Introduction to Assessment Power Point Slides

Slide 1

Core 112 AS – July 2013
Power Point Slides

Slide 2

Module 1: Introduction to Assessment

- Describe the assessment process.
- Describe Pre-Commencement protocol
- Identify assessment types conducted by Pls/CMs.
- Recognize documents used to record & report assessment information.
- Describe the difference between safety assessment & risk assessment.
- Describe how assessment relates to safety & decision-making.
- Describe the relationship of assessment to case planning activities.

Slide 3

ALLEGEDLY THE FAMILY IS LIVING IN DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS. THE CHILDREN, AGES 5-9, ARE ALWAYS IN SOILED CLOTHING AND HAVE HEAD LICE.

You arrive at the address listed on the report.
Slide 4

What are your first impressions or conclusions as you pull into the driveway?

Slide 5

ALLEGEDLY THE 6 YEAR OLD HAS NUMEROUS BRUISES ON HIS ARMS AND LEGS AND BEGS FOR FOOD AT SCHOOL.

You arrive at the address listed on the report.

Slide 6

What are your first impressions or conclusions as you pull into the driveway?
You arrive at the address listed on the report.

**Slide 7**

**ALLEGEDLY THE CHILDREN ARE OFTEN TARDY AND/OR ABSENT FROM SCHOOL. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE NOT ADEQUATELY DRESSED FOR COLD WEATHER DAYS.**

**Slide 8**

What are your first impressions or conclusions when the mother answers the door?

**Slide 9**

**ALLEGEDLY THE MOTHER AND FATHER ARE OFTEN HEARD FIGHTING AND 7 YEAR OLD BILLY OFTEN APPEARS WITHDRAWN AND HAS OCCASIONAL VIOLENT OUTBURSTS.**
Slide 10

What are your first impressions or conclusions when the father answers the door?

Slide 11

A REPORT IS RECEIVED ALLEGING THAT CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN A HOUSE THAT IS FILTHY AND POSES A HEALTH RISK.

Upon entering the home, you see...

Slide 12

[Image of a room with children's toys scattered everywhere]
Slide 13

Gather & Document Information: Current and Prior Intakes

If priors w/ findings, staff w/supervisor
Existing case files
Prior unfounded intakes
Current/prior intakes
F.S. 39.301(1)
Service providers reports

F.S. 39.301(9)(a)
and F.S. 39.306

Slide 14

Gather & Document Information: Criminal History

• State & federal records checks
• Local law enforcement; including call outs to the home
• Dept. of Juvenile Justice
• Dept. of Corrections
• Domestic Violence Injunction Registry

F.S. 39.301(9)(a)

Slide 15

Gather & Document Information: Interviewing

F.S. 39.301(7)(9)(13)

Reporter (if known)
Face-to-face
• Child, siblings (alone)
• Parents, caregivers (separately)
• All household members
• Note or photograph conditions, appearance, development FAC 65C-28-005(3)(c)
Gather & Document Information: Interviewing

Who else would you want to talk to?

- Reporter (if appropriate) (PI only)
- Collaterals (e.g., neighbors, relatives, teachers)
- Active or previous service providers
- Alleged perpetrator (when appropriate)

Observe & Document the Home Environment

What must be observed in the home environment?

- Living conditions (inside & out)
- Food, shelter, clothing adequate to meet child’s needs
- Safety of physical environment
- Child’s bedroom
- Place and cause of maltreatment

Gather & Document Family Assessment Factors

- Attitude regarding intervention
- Culture and family background
- Parent/caregiver history of abuse
- Child characteristics that might increase risk
- Family relationships/family dynamics/interactions, attitude towards child
Slide 19

Gather & Document Family Assessment Factors

- Child's age/development
- Parent's age
- Community & family supports
- Discipline & parenting techniques
- Stressors
- Substance abuse/domestic violence
- Ability to meet children's needs & keep them safe

Slide 20

Examine/Analyze Information to Determine Plausibility

Review indicators & evidence

- Compare injury type to child's age/development
- Can anyone corroborate parents' explanation?
- Look for inconsistencies

