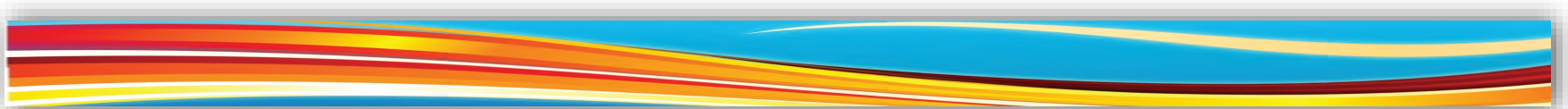




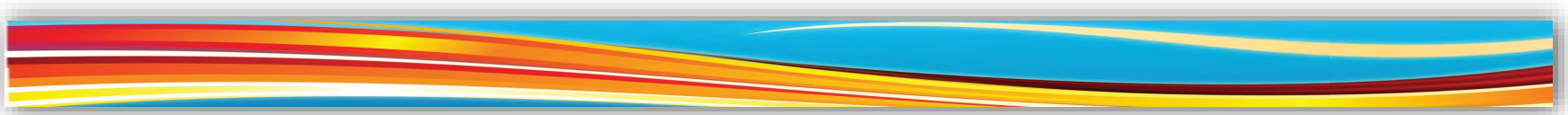
The Gomez Family: A Complex Case

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Basic Facts

- Family consists of the following:
 - Mother, 28 years old Anglo, Beth
 - Father, 51 years old, Hispanic, Victor
 - Biological daughter, 8 years old, Angelica, pervasive developmental disorder, professional disagreements over what specifically
 - “Adopted” son (father’s brother’s boy), 12, Fred
 - Father’s brother & wife murdered in drug related crime
 - Fred was in the room or bedroom next door, conflicting reports
 - Boy been in the family two years
 - History of fostering children, considered low maintenance family
 - Stable family, mother stay-at-home, religious commitment to help others
 - Father works door manufacturing company
- Thoughts?

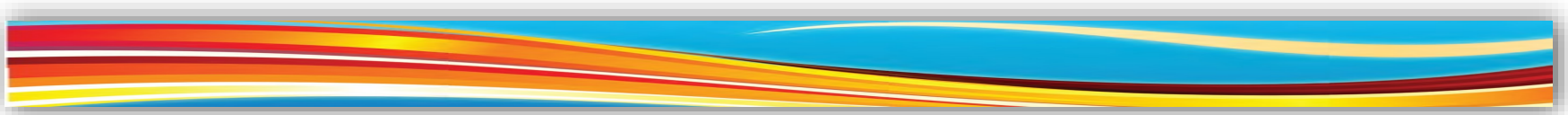


Alex


- Alex is 12 year old, referred to CWS worker Mary after previous worker retired
 - Alex failed in previous foster home of single mother, “acting out” was too much for foster mother – verbal report to Mary from previous worker
 - Another previous placement also failed as “not a good fit”
 - Mary is a young social worker, one year of employment but previous experience in drug treatment as advocate/counselor
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Placement of Alex

- Alex placed with family, temporary placement
- Alex bonds quickly with dad and Fred
- Mary and Beth attend same church
- Beth tells Mary family likes Alex, and would like to adopt
- Mary visits the family early after placement, all seems fine, except Fred is having nightmares, is awake at night, and Mary feels it is adjustment to having a new male in the house
- Thoughts?

