

PROBLEM ASSESSMENT OUTLINE

III. Identifying Information

- A. Statement of the purpose and circumstances surrounding the request for help. Include a description of how or by whom agency was contacted; manner in which linkage occurred and source or referral.
- B. Description of identified client system being assessed: individual family, small group, organization or community. Include relevant factors concerning age, race, ethnicity, gender, composition, religion, etc.
- C. Identification of all systems involved.

II. Statement of the Problem

- A. Describe the problem:
 - 1. As the client sees it; nature and location of need, lack or difficulty, precipitating factors that the client system knows about and believes to be related.
 - 2. As members of the client system see it (for example, other family members).
 - 3. As other interacting systems see it, e.g., court, peer, school, community.
 - 4. As the agency and worker see it: nature and location of need or difficulty; precipitating and causal factors that the worker knows about and believes to be related.
- B. Factors in the client's current life which are affecting or affected by the presenting problems.
 - 1. Members of the client system, e.g., family, school, employers.
 - 2. Interactions with larger systems, e.g., welfare resources, governments, commercial establishments, communities.
 - 3. Physical, medical and emotional factors.
 - 4. Cultural, social and economic factors.
- C. Past life events that may be related to the present problem.
- D. Attempts, if any, the client made to resolve the problem.

E. Identification of strengths:

1. Client: degree of self-esteem, current and past functioning, flexibility of defenses, physical and intellectual capacity.

2. Client situation: outer resources.

III. Plan for Intervention

A. Identification of the "target problem(s)"; that part of the overall problem(s) which will be the focus of work with the client system.

1. the problem or part of the problem the client system feels is the most important or a beginning place.

2. the problem or part of the problem that the worker feels is the most critical.

3. the problem or part of the problem that the worker judges can most readily yield to help.

4. the problem or part of the problem that falls within the sanction, purpose, skills focus of the agency or program.

B. Mutually established goals between client system and worker:

1. short term goals.

2. long term goals.

C. What the client system thinks is needed for a solution of the problem:

1. concrete resources.

2. specific assistance.

3. instruction, guidance, support, advocacy, etc.

D. What the client system seeks and/or expects from the agency as means to a solution:

1. specific assistance - concrete service to enable the client to do something.

2. changes in the environment or other societal systems.

- 3.changes in specific individuals.
- 4.advice, instruction, information, guidance, support or advocacy.
- 5.change in self.
- 6.change in interaction between client system and others.

E. What the worker thinks the agency or program can or should offer the client in order to achieve stated objectives.

- 1.specific assistance.
- 2.specific resources.
- 3.changes in environment or other social systems.
- 4.advice, instruction, support, guidance or advocacy.
- 5.change in client.
- 6.changes in interaction between client system and others.

F. Identification of the kinds of intervention that now needs to be taken in accordance with the above plan to achieve objectives.

- 1.action required by client.
- 2.action required by worker.

