The Brown County Story: Baby Steps

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Tampa, 2006

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

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

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

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

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

“Real World”

Behavior Day-to-Day Functioning

Symptoms

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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

JIFF Subscales

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

Organization of Questions

- Questions are organized within domains of functioning (subscals).
- 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.

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

Summary Recommendations

Summary of Recommendations

Caregiver Name: ____________________________ Signature: __________________ Date: ___________

Interviewer Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________ Date: ___________

Agency: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Specify Domain and Recommendations:

Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscales</th>
<th># Yes</th>
<th># Maybe</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School/Work (n=17)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Home (n=7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community (n=3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavior Toward Others (n=9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moods and Emotions (n=5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-Harmful Behavior (n=6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substance Use (n=7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thinking (n=4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Life (n=20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child’s Health (n=9)</td>
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Percentage of Caregivers Who Endorsed One or More Items on Each of the JIFF Subscales

**SCHOOL**

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

**HOME**

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

**BEHAVIOR TOWARD OTHERS**

- Caregiver wishes youth had different friends

**MOODS**

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

**SUICIDAL RISK**

- Has said or done something that made someone wonder whether he/she may be suicidal
- Risk taking
- Talks about suicide
19th Annual RTC Conference
Presented in Tampa, February 2006

**SUBSTANCE USE**
Percent endorsement for selected items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alcohol</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underage alcohol consumption</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gets drunk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other drug usage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uses at least weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent’s perception about impairment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth has trouble in life because of substance use</td>
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</table>

**YOUTH’S HEALTH**
Percent endorsement for selected items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smokes cigarettes</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Needs eyes checked or glasses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wants help with decision making about sexual behaviors for the youth</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FAMILY ENVIRONMENT**
Percent endorsement for selected items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caregivers report that youth's problems interfere with their roles at home or at work or with family life (13 questions)</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial burden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missed days at work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conflict with spouse/partner</td>
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**FAMILY ENVIRONMENT**
Percent endorsement for selected items

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

**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?

**PARTNERING WITHIN THE SYSTEM OF CARE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JFF Domain</th>
<th>Family Behavior Management</th>
<th>Substance Use</th>
<th>Education, After School Care</th>
<th>Mental Health</th>
<th>Medical, Harm Control</th>
<th>Domestic Violence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
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<td>Legal</td>
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<td>Mental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
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<td>Child</td>
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