Jones Family Scenario

Case Information

Georgia (36)

Samson (37)

Tallulah (13)

Kensington (11)

George (9)

**Allegations:**

**DCBS Centralized Intake received a JC-3 police report on December 10, 2015. The report stated the county sheriff’s office responded to a call to the Jones home around 7 pm on the 10th. When they arrived they found the mother and two children 11 and 9 years of age at the home. A third child, 13 was not at the home at the time and instead was visiting her bio father. The 11 year had contacted police to say her mother had been hit by her father.**

**The report stated Ms. Jones had an eye that was turning purple and blue and her lip was cut. She also had bruising to her arms and wrist as well as a bump to the back of the head. The Jones’ 11 year old daughter had a scrap and bruising to her right shoulder where she had allegedly been pushed into the door jamb during the altercation. By the time the sheriff’s office arrived Mr. Jones had left the house. Ms. Jones did not know where he was at the time. At this time no arrest has been made.**

**DCBS Assessment**

A TWIST check was conducted which showed 3 prior domestic violence referrals dated January 3, 2013, July 7, 2014 and September 30, 2015, all three referrals reflected where letters had been sent to Ms. Jones, the alleged victim and all three reports were listed as “no finding”.

Telephone contact was made with Ms. Jones on December 11 requesting to meet with her to discuss the altercation and possible services to help the family. She stated she still did not know specifically where her husband was staying but thought he might be at his father’s home. She expressed concern for him since he did not take his medication with him. A home visit was scheduled for 11:00am.

December 11, worker conducted a home visit with Ms. Jones. Georgia Jones reported she and Samson Jones have been married for 10 years even though they have been in a committed relationship for 12 years. Samson is the biological father of Kensington and George. Tallulah’s father is Thomas Smith and she visits with him every other weekend, one week in the summer and holidays. Thomas and Georgia were never married, but typically have a good relationship in co-parenting Tallulah. The relationship has been strained lately due to ongoing conflict between Georgia and Samson and Tallulah’s reporting of violence between the couple to her father.

The Jones family live in a two story home 20 miles outside of Haddiesville in a very rural area. The children all go to Haddiesville schools and until recently have done well in classes, and in their extracurricular activities. Ms. Jones stated Tallulah’s grades have begun to fall somewhat and she seems distracted in class by report of her teachers. Tallulah has always loved to play softball but in her last two softball games she has had difficulty focusing on the game and seems to be more concerned with what is going on with her step-father sitting in the stands. Ms. Jones reported that Kensington and George have been involved in 4-H and in service projects. In the last several months they have missed monthly meetings and many of the projects they were very passionate about doing. Their 4-H leader has contacted her inquiring about their absence.

Ms. Jones reported she works at Thompson Realty Company and has been with the company for 10 years. Her reputation as a top-notch realtor and top earner in the company has been affected in the last 2 years by an inability to get to appointments on time, as well as completing paperwork timely for sales to proceed. She stated her boss has been concerned by how tired she has seemed lately and on two occasions asked her about what he thought was a black eye and bruising to her arms. Ms. Jones told him that everything at home was fine. She reported that her husband does not like anyone getting into their business.

Ms. Jones explained that her husband has been a paramedic for 12 years. He is currently off without pay due to his own car accident that occurred a year and a half ago. Samson was out with friends celebrating 10 years as an EMT when a semi-trailer truck hit them head on. Samson suffered life threatening injuries and spent 6 months in physical therapy regaining the use of his legs. Since that time, he has had difficulty controlling his emotions as well as the ongoing pain from the injury which according to the doctors will likely last his lifetime.

Ms. Jones stated her husband has always had difficulty with his temper but since the accident he has not been the same. She states she knows he is in pain all the time and wants the kids to understand how the accident changed him. She states he doesn’t know what he is doing when he pushes her or hits her. She stated she did talk to her husband’s friends about his behavior and they agree with her that he really doesn’t mean to do what he does. One of his friends from the county EMT has continued to keep in contact with Samson and they seem to have a good time visiting. She even talked with him after a visit one night and told him about one of the incidents where her husband blacked her eye. The friend stated he was concerned, but would also be worried about involving police as they may not understand Samson and what he has been through. The police officers also know Samson as they worked together in some pretty tough situations so she is afraid they would have a hard time believing her.