Slide 21

Safety Assessment & Decision-Making

- Analyze & synthesize all information
- Implement safety plan
- Follow statutes, policies and procedures
- Determine immediate & long-term risk to child
Slide 22

Safety Assessment & Decision-Making

Determine Safety Action:

- Remove child
- Leave child in the home

Slide 23

Case Planning, Case Supervision & Permanency

Determine immediate & long-term interventions

- Plan with parents
- Measure progress towards desired changes
- Decide if the permanency goal has been achieved

Slide 24

Types of Assessments

- Comprehensive Assessment
- Hotline
- CPT Assessment
- Long-Term Risk Assessment
- Home Study
- Disposition/Decision
- Child Health Checkup (Initial Health Care Assessment)
- Reunification Assessment
- Substance Abuse Assessment
- Mental Health Assessment
Slide 25

**Assessment Tools**

- FSFN Initial Safety Assessment
- Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment (CBHA)
- Service Planning Conference Checklist
- Family Assessment
- Ongoing Family Assessment
- Unified Home Study
- Parental Reunification Assessment and Home Study
- Predisposition Study (PDS)
- Judicial Review Social Study/Case Plan Update (JRSS/CPU)
- Child Study Adoption

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Slide 26

**Questions**

- Do families think that information given to a PI/CM is known by all subsequent workers?

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Slide 27

**Questions**

- If a second investigation reveals a domestic violence incident, with no arrests made, would this be valuable information for another PI/CM during a subsequent assessment?
  - Why?
Slide 28

Questions

• If names and location of any relatives are obtained when completing the family assessment, would others involved with the case need this information?
  • Why?

Slide 29

Questions

• If a mother reveals that she was a foster-child in New York due to physical abuse by her parents, how would any subsequent PIs/CMs learn this information?
  • How would knowledge of a parent’s childhood abuse affect the family assessment?

Slide 30

Health Screenings & Assessments

Child Health Check-Up upon removal
Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment for children in licensed care for over 72 hours
Can be requested for child in non-licensed care
Consent not required from court or parent for these assessments
Slide 31

Prioritization:
(For all children 5 – 17 years old)

- Court ordered out-of-home care who will remain in care past disposition
- Court ordered out-of-home care who will be placed with a relative or non-relative caregiver at disposition
- Shelter who will return home from shelter within 30 days

Slide 32

Purpose of CBHA

Establishes a body of knowledge (or compiles existing knowledge) to guide effective, individualized case plan development

CBHA recommendations must be included in the child's case plan

Slide 33

Your Responsibilities

- Make CBHA referrals
- Conduct required casework activities
- Include CBHA recommendations in child's case plan
- Refer for needed behavioral health services & work with providers
Slide 34

Single Point of Access

- Mental health services consultant to Case Manager
- Helps you obtain consultation for complex cases
- Tracks referral timelines
- Manages residential treatment suitability process
- Monitors & reports mental health provider performance results

Slide 35

Timelines

- CBHA Referral (to SPOA) • within 7 days of removal
- CBHA Provider Referral • within 1 day of referral receipt
- Completed CBHA • within 24 days of referral to provider
- CBHA to case Family Safety • within 1 working day of receipt from provider

Slide 36

Missing Words

- The purpose of child protective services is to identify children who are at _____ of harm or injury due to acts of commission or omission by their parents or caregivers, and when necessary, to initiate action to protect children.
Slide 37

Missing Words

• To make these judgments, we ______ risk to the child.

Slide 38

Missing Words

• When we conduct a risk assessment, we consider and evaluate the ____ of harm to a child from maltreatment, and then use this information to form critical case decisions (the decision-making process).

Slide 39

Missing Words

• The term ______ describes a process used by workers to decide a child’s safety and the likelihood of the child being harmed, abused or neglected in the near future.
Slide 40

Missing Words

• The ________ process is a focal point of the investigation/assessment that affects decisions and guides actions.

Slide 41

Missing Words

• You must not view risk assessment as a one-time decision, but as an _______ evaluation that repeats every time you get and analyze new information.