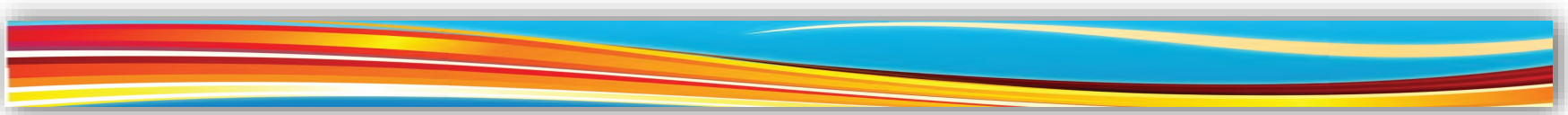


Additional facts

- Mary speaks to Beth regularly at church, documents contacts in record
 - Over the next three months, Fred's problems increase, including Temper outbursts, wetting the bed. Teacher calls the family reports Fred is looking up girls dresses and "plays with himself" at his desk.
 - Mary suggests the family take Fred to a trauma therapist to deal with murder of his parents.
 - During evaluation of several sessions, Beth and Fred ask therapist if she is "born again", and when the answer is "No" pull Fred from contact with her.
 - Mary calls therapist to inquire what she thinks about Fred and therapist does not return call. Leaves a message indicating she needs a release from Fred and Beth. Mary drops it
 - This is about two months into the case
 - Beth wonders if a church youth group might be useful for Fred and Alex, Mary says it is a good idea
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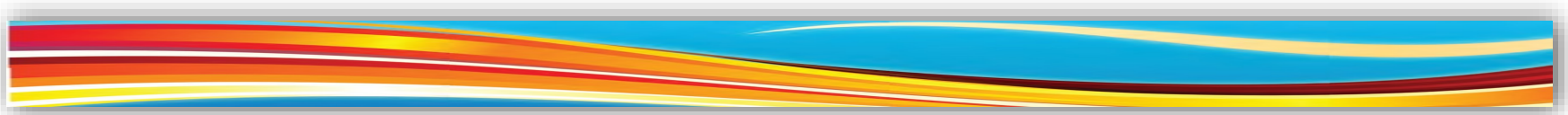
Angelica

- Special education classroom, most class more disabled than she.
- Begins masturbating, and touching other children
- Teacher calls Beth to ask her to come in to discuss
- Mary and Beth attend school conference
- Teacher who has had Angelica for years, raised concern that someone is doing something to Angelica because this is a new behavior
- Same week as conference, family takes a child on an emergency placement, child is 5, and aggressive




Faith based therapist month three to five

- Pastor at church, recommends a therapist who is member of church
- Therapist, Master in Divinity, “trauma” training
- Meets with Angelica & Fred
- Pray together before each session
- Sees both kids in play therapy, play increasingly sexualized
 - Dolls being sexual with each other
 - Children get quite hyper during play
- At one point, Fred has a bigger doll touching a small doll, therapist asks who bigger doll is, and Fred says Daddy
- Therapist speaks with supervisor and together they conclude that the bigger doll was the only available doll and discount the behavior
- Beth takes the kids and talks about impact of children’s behavior on family
- Husband, Victor is very stressed
- Thoughts?

