
Clinical Considerations for a Strength-Based Intake Assessment

Initial Comments / Assessment Summary

1. Client Demographics -

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Race:

Note: Domain areas assess the identified child only - except 'Family/Relationships.' Relevant information about family members should be included on page 4.

2. Referral Source -

Child Welfare:

Juvenile Justice:

Education:

Mental Health:

Corrections:

Other:

3. Presenting Concerns (that lead to referral) and Strengths-

Abuse:

Alcohol/Drugs:

Attention:

Behavior:

Danger (self/others):

Psychiatric Symptoms (anxiety, depression, etc.):

Disabilities/Challenges:

Family Relationships:

Legal:

Peers:

School:



Psychological / Emotional

1. Mental Status (see checklist: Supplement I) – ***What are the strengths?***

Appearance:

Well-groomed, appropriate, inappropriate, poor hygiene, disheveled,
Gang oriented clothing, alcohol-drug-tobacco oriented clothing, other

Concentration:

Good, limited, poor

Orientation:

Person – self/others, place, purpose

Psychomotor:

WNL, agitated, hyperactive, slowed, tics, other

Mood / Affect:

Euthymic, appropriate to content, calm, cooperative, angry, anxious,
Defensive, depressed, flat, labile, euphoric, suspicious, tense,
Withdrawn, other

Thought Content / Process:

Logical, sequential, goal directed, blocking, delusions, grandiose,
Hallucinations, paranoia, perseveration, rapid, slowed, spontaneous,
Tangential, other

Memory:

Good, fair, poor

Remote Recall:

Good, fair, poor

Estimated IQ:

<Average, Average, >Average

Impulse Control:

Good, fair, poor

Level of Consciousness:

Alert, lethargic, other

Judgment:

Good, fair, poor

Insight:

Good, fair, poor

2. Treatment History – ***What are the strengths?***

Previous (with dates and provider names):

Inpatient:

Outpatient:

Day Treatment:

Residential:

Group Home:

Foster Care:



Counseling:

Other:

Current:

Same as "previous":

**3. Diagnostic Information in support of diagnosis (see checklist: Supplement II)-
What are the strengths?**

Examples:

ADHD (i.e. fidgets, distracted, difficulty following directions, unable to stay on task, trouble remaining seated, etc.)

Major Depression (i.e. irritable mood, sleep/appetite disturbance, suicidal ideation, depressed mood, feelings of worthlessness, fatigue etc.)

Bipolar Disorder (i.e. mood disturbance, manic behavior, hypo manic behavior, depressive symptoms, and associated symptoms related to mania and depression per DSM IV).

Anxiety / PTSD (i.e. physical/somatic symptoms, worrisome, fearful, obsessive, compulsive, recurrent dreams/flashbacks of traumatic event, etc.)

Oppositional Defiant Disorder (i.e. defies adult requests, temper, arguments, resentful, blames others, swearing, etc.)

Conduct Disorder (i.e. illegal activity, physically cruel to animals, fire setting, destruction of property, etc.)

**4. Global Assessment of Functioning Scale (CGAS for youth under 14) -
What are the strengths?**

Current Score:

History:

Description/Rationale (see scale):

**5. Traumatic Events -
What are the strengths?**

Abuse:

Deaths:

Incarcerations:

Other:

**6. Parental Concerns -
What are the strengths?**

Behavior:

Emotions:

Eating:

Sleeping



Toileting:
Other:

Family / Relationships

1. Family –

What are the strengths?

Marital Status:

Significant others (paramour)
Separations
Divorces
Marriages
Widow/Widower
Orientation

Siblings:

Birth Order:

Extended Family (biological, non-biological):

Adoptions:

Out-of-home placements:

Other Caregivers:

Custody/Guardianship Arrangements:

Living Situations:

Family Functioning (ability to parent, substance abuse, legal, etc.):

Health:

Note: All relevant information about family members goes in this section.

2. Other Significant Relationships (past and present) –

What are the strengths?

Friends:

Neighborhood:

Community:

3. Sexual Activity –

What are the strengths?

Current:

History:

Pregnancy:

STD:

Treatment:

Safety:

4. Traumatic Events:

What are the strengths?

Deaths:

Incarcerations:

Abuse:



5. Other Family Member Information (summarize life domain areas):
What are the strengths?

Safety / Crisis

1. Risks and Supports –
What are the Strengths?

Suicide:

- Thoughts
- Plans
- Attempts
- Supports available
- When and how?

Homicide:

- Thoughts
- Plans
- Attempts
- Supports available
- When and how?

Self-Mutilation:

- Thoughts
- Plans
- Attempts
- Supports available
- When and how?

Aggressiveness:

- Verbal
- Physical
- Property
- Fire
- Cruelty to Animals
- Supports available
- When and how?

Abuse:

- Emotional
- Verbal
- Physical
- Sexual
- Rape
- Domestic Violence
- Neglect
- Supports available
- When and how?

