

**School of Social Work ~ Salem State College  
MSW Field Education Program**

**Bio-Psychosocial Assessment**

1. **Referral Information:** Who is referred, by whom, when and why?
  
2. **Statement of Problem/ Need:** Include the presenting problem and the relevant context. Prioritize the problems as you assess them. This section should include
  - ✓ the relationship of the referent, the problem as seen by the referent,
  - ✓ the client and client family system.
  - ✓ any significant precipitant, event, history or prior evidence of the concern.

**Family Constellation:** Include who is a member of the family and household with

  - ✓ ages, genders, race, ethnicity,
  - ✓ educational level, employment/income status,
  - ✓ marital status and connection, neighborhood, family resources and family stresses.

Attach a family intergenerational Genogram.
  
3. **Family History and Development:** Description of family or origin,
  - ✓ significant family milestones, traumas and losses, as well as resiliencies in the face of stress.
  - ✓ relationships and alliances, cut-offs, communication patterns,
  - ✓ roles and relationships, boundary issues.
  - ✓ impact of identified client problem/need on the rest of the family,
  - ✓ enduring stresses, and how the family has coped with this problem up to now. It is important to address environmental and social forces that impact the family.

**Illustration by a family eco-map is helpful to illustrate stresses and resources.**
  
4. **Individual Developmental History**

**For Children and Adolescents:**

  - ✓ Pregnancy/delivery,
  - ✓ developmental milestones, history of developmental stages and mastery,
  - ✓ issues concerning separation, connection, and losses.
  - ✓ medical history,
  - ✓ school career, social and peer relationship development.

**For Adults:**

  - ✓ Current mental status and use of coping defenses.
  - ✓ Current level of competency functioning, given life developmental stage and cultural norms.
  - ✓ Address significant medical, emotional, relationship and achievement history.
  
5. **Services history:** How has the client and client system used and experienced client and current helpers? Nature, length and reasons for involvement of client/family with helpers.

6. **Motivation and Capacity for change:** Cognitive and other resources available that enhance or limit change capacity.
7. **Diagnostic Formulation of the Problem:** This section presents the evidence for arriving at your assessment formulation. Use DSM IV, all 5 axes when appropriate. Present formulation in alternative ways with demonstrable evidence when relevant.
8. **Intervention Plan:** Spell out intervention plan, course of action:
  - ✓ who participates, where, when, frequency.
  - ✓ consultation resources and other partnerships in intervention plan.
  - ✓ involvement of client and client system at formulating this plan.
9. **Goals of Intervention:** Statement of realistic goals, with clarity regarding indicators of achievement:
  - ✓ how will you know when progress is made?
  - ✓ expectations of change in behavioral outcomes and time frames.
  - ✓ resources identified to enhance and support change plan.
10. **Intervention Team's Evaluation Plan:** evaluation of team intervention.

See the following resources to assist in your bio-psychosocial:

Hartman, A. (1995) Diagrammatic assessment of family relationships. **Families in Society** 76:2, 111-112.

Lukas, S. (1993) **Where to Start and What to Ask: An Assessment Handbook**. New York, NY: W.W. Norton

McGoldrick, M.et al. (1999) **Genograms: Assessment and Intervention**. New York, N. Y.: W. W. Norton.

ADD: DSM IV