

Jenny is a 32 year-old Caucasian mother of a daughter, Kelsey who is 8 years old. Jenny has a history of substance use disorder, and a diagnosis of Bi-Polar Disorder. She is also a survivor of childhood trauma. Her mother had a serious mental illness and a Substance Use Disorder and Jenny grew up in a household of severe physical and sexual abuse, mostly at the hands of her mother's various boyfriends.

Jenny has had periods of sobriety when she was in treatment programs. They lasted anywhere from 3 months to a year. For most of her childhood Jenny's daughter Kelsey was in foster care with the same caring family. Three times in her young life, Kelsey was reunified with her mom during Jenny's periods of sobriety. Even while in custody of Jenny, Kelsey would spend overnights with her foster family, often preferring these visits over her time with Jenny.

When with Jenny, Kelsey often had severe outbursts that were difficult for Jenny to manage. She also has a significant learning disability and would get frustrated and refused to allow Jenny to help her with her schoolwork. Ultimately managing her daughter's behavior became too much for her and she chose to turn over guardianship to the foster family.

When Jenny no longer had her child in her care she moved from the family program she was in and ultimately lost her housing and returned to the street. In the past year she has been actively using substances. She has had multiple overdoses and her boyfriend that she was on the street with overdosed and died. She has now returned to your program and wants to start over again. Where do you begin the work?