Slide 42

Goals of Structured Risk Assessment
Safety Assessment

Identifies factors that create risk of harm & decides the degree to which the risk factor can be managed or eliminated so that the child is safe from the likelihood of harm with or without agency services.

Safety Assessment

Assess safety at every child and family contact

Consider if risk factors are adequately controlled to provide child with a safe living environment now

For a child being maintained at home

Primary purpose is to prevent harm to the child while case plan reduces or resolves risk issues

For a child in placement—primary purpose is to ensure child safety in his/her temporary placement

Risk assessment—indicator of future abuse risk

Complete at specific points in the case process

As deemed necessary at any point in time

Safety assessment—indicator of immediate harm to child

Completed on an ongoing basis

During every contact with family

Risk Assessment vs. Safety Assessment
Slide 46

**Safety Plan**

- Immediate & obvious family conditions that threaten child safety
- The presence & capacity (or lack) of persons to protect the child
- How each immediate and obvious family condition threatening child safety are controlled by it
- Family’s capacity & willingness to support it
- Arrangements made with the family and other outside service providers to carry it out

Slide 47

**Decision-Making Model**

- Gather
- Document
- Assessment

Slide 48

**Assessment and Corroboration**

- Father says he fell off bike
- Neighbor says bike is a "Big Wheel"
Slide 49

Careful Assessments

- Decide what information is missing
- Ensure effective safety planning
- Decide child’s safety in the home or out-of-home care
- Must be documented in case notes
- Must fit the current circumstances

Slide 50

Where to Address the Problem

- Observe children: small and sick
  - Ask: Why aren’t they growing?
- Malnourished
  - Why?
- Mom does not feed
  - Why Not?
- Does not know how
- No money
- Boyfriend withholds food
- Developmental disability
- Mental illness
- Drugs

Slide 51

Module 2
Pre-Commencement and Commencement: Assessment of Present Danger
As a result of this module, participants will be able to:

- Define and discuss pre-commencement activities associated with responding to Hotline Intakes
- Discuss the significance of pre-commencement activities for responding to Hotline Intakes
- Understand the foundation of Information Collection and Information Collection Protocol
- Analyze case intake to assess pre commencement activities.
Information Collection Protocol

- Information collection protocol is a nationally recognized best practice approach to interviewing families involved with the state’s child welfare system. It aligns with the agency policies, intervention standards, operating procedure, quality assurance/quality improvement standard, and performance expectations.
- A uniform, consistent and systematic approach that describes how an activity/process will be carried out.
- Provides a structure for analysis of information.
Slide 58

Information Collection Protocol: Pre-Commencement Exercise

Slide 59

Pre-Commencement Demonstration
Dutton-McAdams Intake
Pre-Commencement Small-Group Exercise

Slide 60

Module 3
Present Danger Assessment
Objectives:

Present Danger Assessment

- Define the foundational concepts of safe vs. unsafe and danger threats
- Discuss the conceptual framework for present danger and initial contact
- Analyze case information to assess danger threats
- Discuss and evaluate supervisory and front line staff pre-commencement activities associated with responding to hotline intakes

Slide 62

Safe

- **Safe**: A child can be considered safe when there is no threat of danger to a child within the family/home or when the caregiver protective capacities within the home can manage threats of danger.

- **Unsafe**: A child is unsafe when there is a danger threat to a child within a family/home and the caregiver protective capacities within the home are insufficient to manage the threat of danger, thus requiring outside intervention.

Slide 63

Danger Threat: Present Danger

- Present danger is an immediate, significant and clearly observable family condition occurring in the present tense, already endangering or threatening to endanger a child. It is important to understand that the primary criterion that qualifies present danger is what is happening that endangers a child is happening now; it is currently in process of actively placing a child in peril.
Slide 64

**Present Danger**

- Immediate
- Significant
- Clearly Observable
- Severe harm
- Present tense—right now
- Requires immediate response

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Slide 65

**Danger Threat: Impending Danger**

- Impending danger is associated with a child living or being in a position of continual danger. Danger may not exist at a particular moment or be an immediate concern, but a state of danger exists. Impending danger is not necessarily active in the sense that a child might be hurt immediately. The threat is insidious, developing over time. Impending danger refers to threats that eventually are identified and understood upon gathering sufficient family functioning information.

