually assessed and changed as needed.

Draft Transition Plan Information to be shared and addressed  
4/3/07

Amber and Alyssa have on-going issues that also need to be addressed.

1. *Trauma issues*
2. *Multiple placement issues which includes issues of security*
3. *Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), and possible fetal alcohol effects issues (FAS)*
4. *The children need to meet normal developmental milestones*
5. *Abuse and neglect issues*
6. *Genetic predisposition for substance abuse*

Examples of interventions that are being utilized with the children:

The children need to be re-assured constantly for their security.

The children need to feel safe.

The children need clear rules and boundaries.

The children need stability and continuity of care.

The children need firm discipline and clear rules with firm boundaries.

Amber has been diagnosed ADHD.

Alyssa receives special services in school and requires close supervision with school work.

Alyssa has anxiety issues.

Alyssa can be selectively mute.

The children need medications. Their medications need to be administered and monitored closely. The children need to be watched for possible side effects.

Alyssa struggles with spelling. She spends two hours on homework each week night.

Caregivers need to identify regressive behaviors and keep therapists informed of the children's progress.

The children need a strong female role model to identify with.

The children's need to continue to learn appropriate child interactions through extra curricular activities.

Proposed information to be shared:

Children's files including psychological and mental health information, medical information, and school information.

Recommended trainings including books, resource materials, etc about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder(ADHD), Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), fetal alcohol effects issues (FAS), predisposition toward substance abuse and the role the continued sobriety of Mr. Atwood plays, Mrs. Atwood's role as a mother including protection of the children, Mr. and Mrs. Atwood's parenting styles and how they work with the children's behaviors, participation in children's on-going counseling, and an active role in the children's education, and parenting skills.

## Verification of Information Provided to Adoptive Parent(s)

Adoptee/Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Adoptive Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Adoption Specialist

The following information/documents have been provided to the adoptive parent(s):

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) The adoptee's non-identifying information as described in the Probate Code (MCL710.27(1)(2))
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2) The petition(s) that resulted in each placement of the child.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3) All Initial Service Plans and Updated Service Plans concerning the child while in foster care, adoptive placement, etc.

The following information has been reviewed and discussed with the adoptive parent(s):

- \_\_\_\_\_ A) The information listed above in Items #1, 2, and 3, have been reviewed and discussed with the adoptive parent(s).
- \_\_\_\_\_ B) All medical and psychological information known by or available to the adoption agency regarding the adoptee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ C) A list of the adoptee's medical and psychological needs, known by or available to the adoption agency has been provided to the adoptive parent(s).

### Adoptive Parent(s):

I (we) hereby affirm that I (we) have received all of the information listed above in Items 1,2,and 3 and that I attended a conference on \_\_\_\_\_ with the adoption agency regarding the information listed in Items A, B, and C as listed above. I (we) also agree to return all written information shared to the agency if for any reason the adoption does not occur.

Adoptive Parent Signature

Date

Adoptive Parent Signature

Date

Adoption Specialist Signature

Date