

Trainer Handout 3-1:
Additional Family Information
Activity 3-2: Collaboration Practice

Additional Information

- The CPI suspects that Sam was exposed prenatally to significant alcohol based on his poor coordination, short attention span, poor impulse control, and mother's history.
- At this point the CPI has determined that Sonia's children are at a moderate level of risk and that immediate removal is not necessary. She plans to petition the court for in-home services.
- The CPI/DCM has talked with Sonia's mother about helping with Sonia and her children. The mother/grandmother is hesitant, but willing. Her main concern is that she's tried to help with the children before, and Sonia has always continued to abuse substances. She is a little more optimistic now that DCF is involved and Sonia has gone for a substance abuse assessment.
- During Sonia's assessment interview, Sarah, the treatment counselor, conducts a biopsychosocial assessment and takes a substance use history from Sonia to gather information regarding the risk factors that influenced Sonia's substance use. Sarah learns that Sonia left home at 18 years old to "get away from" an alcoholic father. Sonia's mother married Sonia's father when she was 16 years old. While drinking, which was most evenings, Sonia's father would become physically abusive with Sonia's mother and verbally abusive to Sonia and her older sister.
- It has come out in Sonia's substance abuse assessment that she uses prescription drugs and marijuana and drinks alcohol quite a bit more than she mentioned initially. She reports that she feels overwhelmed with all the pressures of work and parenting, especially as Sam is beginning to act out more than he had in the past. Sonia admits she uses substances, and that she is using her "little white pills" more, but does not believe it is a big problem in her life and doesn't think it affects her children. She states, "It is just hard for me, working and making sure the boys stay on track." She is also concerned about what's going to happen now that DCF is involved in her life.
- During the assessment interview, Sarah uses her program's standard assessment tool. It includes questions based on DSM-IV diagnostic criteria. After weighing the information that she has gathered regarding Sonia and her family, Sarah determines that Sonia has substance dependence and Sonia agrees to enter treatment.

Sarah plans to recommend that Sonia enter the intensive outpatient program for a minimum of 90 days with a planned transition to longer-term outpatient treatment. She will be attending 3 days per week for 5 hours, be required to randomly drug test each week and attend a minimum of 3 self-help groups each week.

The CPI/DCM likes the idea of the intensive outpatient program and the random drug testing, but is concerned about child care arrangements for the children.