



SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Screening and assessment are part of an ongoing decision-making process that examines information on substance abuse, mental illness, trauma, criminal history, motivation for treatment, education and employment factors, and other problem areas. Information gathered during screening and assessment is used to develop a treatment plan that will be updated over time to reflect participant progress, significant life events, and changing service needs. Evidence-based tools validated for this population should be used to achieve best results.

Public domain screening and assessment tools are free and research supported. Some are general and some are specific to a particular disorder.

Goals of Screening

- Legal and statutory eligibility
- Presence of substance abuse, mental illness and medical conditions
- Strengths and deficits
- Severity of illness
- Environmental factors that need addressing
- Public safety
- Pros and cons of participation
- Orientation to the program
- Obtain consents

Legal Screening

- Offender meets eligibility criteria

Substance Abuse Screening

- CAGE – Cut back, Annoyed, Guilty, Eye Opener
- MAST – Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test
- DAST – Drug Abuse Screening Test
- SOCRATES - The Stages of Change Readiness and Treatment Eagerness Scale
- URICA - University of Rhode Island Change Assessment Scale
- ADS/ASI – Alcohol Dependence Scale and Addiction Severity Index *
- TCU Drug Dependence Screen *
- SSI – Simple Screening Assessment *

Mental Health Screening

Modified Mini Screen (MMS) *

Depression Screen is most appropriate for individuals who are feeling overwhelming sadness.

Anxiety Screen will help if you feel that worry and fear affect your day to day life.

Bipolar Screen is intended to support individuals who have mood swings - or unusual shifts in mood and energy.

The above can be found at: <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/mental-health-screening-tools>

Brief Jail Mental Health Screen *

Co-Occurring Disorders Screening

Structured Clinical Interview for DSM – SCID 5 *

Personality Assessment Inventory – PAI

MINI Mental Status Exam – MINI *

Alcohol Use Disorder and Associated Disability Interview – AUDADIS IV

Trauma Screening

PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Screen is best taken by those who are bothered by a traumatic life event.

Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale - ACES

Goals of Assessment

- Nature and severity of problem
- Identify psychosocial problems
- Impact of substance abuse, mental illness on behavior and criminal activity
- Identify physical problems
- Identify service needs
- Match to appropriate services
- Identify employment and educational needs

Clinical Assessment (All of the following need to be addressed per Rule 132.)

- Identifying information: name, gender, date of birth, primary language and method of communication
- Reasons for seeking or being referred for current treatment
- DSM 5 or ICD-10-CM diagnosis
- Family history, including the history of substance abuse in the family
- Mental status evaluation
- Client preferences relating to services and desired treatment outcomes
- Personal history of substance abuse and treatment/recovery efforts
- History of abuse/trauma (childhood sexual or physical abuse, intimate partner violence, sexual assault or other forms of interpersonal violence)
- Social adjustment and daily living skills
- Legal history and status
- Identification of factors in the current environment that may create threats to client's personal safety (e.g., gang involvement, domestic violence, elder abuse)
- Strengths and resources
- History of any mental health symptoms and treatment
- Client's report on general physical health, including date of last physical examination
- Summary analysis and conclusions regarding the medical necessity of services
- Staff Requirements - A bachelor's level clinician (MHP) can complete most of the information gathering. A master's level clinician or RN (QMHP) has to have a face with the person. (no time limit) A licensed clinician (LPHA) has to sign off on the process

Risk/Need Assessment

Risk Principle prioritizes primary supervision and treatment resources for offenders who are at higher risk to re-offend. Research shows that resources that are focused on low-risk offenders tend to produce little net positive effect on recidivism rates.

Criminogenic Need Principle addresses offenders' greatest criminogenic needs. These criminogenic needs are dynamic risk factors, that when addressed, affect the offender's risk for recidivism. Examples of criminogenic needs are: criminal personality; antisocial attitudes; values, and beliefs; low self-control; criminal peers; substance abuse; and dysfunctional family.

Risk Assessment Instruments

- Level of Service Inventory Revised – LSIR *
- Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions – COMPAS *
- Ohio Risk Assessment System - ORAS –CST *

* Highest Validity with Offenders

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