

The Brown County Story: Baby Steps

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Brown County Human Services Department

- 2004
 - Initiative to improve the system of care across child-serving agencies
 - Began using empirically-based assessment tools to help determine needs of families
 - Mental health in Brown County used CAFAS
- 2005
 - Conducted System of Care Proactive Reviews (SOCPR)
 - Consultants: USF Florida Mental Health Institute

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Recommendations from SOCPR

1. Seek out evidence-based practices
 2. Develop a family driven and culturally competent system
 3. Establish collaboration between juvenile justice, child welfare, and mental health
- 2005
 - Began using screening tool (JIFF) for youth referred to juvenile justice

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Youth Screened

- 70 consecutive referrals July – December, 2005
- Referred for alleged crimes, including: theft, battery, disorderly conduct, sexual assault, auto theft, & other delinquent acts
- Gender: 85.7% males
- Mean Age: 14 (range 9-16)
- Race: 74% Caucasian; 10% Native American; 9% African American

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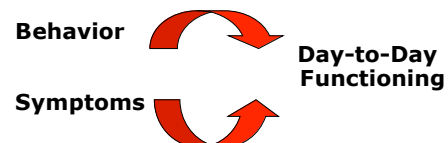
Screening Procedures

- Tool
 - JIFF: Juvenile Inventory For Functioning (Hodges, 2004)
- Interviewed caregivers with JIFF
- Interviewers were 4 intake workers
 - Gender: 3 males, 1 female
 - Degree: 2 B.A. and 2 Masters in Counseling
 - 18-25 years experience in juvenile justice
- Training for interviewers
 - Viewed PowerPoint presentation
 - Role played conducting interview

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JIFF Assesses Strengths and Challenges in Day-to-Day Functioning

“Real World”













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JIFF

- **What?**
 - A brief interview (20 minutes) based on subscales and items from the CAFAS (Hodges).
- **Purpose?**
 - To facilitate access to needed services in the community
 - To determine whether youth needs further assessment
- **Who is the informant?**
 - Caregiver or Youth (2 versions)
 - Can use 1 or both
- **No reliability training**
 - Read Handbook (PowerPoint presentation format)
 - Role Play conducting interview

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JIFF Subscales

 School/Work	 Moods/Emotions
 Home	 Self-Harmful Behavior
 Community	 Substance Use
 Behavior Toward Others	 Thinking
 Family Life	 Child's Health

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Organization of Questions

- Questions are organized within domains of functioning (subscales).
- Subscales start with asking about strengths, followed by questions about potential problems.
- At the end of each subscale, the caregiver rates the child's needs.



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Response Options

- **Most responses are organized as follows:**
 - **Yes (Some questions have 2 "Yes" options)**
 - Yes-lots of times
 - Yes-sometimes or somewhat
 - **Maybe/Suspect**
 - **No**
 - **DK = Don't Know**

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Summary Recommendations

Domains for which referral or community resources are recommended (check box and comment below)

School/Work Home Community Behavior Toward Others Moods/Emotions
 Self-Harmful Substance Use Thinking Family Life Child's Health

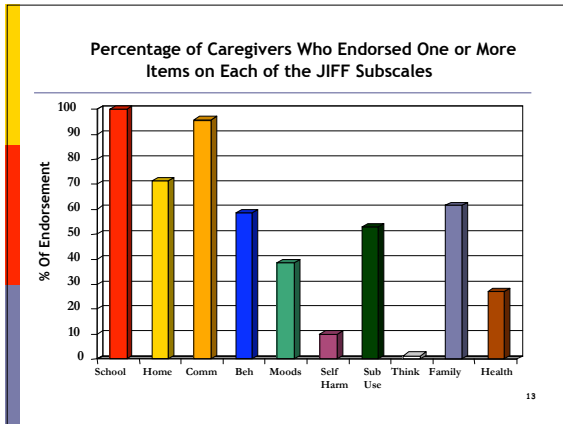
Specify Domain and Recommendations:

Caregiver Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Interviewer Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Agency: _____ Phone: _____

Scoring

Caregiver Responses		
Subscales (n is # of questions)	# Yes	# Maybe
School/Work (n=17)		
Home (n=7)		
Community (n=4)		
Behavior Toward Others (n=9)		
Moods and Emotions (n=5)		
Self-Harmful Behavior (n=6)		
Substance Use (n=7)		
Thinking (n=4)		
Family Life (n=20)		
Child's Health (n=6)		

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SCHOOL

Percent endorsement for selected items

- Disobedient at school**
- Needs tutoring**
- Truancy for at least 10% of days**
- Trouble paying attention**
- Failing at least half of his/her classes**

HOME

Percent endorsement for selected items

- Goes places not supposed to go**
- Breaks curfew**
- Out of control**

BEHAVIOR TOWARD OTHERS

Percent endorsement for selected items

- Caregiver wishes youth had different friends**

MOODS

Percent endorsement for selected items

- Experienced past serious trauma**
- Reacting and coping with past trauma**
- Depressed or down in dumps**

SUICIDAL RISK

Percent endorsement for selected items

- Has said or done something that made someone wonder whether he/she may be suicidal**
- Risk taking**
- Talks about suicide**

SUBSTANCE USE

Percent endorsement for selected items

■ Yes
■ Maybe

Alcohol

- Underage alcohol consumption
- Gets drunk

Other Drugs

- Other drug usage
- Uses at least weekly

Parent's perception about impairment

- Youth has trouble in life because of substance use

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YOUTH'S HEALTH

Percent endorsement for selected items

■ Yes
■ Maybe

- Smokes cigarettes
- Needs eyes checked or glasses
- Wants help with decision making about sexual behaviors for the youth

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FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

Percent endorsement for selected items

■ Yes

Caregivers report that youth's problems interfere with their roles at home or at work or with family life (13 questions)

- Financial burden
- Missed days at work
- Conflict with spouse/partner

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FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

Percent endorsement for selected items

■ Yes

- Youth is left at home without supervision more than desirable
- Potential domestic violence
- Persons in home have substance use problem (other than youth)

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IMPLICATIONS

Besides the interventions which are unique to juvenile justice system,...

what system of care partners should be involved with the youth or family,...

depending on the level of integration of services across the system?

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PARTNERING WITHIN THE SYSTEM OF CARE

JIFF Domain	Family Behavioral Management	Substance Use Service	Education, After School Care	Mental Health	Medical, Teen Clinic	Domestic Violence
School / Work	β		β			
Home	β					
Community	β					
Behavior Toward Others	β					
Moods and Emotions				β		
Self-Harmful Behavior				β		
Substance Use	β	β				
Thinking						
Family Life						β
Child's Health					β	

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For Suggestions About Systems of Care
or Juvenile Justice Applications, contact:

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