



The Full View: Comprehensive Assessment of Parents Strategies to Consider Worksheet

In this session, you heard a number of strategies that can improve engagement and lead to more comprehensive assessments. Review the strategies below and use the discussion questions to spark individual thought or group conversation.

Engage:

- Provide information.
- Exercise compassion and be patient in interactions.
- Listen to understand, not to respond.
- Help clients identify their breaking point, and remind them that your job is to provide help.
- Use life event assessment and a timeline to discuss the impact of major life events.
- Support goals through discussion and behavior to share power with your client.
- Gather consensus on goals using the “both/and” approach.
- Emphasize behaviors over intent or acknowledgment.
- Create balanced assessments, including both problems and protective actions.
- Practice courageous engagement, and inspire hope.
- Revisit assessments often to celebrate progress or adjust goals.

Consider:

- What is your own sense of privilege, or your own biases that you bring to an assessment, and how do those affect your assessment?
- Competing and adversarial systems, including child welfare and criminal justice, impact all parties.

Remember:

- Clients may not be processing the information you are sharing due to drug use.
- Clients may have medical, dental, or other conditions that cause them pain.

Acknowledge:

- When are conversations successful? When can they be improved?
- Partnering with your supervisor for coaching can help you improve.
- Fear of further injury to children and liability concerns can result in naïve assessments, the omission of important facts, and can undermine meaningful case plans.
- Problem-saturated assessments can have a negative impact on families, make collaboration difficult, lead to resources being ignored or overlooked, and can lead to system dependence.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some ways to be mindful of the client’s worries—especially when they may not be the same as child welfare’s concerns?
2. What can you do to call out bias?
3. What are some effective interview strategies you can use with clients who are who are engaged with both the child welfare and criminal justice systems?
4. How can you ensure your client is adequately understanding the information being shared with them beyond asking them to paraphrase?
5. Describe some ways to inspire hope, encourage clients, and convey compassion within child welfare interactions that can be challenging. How can you overcome these challenges?
6. What are some of the challenges to the “both/and” approach? How can you break those barriers?
What strategies can help you develop shared goals and reach consensus with clients?