Presenting Problems

Amita Murray has been examined by her family doctor because she is experiencing painful urination. Upon examination and testing the physician determined that Amita was positive for the sexually transmitted infection, gonorrhea. Interviews with the child reveal suspicion that mother’s boyfriend, Dion Allyn, has been inappropriately touching Amita and forcing her to reciprocate. Amita also reports an instance of potential rape in which she says he laid on top of her and “put his cock in my pee-pee.” Amita has reported these instances to her mother, Alanna Murray, but Alanna does not believe the allegations. She has stated that she doesn’t believe he has ever molested Amita because he is never alone with the children except when she is in the shower, giving the baby a bath or cooking. She says she has no plans to remove Dion from the home. Alanna’s mother, Violet Murray, advises that she is concerned about her grandchildren and her daughters parenting ability. Violet believes she is inconsistent in taking care of them and yells at the children a lot, especially Amita. Violet has also expressed concern that the children are not properly supervised at night because Alanna has an substance abuse problem.

Family History

Amita Murray lives with her Mother, Alanna Murray. She has a younger sister Arietta who is fourteen months, twin brothers TJ and JJ who are four-years-old, and an older sister Shalanna. Amita’s father, Weldon Wyett, isn’t present in her life after leaving when Alanna obtained a restraining order against him due to abuse while she was pregnant with Amita. His whereabouts are currently unknown and he does not pay child support. His last known job was as a mechanic.

Alanna became pregnant with Shalanna when she was 16 years old. Shalanna’s father, Curtis Willows, lives in Atlanta and remains in contact with Shalanna. The twin’s father, Thomas Breenout, is currently active in the twin’s lives visiting them regularly every month. Arietta’s father is the suspected perpetrator, Dion Allyn. He currently lives with his mother but is at the home regularly and is currently in a relationship with Alanna. Alanna’s mother watches the children on a regular bases and her father, Edrick, died shortly before Amita was born.

The family particularly shows strength in that the children are very close to each other. The children watch out for each other and Shalanna has shown that she is very supportive of her younger siblings. Shalanna regularly takes care of her siblings while her mother is working or busy with errands. The children also have an active grandparent in their lives through Violet. Violet has been available to the children at all times and shows concern for their well being. Alanna has shown strength in financially supporting them through hard work and determination. With the exception of Amita, who seems to be the outlet for Alanna’s frustrations, Alanna appears to have a positive relationship with her children. Problem’s include lack of father’s present in Amita’s life as well as stress of being a single parent for Alanna.

Mental Health Status

Amita Murray currently has no mental health diagnoses. Alanna reports beginning treatment for depression about 6 months after her father died. She advised that she takes medication daily. She states that she doesn’t think she had a issue with depression until after she was in the abusive relationship with Amita’s father and her father, Edrick, passing away. The family is very fortunate to not have mental health problems. Though Alanna has depression she has taken adequate steps in treating and managing it.

Substance Abuse History

No members of the family have been treated for substance abuse. Alanna does report drinking alcohol on a regular bases. Alanna states that she drinks on regular occasion in the evening when she is relaxing. She denies that she has a problem with drinking. Alanna reports she began drinking when she was a teen, around the time Shalanna was born.

Alanna’s mother, Violet, believes that her daughter may have a substance abuse problem. Violet says she witnessed her daughter drinking while she was pregnant with the twins. She states she continues to see her drinking on a regular bases and that Shalanna has complained about having to take care of her siblings when her mother drinks. Violet says she has asked Shalanna if she is abusive to the children when she drinks. Shalanna tells her that she is not abusive but forces Shalanna to be responsible for the young children most nights. During the interview with Shalanna, she confirms she doesn’t like her mothers drinking.

 Through Alanna’s substance abuse problems the strengths of Shalanna has emerged. She has shown responsibility and compassion towards her siblings. However, there is concern that Shalanna is being forced into having too much responsibility for her age and is sacrificing important socialization time with her peers. Alanna’s potential drinking places the young children at risk of becoming injured or hurt due to lack of supervision.

Medical History

 Amita current health his considered to be good. The only recent medical issue reported was the gonorrhea infection. Amita has no other medical problems and Alanna states that she rarely gets sick. Alanna reports that she takes her children to the doctor for regular check ups. Visiting with the family physician confirms Alanna’s statement about the children health. The doctor states the only incident in the children’s’ history was a broken arm Shalanna had when she was 11 years old. The physician states that Alanna reported the incident happened when Shalanna fell off of the slide at school. The school confirmed Alanna’s story and advised that both Shalanna and Amita have excellent attendance and have not missed school for illness this year. With exception to the most recent infections suffered by Amita and Alanna, the family appears to have good health.

Legal Status

 Alanna has reported that she is currently in a legal dispute with the twin’s father, Thomas Breenout, who is recently remarried after his last marriage ended 9 months ago and is perusing joint custody. Alanna says she has no problem with Thomas but doesn’t like his wife, who she hears has served time in prison for theft. Alanna fears his wife will be a bad influence on the children. Her concern of her twins’ welfare is appropriate and shows she has reservations about whom they are around. Alanna also reports that her credit card debt was recently turned over to a collection agency. She advised that she owes around $6500. This is a concern because of the stress created by lack of money and debt owed. Her mother, because of lack of coping skills, could project the frustration of their current financial situation onto Amita.

Education and Employment

 Amita has recently been struggling with school. Her current teacher reports that Amita has began to fall behind on her schoolwork. She says that though Amita sits with her friends at lunch she is very quiet. Her teacher says that she has been trying to schedule a conference with Alanna but has been unsuccessful at getting in contact with her. Her teacher last year reports that Amita was an excellent student who was very social and active. When asked about Shalanna, the school states that she is an average student that usually appears to be tired. Shalanna has expressed interest in joining the basketball team but tells the coach she can’t because of her obligations to watching her siblings after school. It is apparent that the children have the potential to be excellent students but both Amita and Shalanna are struggling due to their current living situation.

Alanna has completed high school, cosmetology school and an associate degree from Butler County Community College. She has been able to maintain steady employment and further her education. She has shown strength in advancing her self through education and supporting her children.

Needs and Resources

 The needs of the family are numerous for it to be a safe home for the children. First and foremost, the children must be removed from the presence of Dion Allyn. Due to Alanna’s current belief that Amita is creating lies about Dion, this will need to be done via removing the children from the home since Alanna has should no desire to remove Dion from the situation. Prior to allowing the children back in the home, Alanna must meet certain requirement. First she needs to complete a drug and alcohol assessment and comply with the recommendations of the assessment. Second she will need to complete a parenting workshop to improve her skills when dealing with her children. Amita will under go a psychological evaluation and receive therapy for the sex abuse. The other children will also be evaluated to identify if they will need any type of treatment as well.

The resources available to the family are both themselves and the community. The grandmother appears to be concerned for the welfare of the children as do a couple of the fathers. It will be important to utilize them to maintain stability in the children’s lives and help improve their current conditions. It is also important to work with Alanna to locate potential resource in the community to improver her parenting skill and help with caring for her children.