Jenny Becker, Social Work Intern  
Iowa Department of Human Services  

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

**Client:** Children ages 0-17 and their families  
**Location:** Waterloo, IA  
**Schedule:** Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 4:30
Internship Experiences

• 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
Evidence Based Practice Assignment

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

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.
Social Work Positions at Agency

- Social Worker II Case manager
- Social Worker II Adoption Worker
- Social Worker III Assessment Worker
- Social Worker IV Supervisor
Acknowledgements

• I want to thank my supervisor, Emily Reeg, for all the 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.