**Screening for Substance Use Disorders By Drug Court Coordinators**

* Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Let’s talk about your past health history:

1. Have you ever had an assessment for chemical dependency? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

If yes, when?

By who?

What were the results or recommendations?

2. Have you ever been treated for chemical dependency? Yes\_\_\_\_ no\_\_\_\_

If yes, # of times:

If yes, when:

If yes, Where/ what provider?

If yes, how long were you clean/sober following this treatment?

Repeat these questions for each treatment episode.

1. Have you ever been assessed or treated for a mental health problem, such as depression, anxiety etc.

Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

4. If yes, what was the diagnosis?

5. What provider treated you?

When?

Were medications prescribed?

Are you currently taking any of the these medications?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

1. Do you feel you have current symptoms that indicate a need for treatment of a mental health condition?

Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ Specify name and dose:

**Proceed to administer the NIDA ASSIST Tool by saying:**

**At this time, I want to ask you some specific questions about your experience with mood altering substances. Some of the substances we will talk about include prescription medications but I am interested in these only if you have taken them in doses other than prescribed.**

**The NIDA ASSIST tool is available from the NIDA website**

* **The TCU Drug Screen V: Texas Christian University-** This is a simple 12 question easy to score instrument that also includes alcohol. Available on the TCU website.
* **Simple Screening Instrument For Substance Abuse-** Available on SAMSHA, CSAT website, free, public domain. Brief, easy to use and administer

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**Screening for Criminality and Risk:**

* **The RANT Instrument:** Douglas Marlowe Ph,D. developed this instrument to screen for high risk high need individuals, those who are most likely to re-offend and have the highest needs and are deemed suitable for drug court.
* **Inventory of Risk and Needs [IORNS]** This can be obtained from PAR Inc. This instrument measures risk, need and protective factors and also measures for psychopathy which is important to rule out in drug court **participants. [Psychological Assessment Products, PAR Inc.]**

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The Treatment Coordinator can administer a brief reading screen using reading materials from treatment and ask the client to read aloud and explain what they have read and what it means. When the treatment provider does their evaluation, a more in depth cognitive evaluation should be done using an intellectual instrument such as a **Shipley Hartford Screen** to measure both reading comprehension and ability to abstract think and reason. [Available through PAR Inc ]

**Screening for Co-occurring Disorders**

The mood disorders; depression, anxiety are the most common disorders associated with substance abuse and which should be screen for routinely. It is important that screening be done once the client is clear of substances. Rudimentary screens can be used initially and if these indicate a problem, the treatment coordinator or provider should refer the client for more in depth evaluation. The more serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia spectrum disorders and bi-polar disorders are less frequent and are generally discovered by the treatment provider through careful biopsychosocial evaluation from family history data. Psychotic symptoms not associated with severe mental illness are also generally identified by the treatment provider and may be associated with long term drug use and require evaluation and medication.

Screening instruments for the mood disorders that can be downloaded from the internet:

* **QUIDS SR- Quick Inventory of Symptomology-** 16 item questionnaire for depression, paper pencil, easy scoring, free public domain
* **PHQ-9- Patient Health Questionnaire**- easy paper pencil measuring both depression and anxiety
* **GAD-7-**Measures anxiety. Quick paper pencil test for generalized anxiety disorder.

The foregoing areas are considered the most important screening domains for clients being considered for drug courts. Keep in mind that screening is done prior to admission and is for the purpose of determining **eligibility** of the client as well as **suitability.** After admission, the treatment provider will conduct an in depth evaluation to determine the nature of the problems, the diagnoses and to develop the treatment plan. The rationale for doing a thorough screening prior to admission, however is so that there are no surprises—we want to be fairly certain of the issues presented by the client and of our capacity to address those needs.

INFORMATION PROVIDED COURTESY OF

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