**Nora’s Narrative Summary**

Nora is a bright 12-year-old girl who enjoys drawing and likes to write. She adores her 4-year-old brother Benjamin, whom she has had to take care of from a young age. Feeding, dressing, and reading to him has built her resilience and ability to withstand the violence she witnessed and endured when her father, Darrell, became upset with her or her mother. Nora gives her brother all the love, attention, and care that she didn't experience herself. When her father became violent, Nora kept Benjamin safe and tried to intervene on her mother's behalf but was sometimes harmed in the process. These experiences contributed to her withdrawing from others and questioning whether adults in her life could be trusted or would keep her safe. Nora experiences nightmares which keep her from getting a quality night’s sleep.

Nora’s mother, Tamera, wants to be able to take care of and provide for her children. She has struggled to find balance between staying safe in a relationship with a man to whom she is committed and loves, but who becomes violent when he has had too much to drink. Tamera’s sister (Nora’s aunt) was a support to the family but is now estranged. Tamera states “she hates Darrell and wants me to leave him.”

Six months ago, the school made a CPS report citing that Nora came to school with bruises and a black eye. The police came to the family’s home and arrested Darrell. Nora’s mother stayed by Darrell’s side while Nora, confused and feeling alone, ran away. Nora and Benjamin were removed from their home through a CHIPS order, both for the abuse and due to their basic needs not being met. They were placed in separate foster care homes and have weekly (but separate) supervised visits with their mother. Tamera has been ordered to take parenting classes, find employment, and secure stable housing. In her words, she wants to “fight to get Benjamin back,” but feels Nora is grown up and doesn’t want or need her.

Nora’s foster mother, Myra, is compassionate and understanding, and recognizes that Nora has suffered pain and loss. When Nora lashes out, struggles to manage her emotions, or pushes Myra away, Myra recognizes Nora's behavior as communicating fear, mistrust, and pain. Nora greatly misses her brother. Myra recognizes this and has expressed interest in fostering Benjamin if the details can be worked out. Myra is slowly earning Nora's trust, but Nora still struggles to trust other adults in her life, including her social worker, teachers, and mother. Nora’s therapist shared that Nora states she feels “invisible” and “not seen by adults.”

Nora attends public school where she is able to learn and perform well academically when her mind is not preoccupied, which makes it difficult to focus and participate. Some of her teachers have described Nora as being distracted and have misunderstood her behavior as her not caring about her education. Nora wants to do well in school, understands the value of learning, and wants to succeed. One way that Nora has learned to protect herself is to test people, and she sometimes lashes out verbally and physically. She is falling behind academically in several of her classes. She had one close friend in her class, but she moved to a neighboring community this past summer.

Nora has been diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Attention Deficit Disorder, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The symptoms and behaviors that often accompany these diagnoses seem to fit with how Nora has responded to threats and stressors in her life. Nora has been prescribed Ritalin to help her manage her anger and increase focus. She doesn’t want to take the medication because she reports it doesn't help her and makes her feel "sleepy and zoned out" instead of "awake and happy." The psychiatrist is open to the possibility of weaning Nora off Ritalin but wants to make sure that Nora has the support she needs first. Nora recently started working with a therapist.

Nora needs to feel safe and to know that her brother is safe. She also has a deep mistrust for adults in her life. Past efforts to support Nora at home and school have largely been targeted at extinguishing bad behaviors (e.g. running behavior, aggressiveness at school, inconsistencies with taking her medication) . Nora could benefit from intense psychosocial rehabilitative services which target her needs for physical and emotional safety, as well as the need for healthy relationships with adults (including her mother and teachers) and peers.

When asked how her life would be different if her involvement in wraparound was successful, Nora stated that she and her brother would be living together in a safe home. She also hopes to get back on track in school, and make friends so she feels like she fits in.

**Questions to consider while reviewing the summary:**

1. What are Nora’s strengths?
2. What has happened or is happening in Nora’s life that prevents her from doing well?
3. Who might be on Nora’s Recovery Team?
4. Why is CCS necessary to meet Nora’s needs / support her in her rehabilitation?
5. How will we know when transition is appropriate / what would one or more criteria for discharge be?