Ms. Jones confided that Samson has changed in other ways as well. She stated he has always called her several times a day and would want to know where she was and who she was with. He would even come by her office unannounced. Now he calls her 10-15 times a day wanting to know where she is and who she has been with during the day. He has also started demanding that she put her paycheck in his account so he can monitor where the money is going. He told her he would make sure all the bills got paid. He also gives her an allowance so she can do the grocery shopping. She stated that some of this had been happening for a long time and she knows his own father managed all the money and refused to give his wife money when she needed it. She explained she never really got along with her father-in-law because he would tell his son he was too easy on her and the kids and that is why they didn’t respect him. She believes he tries to make trouble intentionally for her and her husband and even more so now. Samson’s own mother confided in her that she was afraid of her husband at times but would never tell her why. His mother died of cancer about 4 years ago.

Ms. Jones stated that things seemed to get worse again a couple of weeks ago when she checked the mail prior to leaving for work and found a past due notice from the electric company and the water company. When she went back into the house to ask him about the notices he snatched them from her hand and told her it was taken care of and from now on he was to check the mail. He yelled at her and told her to leave the house. She stated she asked him to see the checkbook and he started getting louder, calling her names and got in her face. He then grabbed her by the arm and kind of pushed her to the door and out of it. She went on to work and he called her later saying he was sorry, that he was in a lot of pain and just couldn’t deal with little stuff when he felt like that and she should know it.

She stated that there have been other times in their marriage where he has pushed her or slapped her over minor issues but these incidents were few and far between and probably stress related. She stated she knows he had a very stressful job and saw things no person should have to see and that he even probably had a rougher childhood than she knows. She stated the kids have seen him push her and that Kensington and George saw the last incident where he pushed her to the ground and hit her in the face leaving a black eye and cut lip. She stated Kensington was standing in her bedroom door with George when her husband got angry and pushed and hit her. Georgia also stated she was concerned because he has never done anything to the kids, but he did push Kensington into her room causing her to fall and hit her shoulder this time.

She went on to say that he has gotten more demanding about wanting his supper on the table at 6pm even though she has to show houses some nights until after 7pm. He tells her that she cares more about her job than him and the kids. He will also tell her she is a lousy mother since she isn’t home to help the kids with their homework or to get them to their games and other activities. She states that there have been times when he has called her stupid, lazy and told her she has let herself go so much no one would look at her. Typically this occurs when she has asked for money to get her hair cut or a new outfit. She says she knows she isn’t as attractive as she used to be because she is just so tired and worried and doesn’t have the energy she used to have to fix herself up. She tries to tell him she is trying to take care of as much as she can, but he gets more and more angry over what he says are just excuses for not taking care of her family.

Worker interviewed the children at their schools. They were interviewed privately in the following order: Kensington (11), George (9) and Tallulah (13).

When asked about their father Kensington (11) said she was really worried about him and her mother. She stated her dad has been really sick for a while now. She said he rarely gets out of his chair and drinks all the time now. She said a couple of times she has seen him take medication that wasn’t in one of his regular medicine bottles. When he does this he passes out or just gets really quiet. Sometimes he is hard to wake. She also reported that her mom was talking to him the other night about this medicine and Kensington heard him say “it is the only thing that helps”. Her mom told him he had to quit taking it and he starting yelling and screaming at her. When she tried to take it from him he pushed her and they started fighting. He cussed her and called her horrible names. Her dad held her mom down and hit her in the face then forced her hand open to get the medicine. Tallulah was at her dad’s when all this happened but she was standing in her bedroom doorway watching and crying. George was standing behind her holding on to her and crying. As her dad walked to his bedroom he told them to “shut the f up and quit crying”. He hit the wall, and then pushed her in her room. She fell against the door jam and bruised her arm. He then went to his room slamming the bedroom door. She said her mom told her that her dad is not himself or he wouldn’t have acted like he did. Her mom then took them into Tallulah’s bedroom and laid in her big bed. They could hear their dad yelling and when her mom left the room to check on her dad, she called the police because she was scared something else might happen but her dad actually left the house. Kensington said she understands her dad is sick but he is starting to really scare her and he seems to be getting worse. She said her dad did apologize later.

