Memo: Responses to Family Violence

Student Name

Colorado Technical University

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**DATE: 6/12/2019**

**TO:** Domestic Violence Victims Advocates Supervisors

**FROM:** Domestic Violence Victims Advocates

**SUBJECT:** Amy and Marty King Domestic Violence Case

**Key Risk Factors**

According to the case information, there are indicators that Amy King has consistently tried to engage herself in gainful employment. However, she often quits her job giving the excuse of the need to tend to some personal matters. Additionally, there have been cases in which she has gone to work with bruises, an indicator of having experienced some form of violence within her household. Consequently, one of the primary risk factors for her and her family lies in their exclusive dependence on Marty King as the provider. Additionally, her limited contact with her family points to a situation in which she may not access the necessary help from family as they are not in close contact to the extent that they could identify her problem with ease and offer the necessary assistance. Further, her decision to keep her issues to herself, choosing not to seek out any external assistance, presents a risk factor for continued violence without a definitive end. Therefore, Amy King is left to entirely depend on her husband, stay at home with her kids, lest they move out and possibly become homeless.

**Domestic Violence Phase**

Cases of domestic violence occur in phases, beginning with the tension phase in which case the different parties involved are always angry about something. Under such circumstances, the victim of violence will make attempts to ensure that the angry individual is calm enough, thereby reducing any chances of any form of violence within the household. However, based on the information from the case, Amy has presented bruises, a black eye, spiral fractures, burns, and concussions. Consequently, this alludes to her inability to control Marty’s anger, to the extent that he has been violent with her. Such indicators point to the family being in the explosive cycle of domestic violence. In this stage, the abuser is less concerned about the implications of his actions, viewing himself to possess sufficient power to allow him to engage in some form of abuse, emotional, physical, or otherwise, to the partner or other parties involved in the relationship. In this case, Amy has been the victim.

**Teen Dating Violence**

In addition to the violent household, Ashley appears to be in a dysfunctional relationship. Marty notes that he has observed her boyfriend Jake make derogatory comments about her on social media, and the parents are concerned about the extensive time Ashley spends around him. On the other hand, Ashley defends him noting that he is the only person who understands her, and that he needs her, which is the reason she cannot stay away from him. However, cases in which Ashley has presented bruises to her neck indicate that she has been a victim of violence in her relationship, which ought be a significant cause of worry. In particular, Ashley could have borrowed from her mother’s decision to stay with her father irrespective of the experiences he puts her through to be a normal response to intimate partner violence. Consequently, she believes that Jake needs her and because she believes herself to love him, she would rather stay with him and endure the violence, just as she has watched her mother do in the past. In essence, the environment at her home has made a significant contribution to her relationship with Jake.

**Impact of Domestic Violence on Aaron’s Behavior**

The case presented highlights Aaron as a less academically performing student, and one who is constantly involved in physical altercations with other students in school. Ultimately, the extent of his involvement in violent confrontation even led to hospitalization of another student and consequent criminal charges against him. According to research, growing up in dysfunctional families has the potential to influence a child into developing what one could term as delinquent behavior (Moylan et al., 2010). Therefore, the behavior presented by Aaron is a consequence of a home environment in which he receives limited attention from his parents, who are constantly engaged in some form of confrontation. Notably, he could even be engaging in delinquent behavior as a way of trying to get the attention of his parents, who appear too involved in their own issues to focus on their children.

One of the most notable aspects of the two children is their similarity to their parents. In particular, the father is abusive, and constantly engages in violent activities while the mother is submissive and resilient in trying to make her marriage work. This compares perfectly to the situation experienced by the two children, in which case Aaron is constantly involved in violent activities while Ashley has been a victim of violence but views it as her duty to stay in the abusive relationship with Jake. Ultimately, one could view the children as copying the behavior of the adults with whom they identify in their respective households. Therefore, a potential improvement among the parents in their respective behavior could be enough to address issues experienced by the children. Although they may view Aaron and Ashley as being deviant and inconsiderate of their parents’ advice, they ought to understand that the two take more than just the advice provided from the parents. As long as the father continues engaging in violent behavior, it will be hard to observe positive change in the household.

References

Moylan, C. A., Herrenkohl, T. I., Sousa, C., Tajima, E. A., Herrenkohl, R. C., & Russo, M. J. (2010). The effects of child abuse and exposure to domestic violence on adolescent internalizing and externalizing behavior problems. *Journal of Family Violence, 25*(1), 53-63.