Separation Issues and Neglect:

- Supports available

Runaway:

- Purpose
- Destination
- Duration



Dangerousness/Safety
 How Returned
 Crisis Involvement (YES)

2. Current Crisis Plans and Plans for Safety -
What are the Strengths?

Family Solutions:
 System Supports:
 Other:

Legal

1. Legal Involvement -
What are the strengths?

Probation (type):
 Parole:
 Incarceration:
 Runaway:
 DCS/CPS/CHINS:
 Illegal activities:
 Pending Charges:
 Other:

Substance Use

1. Substances -
What are the strengths?

Substances (list):
 Quantity:
 Frequency:
 Last Use:
 Method:
 Use Behaviors (where, with who, etc.):
 Triggers:

2. Current/Previous Treatment History -
What are the Strengths?

Inpatient:
 IOP:



Support groups (12step, AA, NA, etc.):
Other:

Educational / Vocational

1. Educational Status - ***What are the strengths?***

School and School District:
Special Education (category and type):
Other Educational Services:
Accommodations/Educational Supports:
Current Educational Performance:
IQ (if available from Psych/Ed Testing):

2. Vocational Status - ***What are the strengths?***

Employment (current, history):
Vocational Education or Services:
Vocational Goals:
Vocational Skills:

Health / Medical

1. Health Conditions (vision, dental, physical, etc.) - ***What are the strengths?***

Current:
Previous:

2. Medical Events: ***What are the strengths?***

Accidents:
Surgeries:
Emergency Procedures:

3. Treatment- ***What are the strengths?***



Primary Care Physician:
 Psychiatrist:
 Dentist:
 Optometrist:
 Other Health Professional:
 Hospitals Used:
 Medications and Prescriber:
 Last Appointment:

Home / Place to Live

1. Home Environment - ***What are the strengths?***

Moves:
 Recent Changes:
 Placement:
 Family House/Apartment:
 Status and Impression:
 Family Satisfaction:

2. Neighborhood - ***What are the strengths?***

Location:
 Family Satisfaction:

Daily Living

1. Strengths -

Skills (age appropriate):
 Abilities (age appropriate):
 Resources (age appropriate):
 Goals (age appropriate):

2. Needs -

Skills (age appropriate):
 Abilities (age appropriate):
 Resources (age appropriate):
 Goals (age appropriate):



Cultural / Spiritual

1. Culture -

What are the strengths?

Ethnicity:

Traditions (holidays, rituals, etc.):

2. Religion -

What are the strengths?

Affiliation:

3. Beliefs -

What are the strengths?

Spiritual:

Cultural:

Values:

4. Community Involvement -

What are the strengths?

Churches:

Groups:

Organizations:

Other:

Financial

1. Medical Insurance -

What are the strengths?

Type:

Status:

2. Financial Supports / Income -

What are the strengths?

Employment:



Child Support:
System Support (AAP, SSI, etc.):
Other:

Social / Recreational

1. Youth Activities - ***What are the strengths?***

Fun:
Hobbies:

2. Family Activities - ***What are the strengths?***

Fun:
Hobbies:

3. Social Activities - ***What are the strengths?***

Home:
Neighborhood:
Community:



Supplement I : Mental Status Checklist

Appearance:

well groomed appropriate inappropriate poor hygiene disheveled gang
 oriented clothing alcohol, drug, or tobacco oriented clothing
 other _____

Concentration:

good limited poor

Orientation:

person place purpose time

Psychomotor:

WNL agitated hyperactive slowed tics other _____

Mood / Affect:

appropriate to content calm cooperative angry anxious suspicious
 defensive depressed flat labile euphoric suspicious tense withdrawn
 other _____

Thought Content / Process:

logical, sequential, goal directed blocking delusions grandiose hallucinations
 paranoia perseveration rapid slowed spontaneous tangential
 other _____

Level of Consciousness:

alert lethargic other _____

Short-Term Memory:

good fair poor

Remote Recall:

good fair poor

Estimated IQ:

below average average above average
 known IQ _____ Assessor _____

Impulse Control:

good fair poor

Judgment:

good fair poor

Supplement II : Diagnostic Information Checklist

ADHD

Often fidgets/restless
 Difficulty remaining seated
 Easily distracted
 Difficulty awaiting turn in games or groups
 Often blurts out answers to questions
 Has difficulty following instructions from others
 Often shifts between incomplete activities
 Has difficulty playing quietly
 Often interrupts others
 Does not seem to listen
 Loses things
 Engages in physically dangerous activities
 Duration = _____ months

OPPOSITIONAL DEFIANT DISORDER

Often loses temper
 Argues with adults
 Defies or refuses adult requests or rules
 Deliberately does things to annoy people
 Often blames others for his/her mistakes
 Touchy or easily annoyed by others
 Angry or resentful
 Spiteful/vindictive
 Swears or uses obscene language
 Duration = _____ months

MAJOR DEPRESSION

Depressed mood Irritable mood
 Lack of interest/pleasure in activities
 Appetite disturbance Sleep disturbance
 Psychomotor agitation/retardation
 Fatigue or loss of energy
 Feelings of worthlessness
 Excessive/inappropriate guilt
 Difficulty concentrating
 Indecision
 Recurrent thoughts of death
 Suicidal ideation
 Duration = _____ months

TRAUMA AND ANXIETY SYMPTOMS

Sleep or Appetite disturbance:
 Worrisome:
 Fearful:
 Restless and/or Irritable
 Physical/somatic complaints (list):
 Obsessions (list):
 Compulsive behavior
 Recurrent recollection or dreams of
 traumatic event
 Flashbacks to traumatic event:
 Difficulty concentrating
 Intense psych stress at exposure to
 cues that symbolize traumatic event
 Duration = _____ months
 Evidence of traumatic event _____

+CONDUCT DISORDER

Aggressive to people/animals
 Destruction of property
 Theft or deceitfulness
 Serious violation of rules
 ___probation
 ___runaway
 ___truancy
 ___illegal activities
 Duration = _____ months

MENTAL RETARDATION:

Mild: 50-55 to 70
 Moderate: 35-40 to 50-55
 Severe: 20-25 to 35-40
 Profound: below 20-25
 Borderline Intellectual Functioning:
 71-84
 Suspected/Unknown/Need Testing