George stated that his dad is really sick and because he is sick he hits and yells at his mom. He did not want to talk about the last incident but did say his dad pushed his mom down and hit her. George held his head down and began to cry. He would not talk about anything else that happened that night. George did report however, that a couple of weeks ago his dad even kicked their dog cause he had an accident in the floor. George stated they didn’t tell their mom. Tallulah just told them to clean up the accident. George stated he likes it when his dad plays games with them and has movie night, but that doesn’t happen very often.

Tallulah reported that her step-dad use to be fun, play games with them and help around the house a little, but now he rarely says anything to them and gets mad over the simplest things. She reports her step-dad has always had a bit of a temper but typically kept it under control. Tallulah reports that since the accident her step-father yells and screams at the referee during her games and it is embarrassing. She stated her mom has tried to calm him down during games but he will yell at her and recently pushed her away during the game. Tallulah’s father saw this and tried to intervene and Samson threatened him to stay out of his families’ business. Tallulah said in the past she has seen her step-dad say mean things to her mom and push her. She looked down and stated she has even seen her step-father hit her mom but really thinks it is all the medicine he is using that is making him worse. Tallulah stated she is worried about her mom, sister and brother but has recently talked to her dad about going to live with him.

After talking with the children the worker made another home visit to discuss services with Ms. Jones.

Worker discussed with Ms. Jones the process of getting a protective order and the benefits as well as the limitations of them. We also discussed the possibility of the sheriff’s office pressing charges for 4th degree assault. Ms. Jones became very emotional and stated her husband is a really good man and even though he had his issues before the accident it is really what has changed him the most. She stated she didn’t want people to think badly of her husband as he really helped people when he was an active EMT. She stated people know him to be a very caring person. She stated she couldn’t imagine anyone believing he could become so angry and that people might not believe her. Worker discussed the services of the Women’s Shelter. She stated she did call the Women’s shelter one time and spoke with a lady there about counseling for the family but her husband did not think they needed it. Lastly, worker discussed a safety plan with Ms. Jones and negotiated several steps she could take to protect herself and the children. Ms. Jones stated she has her parents and her adult sister she can rely on to help her if needed, but again was concerned about her family thinking badly of her husband. She agreed to utilize them for safety if needed though. Worker explained we would still need to speak to her husband as soon as possible.

January 12th Worker phoned the Jones home and Mr. Jones answered. He agreed to come to the office to meet with the worker. Mr. Jones reported he loves his family and would never intentionally harm them. He reported he took the family out to eat last night and once they were home he apologized to them and assured them he wouldn’t let his temper get the best of him again. They had a really good night playing board games and watching TV together. He stated he even helped his wife get the children to bed. He reported that he knows his children love him and had already asked his wife when he would be home. Therefore he does not believe they are scared of him but that they understand he has a lot of pain since the accident and that this causes him to act different sometimes.

Mr. Jones stated that he and his wife had never really agreed when it came to household roles and responsibilities but they had learned to live with their differences. He stated his dad was the breadwinner in the family and because of that he set the rules for everyone in the family. He stated he and his brother knew what was expected of them as did his mother. His mother always had supper ready on time and made sure his dad and the boys had what they needed for school and work. He stated when his dad called home he expected to find his wife home. He reported that if they got home and their mother wasn’t home they were to call their father to let him know. He reported they weren’t the Brady family but they all got along okay. He stated he feels like because his wife chooses to work so much and isn’t home the kids aren’t doing as well in school and in their other activities. He stated he loves his wife but thinks she could do more around the house and arrange her schedule to be home when the kids got home after school.

When asked about the medicine he takes he reported he takes what the doctor gave him to take. Further information will need to be gathered to fully assess this family regarding domestic violence and possible substance abuse issues.

Worker and Mr. Jones negotiated a prevention plan for safety to keep the children and family safe. Worker also explained the cabinet would be working with his family to help them resolve conflicts while keeping everyone safe. Worker explained that there was some concern about the medicine he was taking for his pain and that we would also be discussing this in more detail. Again, he reported he was only taking what the doctor told him to take.