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2-10-2014

Statement by Madelaine Dominguez Miller collected by Charlotte Bacon on February 10, 2014

Madelaine Dominguez Miller

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General Information

Private or Public Statement? - Private

Statement Provider: Madeline Dominguez Miller

Date: February 10, 2014

Location: Motahkomikuk, Maine

Previous Statement? No

Statement Gatherer: Charlotte Bacon

Support Person: Stephanie Bailey

Additional Individuals Present: gkisedtanamoogk and Susan Howe

Recording Format: Audio

Recording Length: 15:06

Recording

CB: Alright, that looks like that's going to... yep, that is actually working.

SB: Okay good.

CB: My name is Charlotte Bacon and the community support person is Stephanie Bailey. Umm... Maddy would you say your full name please?

MDM: Madeline Dominguez Miller.

CB: Thank you. Would everyone else here please also say their name?

GK: gkisedtanamoogk, one of the commissioners.

SB: Stephanie Bailey, I'm Madeline's support person.

SH: Susan Howe, intern for the staff of the TRC.

CB: And the Statement Provider File Number is M-201402-00014. It is February 10, 2014 and we are at Stephanie Bailey's home at Princeton, Maine.

Maddy, have you been informed, and understood and signed the informed consent form?

MDM: Yep.

CB: And there are...I just need to inform you of exceptions to confidentiality Maddy. If in the course of this statement I hear that there is a child or elder that is need of protection, a risk of harm to an identifiable person or group, or risk of harm to yourself, I will need to inform people... Okay thank you... Thank you very much and please feel free to start your statement.

MDM: Okay. Well I was born in Whidbey Island, Washington. And my mom and dad, they lived there for a year or two, and then they moved to Connecticut and had my brother, Jesus. And, they got divorced and I lived with my grandmother in a different...in Bloomfield, Connecticut, my brother and I. And eventually, we moved with my mom in Maine.

And in the beginning... I was about 6 years old, I turned 7... like right when I got there. And after my birthday I just remember her, she starting drinking and doing drugs again. And it kinda... she was very emotionally abusive and as time went on she started becoming physically abusive...

And... recently, over the past year, it's gotten to the point where I couldn't take it, and I tried committing suicide 3 times. (*becomes very emotional*)... and I ended up in Acadia hospital...

We got into so many bad fights. She would tell me to go kill myself, and I'm so emotionally reactive that I would listen to her and I would try and do it. I've overdosed three times, and I've tried to strangle myself...

And she just, she's so abusive that I ran away, back in November 4th [2013]. I didn't really run away, but I called my aunt because I know she's the only person that helps me. And she said, she took me in and ... the cops got called because we got into a big fight and she was tryin'...my mom was trying to prevent me from leaving... and the cops got called because her and her boyfriend were yelling and me, and my mom... she hit me of course. And I went down to my grandmother's and Stephanie came and got me and I've been living here ever since.

And my mom won't give us guardianship, my aunt guardianship, so I have to see my mom every time we need to go to an appointment... And it triggers me... she triggers me every time I talk to her...And I'm just... I'm on medications and they don't seem to work because I'm still always depressed...(pause)

And... yeah... I'm scared for my brother because he still lives there and I just don't want her to start doing what she did to me...

And child welfare... they... we tried to make so many reports on her, like when I was younger, she was a very bad alcoholic. I would wake up in the middle of the night and they'd be people partying all in my house while my brother and I were upstairs sleeping...



And... I started going to my other aunt, who was next door... I basically lived at her house for a long time... I'm not sure how long, but it was a long time... and I would come home everyday and my mom would be drunk, lying in bed with some random guy... And I would have to cook for Jesus, my brother... and then I'd go back to aunt's... It's just hard having to see that when you're young... And my brother had to go through it too, but he never really knew anything about it because he was way younger than I was.

And then eventually she quit drinking, and I thought she was fine but she kind of like relapsed... and she started doing it and then she got heavy into drugs... and you could just see it when you see her, how bad into the drugs she is, because she just has bags, she looks so drained... and like... she just...uhh she looks awful... and... (*pause*)...uh.... Hold on.

CB: Take your time. As much time as you want.

MDM: Yeah... and now, she's...she drinks sometimes, and when she does she drinks a lot. Like she drinks at least once every week or two... she does drugs everyday... and I would be at my house and I'd go in her room to get stuff... something... and she would umm... I would see plates with lines from pills she was going to snort, everywhere in her room... and her boyfriend sells drugs out of the house, and he does drugs, they all do drugs. They just sit in her room and does drugs, they snort pills, they smoke weed...like... it's all they do.

