Family-Centered Approach to Child Protective Services

Post-Training Assignment
Caseworker Core Training: Module I
Core Module I

Post-training assignment

Congratulations!

You have just completed your first classroom workshop - Family-Centered Approach to Child Protective Services. In that workshop you spent time exploring:

- Contributing factors to child maltreatment
- Indicators of problems or strengths in families

This material is reviewed in Chapter II; Section B, “Dynamics of Child Maltreatment,” in the first volume of the Field Guide to Child Welfare: Foundations of Child Protective Service (pages 71 – 90). You also received Handout 15, Assessment of Factors Associated with Child Maltreatment, during the training that reviewed the same content.

The following is your final assignment for your first classroom workshop. The purpose of this assignment is to help you practice what you just learned in training when you return to work.

Assignment

1. Identify a case from your caseload. If you do not have a case, ask your supervisor to help you identify a case from the caseload of an experienced worker in your unit.
2. If using your own case, carefully review the case notes to gain information about the family’s history and any contributing factors to the child maltreatment that occurred in the family. If using another worker’s case, talk to that worker and ask him/her for an overview of the case.
3. Complete the attached form that will help you practice identifying conditions in this family that contributed to the maltreatment of their child or children. Follow the instructions noted on the form.
4. When you have completed the form, schedule a time to review your work with your supervisor. This meeting should take place no later than two weeks following your first core workshop.
Self-Assessment

Instructions: Before completing this form please take a moment to respond to this self-assessment statement.

I am able to identify and recognize various psycho-social, child, environmental, family and parental factors that are correlated with maltreatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need Considerable Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exceptional Ability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instructions – Part One

1. Using your case example, please indicate on the continuum provided, your assessment of the following factors within this family that are highly correlated with maltreatment.
2. For each factor, list indicators that justify your assessment.

NOTE: The problem end of the continuum indicates the extreme presence of the factor. The strength end of the continuum is not merely the absence of the factor, but the presence of healthy functioning that promotes the well-being of the individual or family.
Psycho-Social Factors Highly Correlated With Maltreatment

1. Low self-esteem and lack of confidence in abilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List behavioral indicators that justify your assessment:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. Inability to trust, ambivalence in relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List behavioral indicators that justify your assessment:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

3. Parents preoccupation with meeting their own emotional needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List behavioral indicators that justify your assessment:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
4. Expecting a child to validate a parent’s self-esteem and worth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

List behavioral indicators that justify your assessment:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

5. Parent’s inability to regulate his/her emotions; emotional volatility or remoteness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

List behavioral indicators that justify your assessment:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

6. Misperceptions, unrealistic expectations and lack of empathy for children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

List behavioral indicators that justify your assessment:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
7. Parents rely on coercive power to manage children’s behavior.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List behavioral indicators that justify your assessment:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

8. Parental developmental immaturity and poorly developed parenting skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List behavioral indicators that justify your assessment:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
Child Characteristics Highly Correlated With Maltreatment

1. Children who are inherently more vulnerable to maltreatment because of young age, developmental delay or disability, prematurity or medical condition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List indicators that justify your assessment:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. Children who are perceived as different, more difficult or challenging to care for, abnormal or somehow defective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List indicators that justify your assessment:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
Environmental Factors Highly Correlated With Maltreatment

1. Stress and crisis in the family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

List indicators that justify your assessment:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. Poverty, homelessness, substandard or unsafe living environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

List indicators that justify your assessment:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

3. Absence of social supports and resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

List indicators that justify your assessment:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
4. Domestic violence in immediate family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

List indicators that justify your assessment:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
### Parental conditions Highly Correlated with Maltreatment

1. **Substance abuse**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   List indicators that justify your assessment:

   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

2. **Mental illness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   List indicators that justify your assessment:

   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

3. **Mental retardation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Mid-Range Functioning</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   List indicators that justify your assessment:

   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
Self-Assessment

*Instructions:* Now that you have completed this assignment, please take a moment to respond again to the self-assessment statement.

I am able to identify and recognize various psycho-social, child, environmental, family and parental factors that are correlated with maltreatment.

<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need Considerable Development</td>
<td>Exceptional Ability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Further Development**

Please note any skills you want the opportunity to further develop. You and your supervisor can discuss ways to make this happen.

1. ____________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________

Signed: ____________________________ (Caseworker)

_______________________________ (Supervisor)

_______________________________ (Date)