

Hilda Buelto

SWK 516- Generalist Practice I: Individuals and Families

Case Recording- SOAPIER

**Subjective:** Keyla Medina reported feeling “sad” since she has left her country of origin, Guatemala and transitioned to the U.S. She stated that she “misses her parents” who have abandoned her due to her transgender identity. When she revealed to them that she identified as a girl and not as a boy as when she was born, she was told to “pack her things and leave.”

**Objective:** Ms. Medina, age 17, migrated from Jutiapa, Guatemala by way of a paid coyote to live with a maternal aunt in an apartment in the Bronx, NY. Ms. Medina was not working in Guatemala prior to leaving the country and completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in school in Jutiapa. She appears melancholic and lethargic from the long journey. Agency records indicate that she was disowned and abandoned by both biological parents in Guatemala and when she went to stay with her maternal grandparents, they were unable to take her in and appropriately provide care for her. She was sent to the U.S. to live with a maternal aunt, Belinda Green, and to attend high school until she is old enough to obtain work in less than 1 year.

**Assessment:** The client is an unaccompanied minor in immigration custody who will reside at the Safe Haven Shelter while she awaits the reunification process with her aunt. The minor is calm and reserved, but also feels sad and regretting because her parents want to know nothing about her due to her transgender identity. Her reservation and melancholy are due in part to the transition to a new country and environment, but also in part to her parents' disapproval and abandonment. Ultimately, she looks forward to being able to be with a family member who will accept her and support her throughout the rest of her journey.

**Plan:** Obtain and review all necessary documents as part of the reunification packet to submit to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for approval. During weekly sessions, assess the minor's thoughts and feelings, provide emotional support, and encourage with updates on case status. Also speak with sponsor on a weekly basis to update on case status and submission of required documentation. Conduct a call with minor's grandparents in Guatemala and possibly conference in the minor's parents for conversation.

**Intervention:** Coordinate with case Clinician intervention plans to monitor the minor's thoughts and feelings, to ensure staff provide appropriate emotional support, comfort and preference, assisting the minor in identifying other coping strategies in times of sadness and to prevent/eliminate isolation. If able to speak with parents, ask how to assist and/or provide education for support.

**Evaluation:** At the following weekly session, the minor seemed more energetic and was feeling less sad. She still misses her parents and hopes for reconciliation but finds solace in knowing that they are okay from speaking with her grandparents. She continues to think about the positive moments shared with her family and looks forward to making more memories once she is with her aunt.

**Revision:** During weekly sessions, discuss additional coping strategies as a way not to dwell on negative thoughts or worry excessively. Help to possibly host a phone call with minor and parents. Follow up on required documentation from sponsor and/or grandparents in COO. Inform Ms. Medina of anticipated case turn over time/next steps.