**Agency Information**

**Mission:** help individuals and families achieve safe, stable, self-sufficient, and healthy lives, thereby contributing to the economic growth of the state.

**Location:** Waterloo, IA

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**Internship Experience**

- Intake meetings
- Shadow assessment, case managers and adoption workers
- Complete social histories
- Observe Family Safety, Risk & Permanency services and/or BHIS services
- Home visits
- Assist with removal of a child(ren) from home
- Facilitate supervised and semi-supervised visits
- Attend family team meetings
- Attend foster care staffings
- Attend Foster Care Review Board meetings
- Experience all levels of court hearings (adjudication, disposition, removal, contested, permanency, termination, adoption)
- Learn Model of Practice (guides and protocols)
- Learn about Iowa laws and codes as they apply to IDHS involvement

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**Lessons Learned about this population**

- Families love their children.
- Cases are very complex and have many layers of issues to address.
- Addiction issues are more prevalent than you would expect.

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**Lessons Learned About Myself**

- I have to be patient and take the time to listen.
- It is okay to not have all the answers, but be sure to follow up on things I don’t know.

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**Social Work Positions at (Agency Name)**

- Social Worker II Casemanager
- Social Worker II Adoption Worker
- Social Worker III Assessment Worker
- Social Worker IV Supervisor

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**Acknowledgements**

I want to thank my supervisor, Emily Reeg, for all her time and efforts with me. I also want to thank all the assessment workers, other case managers and adoption workers who provided me opportunities to observe and experience all aspect of the agency.

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**Evidence Based Practice Assignment**

Conducted a Literature Review on best practices in assisting youth who age out of the system while in foster care.