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Slide 66

**Impending Danger**

- Child living or being in a position of continual or pervasive danger.
- Threats are not immediate, obvious or active at the onset of investigation.
- Are identified and understood upon gathering sufficient family functioning information.
Slide 67

Danger Threat Guide

Danger Threat: Assessment of Present Danger

Reading and Debrief

Slide 68

Conceptual Framework for Present Danger

- Present Danger?
- If what is being stated is true, does it equate to Present Danger?

Slide 69

Initial Contact: Assessing for Present Danger

Dutton-McAdams Case
Slide 70

**FFA Intervention Standards: Initial Contact**

- Diligence in Response
- Assessment of Present Danger
- Time to Respond
  - 4 Hours
  - 24 Hours

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Slide 71

**Rules to Live By**

- Don’t Assume Parents Know What To Do!
- Be able to clearly articulate what you and your agency does and be able to describe your purpose
- Remain neutral
- Listen and allow for emotion – this begins Family Engagement
- Avoid getting bogged down in the specifics of the referral
- Elicit assistance from the parents – recognize they are the authorities in their home.

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Slide 72

**Initial Contact: Assessment for Present Danger**

Dutton-McAdams Case
Slide 73

Interview with Mary McAdams

Slide 74

Initial Contacts: Consultation
Identifying and Justifying Present Danger

- What is the status of information collection? Who has the CPI/Case Manager interviewed or contacted?
- Has the CPI/Case Manager clearly described the conditions that they believe endanger the child and do they meet criteria for immediate, significant and clearly observable?
- What is the condition /circumstance of the child and how does the child’s condition fit with the definition of present danger?

Slide 75

Initial Contacts: Consultation
Identifying and Justifying Present Danger (continued)

- What is the condition / circumstance of the caregiver and how does the adult’s functioning fit the definition of present danger?
- Based on what the CPI/Case Manager is describing, does the danger seem currently active, vivid, and reasonable?
- Does the CPI/Case Manager describe a family circumstance and/or aspect of caregiver functioning that is currently and/or actively threatening child safety?
Slide 76

Initial Contacts: Consultation
Identifying and Justifying Present Danger (continued)

- Does the CPI/Case Manager feel compelled to take action immediately to assure the protection of the child? If so, why?
- If the CPI/Case Manager were to take no action today based on what is being considered during consultation, what can be reasonably anticipated to occur based on what is known about the concerning family conditions and potential effects on the child?
- Immediate or imminent?

Slide 77

Sibling Fighting

Slide 78

DUI Dad
Slide 79

Module 4 - Objectives

Present Danger Safety Plan

- Define a present Danger Plan
- Understand the purpose of a present danger plan
- Recognize what sufficiency means in present danger planning.
- Apply assessment principles to present danger planning

Slide 80

Present Danger Plan

- **Definition**
  A same day, short-term, sufficient strategy ("safety bubble") that provides a child with responsible adult supervision and care to allow for the completion of information collection to inform the Family Functioning Assessment.

- **Purpose**
  - To control the danger threat
  - To suspend what is going on long enough to support continuing the Family Functioning Assessment process.

Slide 81

What Present Danger Plans Must Do:

- **Immediate**
  Must be in motion and confirmed before CPI or Case Manager leaves the home.

- **Short-Term**
  Must control danger threat from the present until sufficient information can be gathered and analyzed to determine the need for forming an impending danger safety plan.
Slide 82

**Present Danger Plans Must Be Sufficient**

- **Sufficient**
  - Identification of present danger to a child
  - Description of how the plan will work to control danger
  - Confirmation of person(s) responsible for protection; trustworthiness, reliability, commitment, availability, alliance to plan
  - Parents willing to cooperate with the plan
  - Evaluation of home and responsible adult if family-made arrangement is a condition of the present danger plan
  - Estimated time frames of plan
  - Oversight, monitoring and management details

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Slide 83

**Present Danger Planning**

**Case Application**

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Slide 84

**Establishing and Implementing Present Danger Safety Plans**

**Knowing What is Required**

**An Exercise**