And she's so obsessive over her boyfriend...like she... one night they got into an argument and she started crying and saying she was going to kill herself because he left her... And he like spit in her face and he hit her and she still was crying because she wanted him back... it's just ridiculous how she acts... like she doesn't care about my brother, or me... she just cares about her boyfriend... and her drugs...

I mean... over the past year I've done some pretty bad stuff... like...I was like really into partying... I would smoke weed and my mom would buy me cigarettes. But I quit doing all that now that I live at Stephanie's and I'm kind of glad just 'cause I'm going to graduate this year, and I'm actually going to go somewhere instead of just staying on the reservation like I thought I was going to do...

She's like... growing up with my mom... has affected me in a really negative way...like even my dad, he says sometimes that he sees a lot of her in me, because I act like her, I'm very emotionally reactive like her... and I can't control myself a lot. And everyday, I'm scared of myself...because I don't know if I'm going to go back to Acadia that day, or what I'm going to do, like if I'm going to break. I just don't know... I'm scared (*inaudible*) everyday...

And it's all because my mom made me like this... she never taught me how to be like a regular person... she scarred me... and now I have to deal with it for the rest of my life. I don't know how to act normal.

And I'm still always depressed, even though I'm in a really good place. It's like hard to transition. I don't really leave the house much... I just stay home, and it's a really hard transition, from fighting someone everyday to just living really calmly... it's a good transition... but it's still hard for me to do...

I don't know where I'm going with this... I just keep talking about random things...

CB: You can take a break, you can pause to gather your thoughts... we can stop the recording... we can keep it going... it's your story, you can tell it however you want to... as randomly as you want to... as emotionally as you want to...at your pace... you're incredibly brave to share what you're sharing... and I really honour that...

MDM: Since my mom has triggered me so much, causing me to... to... have outbursts to the point where I end up at a mental hospital, I've burned a lot of relationships with my family... like my dad... I have a very strained relationship with him... and a lot of other family members... I don't have many friends anymore. I would like... with my friends I would think 'oh I don't need them,' and it's true, I don't. But I feel like at times like this I need friends, but I've ruined all my relationships with them...

And when I was younger, my aunt, not, I'm pretty sure my aunt, this aunt too, but my aunt Winnie, she's tried to make child welfare reports and they never did anything... like to the... I would come home and I would see all this stuff and I would see all this partying and she was drunk and neglecting my brother and I... and child welfare didn't do anything...

And my dad... one of the times I was in Acadia, tried to make a child welfare report... he tried to call child welfare and they said they can't do anything because we're on the reservation or something, that's what he said. My aunts tried to make child welfare reports, like countless times and they never did anything. They've never done a single thing to help us.

CB: No one came to visit the house?

MDM: Nope. And I've even...I've called the cops on her a lot of times. And I've told them myself what was going on. And they said they'll notify child welfare and nothing ever happened... they like, they don't do anything. Like, I wish they would be more involved because I see a lot of kids that need help and nobody's ever doing anything about it.

Like a lot of my old friends...old friends that live in Pleasant Point where I used to live. Like, I know one of my friends, she's grew up really hard and she's kinda... she's into like partying now... like really bad... and she grew up... her mom is a bad drug addict and they never did anything for her, how many times... there's so many times that child welfare got called on her and they never did anything.

Like they're not even doing their jobs, they're not doing a single thing. There's a lot of kids that need help and they just don't do anything.

Yeah... I think I'm done. I got out what I wanted to get out...

CB: Can I ask you my two questions?

What does reconciliation mean to you?

MDM: I think it means to come to terms with your past, and grow from it, and get closure on it.

CB: And you've told us a lot about this issue already, but just to have another moment to reflect on it: What would you have needed or wanted if child welfare had responded? What would have helped you in your situation?

MDM: Taking me and my brother away from that home and putting us in a safe environment would have helped. But it never happened, so I had to do it myself. And my brother is still there, and I worry about him every day... I don't know what he's going through... he's really messed up too 'cause she baby's him. So I don't know if she will actually start abusing him like she abused me. I mean, she is neglecting him, but he's kind of like a hermit, like he stays inside all the time, he never goes out. All he does is play video games in his room he like secludes himself. He barely ever came downstairs; he'd just sit in his room.

She's messed him up too. Like I worry about him... he never goes to school... like I'm scared for him in the future... and I don't want him to go through the stuff I have to go through...

CB: Thank you so much.

MDM: No problem.

CB: So shall I stop it now?... Okay.

[END OF RECORDING]