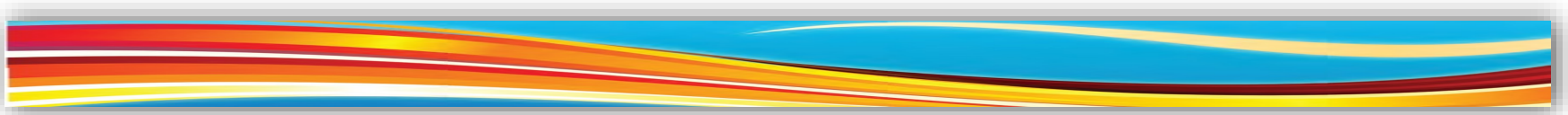


Month Five

- Victor is laid off, having a significant emotional break down, not sleeping, “lost in space” according to Beth
 - Fred increasing night terrors, aggressive toward Alex who family describes as an angel
 - Fred starts trying to get Angelica to sleep with him
 - Beth have hard time managing, Mary talks to their pastor about visiting and praying with Beth and Fred
 - Mary calls former drug treatment program trying to get Victor into a drug evaluation because she says he has relapsed.
 - Mary tells family that Fred must be sexually abusing Angelica
 - Thoughts?
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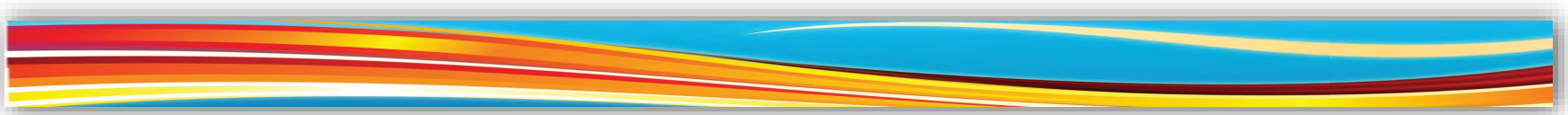
Six months

- Alex gets a new GAL
 - No movement on adoption
 - Little mention of Alex in social work records
 - Six month report is due Court
 - No evidence of supervisory review
- GAL meets with Mary & Supervisor
 - Mary provides her assessment
 - Fred is trauma victim, profound loss, acting out and sexualizing need to feel attached
 - Angelica is probably being abused by Fred
 - Victor has relapsed under stress of losing job
 - Beth, mother, needs support of prayer group
- Thoughts?



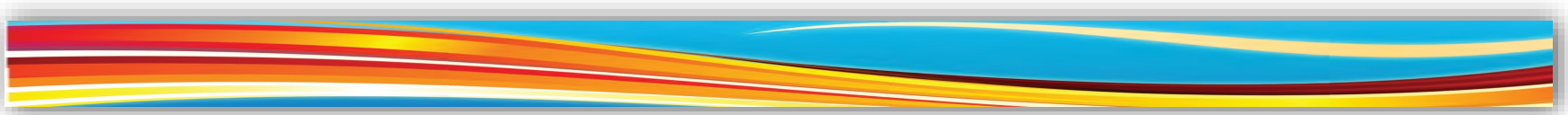
Supervision

- Mary's supervisor
 - 25 years in department, plans early retirement
 - Knew Mary's father who was a social worker
 - Attends different church but same faith domination
 - Has taken on a few cases to relieve overworked staff
- Mary's supervisor reviews the file & meets with Mary (first time on this case)
 - No home visit since placement of Alex
 - No information from school teacher or Fred's therapist
 - Alex, no mental health diagnosis, family history, treatment recommendations, no supervision plan
 - Inquires about case note "Alex failed previous foster home placements not a good fit" and "acting out"
- Thoughts?




New GAL

- Fred is not adopted, Victor and Beth took him when parents died
- Fred's therapist, does not think he is traumatized by parents murder, was questioning CSA when case was taken from him
- Victor is adult survivor of CSA, intra family and by teacher
- Beth is adult survivor of abuse by her brother, has long mental health history before marriage to Victor
 - Substance abuse, mixed personality disorder, PTSD all changed when "saved"
- Suggests a home study, psych evaluation
- Thoughts?



GAL

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- Reviews previous file
 - Notes
 - Mary described as “Acting out” was when Alex was 6
 - Actual note “Child has a long history since 4 of sexual behavior, including biting the penis of the dog, masturbation, humping adults, and inserting objects into his anus”
 - Regarding, “not a good fit”, when 9, “Alex has failed previous placements due to aggression, sexual behavior, and nocturnal wonderings. Current family is afraid of his rage and suspects he has harmed family cat and dog who avoid him. Concerns for younger children in home. Report from teacher that he is overly affectionate with her and with other students.”
 - Thoughts?
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What are your thoughts about the following history of Alex

- Parents, unmarried, substance abuse and mental health problems
- DV when Alex was infant to toddler
- Alex, cared for by multiple “caretakers”
- Removed from parents, age 5
- Multiple placements (7) from 5 to 12
- Psych evaluation RAD, PTSD, sexually reactive

