

Case Scenarios for Discussion (developmental disability)

JORGE-is a young man in his early twenties. He had lived with his family all of his life, until an opportunity to live on his own came when his mother took a live-in position in another community. This also provided the first opportunity for Jorge to manage his own money, as his mother had been payee prior to leaving him on his own.

Jorge is described as mildly disabled mentally with some cerebral palsy. He has poor reading and writing skills. He handles smaller amounts of money easily, but for amounts over \$50 he generally uses money orders, and depends on the service person to count accurately for him. He is currently receiving independent living skills training at a local community-based program for persons with developmental disabilities.

As Jorge's counselor at the independent living program you have suggested that he attend a local alcohol and other drug abuse counseling center for the following reasons:

- 1.) as instruction proceeded they observed Jorge's street-oriented lifestyle and his reputation as a soft touch, loaning people money and having a constant stream of people "crashing" at his place without contributing towards living expenses or food. Assertiveness classes were offered but after attending only one class, he did not return.
- 2.) Jorge openly discussed his history of bisexuality and drug experimentation, but claimed he had no problem. IL training became problematic due to absenteeism, and decreased comprehension and attentiveness when present. Eventually services were discontinued.
- 3.) Shortly after service termination Jorge called his counselor and admitted having problems with alcohol, crack, and marijuana. He claimed to want help, but did not want to go into any facility or detox. The made appointments for him to attend 12-step meetings, but he never followed up.
- 4.) In order to be continued in the independent living program Jorge agreed to meet with a substance abuse counselor to discuss his problems.

You are an alcohol and drug counselor. Jorge has just entered your office for this face-to-face session. What are your goals for this meeting? What do you need to learn about his story to assist you? Develop a preliminary treatment plan with at least five action items.

Brief Histories of Individuals with Substance Abuse Histories and Developmental Disabilities

Individual A - Was a women in her late 20's who was cooking food in a fast food restaurant. The first 4 months on the job she did fine. Suddenly she started coming to work late and/or was absent from work a day here and a day there.

This went on for about 5 or 6 weeks when the Job Coach acquired information that the individual was drinking heavily on the weekends. She was going to bars with a female relative and the consumer/client was not only drinking heavily but picking up numerous men for sexual activities. A few weeks after we became aware of the situation and started to try and counsel the individual and also had the Regional Center C.P.C. talk with her, she up and resigned her job although she was about to be fired from it. This individual had mild mental retardation.

Individual B - A man in his mid 40's who started a stocking job approximately 2 months ago. This individual works Tuesday - Saturday. He has a primary diagnosis of mental illness and a secondary disability of being diabetic. This individual had been a heavy user of street drugs including L.S.D. in the latter half of the 1960's and Early 1970's. He was also a heavy drinker at that point.

This client last worked in the community during the early 1970.s, the only employment since then being in a sheltered workshop in 1980 and 1981. He started his job at the beginning of November, 1991 and did fine the first month. Starting in early December he has either called in every Tuesday (First day of work week for him) saying he is too ill to come to work or becomes sick at work and has to go home. Although the job coach has no proof we are concerned that this individual might be starting to drink again or to abuse street drugs.

Individual C - A young man, who has been working in a crew setting stocking shelves since early July. This individual has a history of alcohol abuse. About two months after he started the job he called his crew supervisor from out of town saying he was at a wedding and couldn't come to work. The supervisor wanted to know why and the individual finally admitted that he had been drinking champagne and didn't want to risk driving back to his home to come to work.

He was counseled the following week about falling back into alcohol abuse and he assured everyone he wouldn't. About a month later he strained his back at work and missed a week from the job. The last 3 months since then he has missed numerous days from the job sometimes saying his back hurts, other times stating other illnesses. While the crew supervisor has no direct proof since the one phone call we feel there is a very good chance he is abusing alcohol. The individual is on a written job warning in regards to his absences at this point in time.