Mental Health in Early Intervention

Achieving Unity in Principles and Practice

edited by
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and
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1. Identifying information of infant and caregiver (e.g., names, ages, genders, ethnicities). Nature of housing.
   - Malika is a 22-month-old (DOB: 3/16/96) African American girl, living with her 28 y/o mother, Rhonda, in a family shelter in Newark. A 6-year-old sister is in foster care in East Orange. Malika was unplanned.

2. Date of referral and referral source
   - Mom/child referred on January 17, 1998, by CPS.

3. Treatment: date begun, modalities, length and nature of participation, brief course
   - Date of intake: 1/24/98. EI services began 3/7/98. Home visits = 7 times. Regularly keeps appointments. Increased mutuality seen but maternal depression persists, and tendency for mom to defer to therapist.

4. Presenting problems: infant and caregiver
   - Mom: Cocaine intoxication and child neglect. Drug use during pregnancy
     Infant: Motor/speech-language delays; inadequate care

5. Brief family history: Infant and caregiver
   - Mom is third of six children. Incestual abuse at age 7 by father. Older sister and brother died. Mom unmarried. Father of child lives in South Carolina. No contact. Mom had 2 TOPs between births of 2 children.

6. Current status: infant and caregiver:
   - Strengths/weaknesses
   - Nature/quality of attachment
   - Language of interaction
   - Developmental/medical status
   - Substance abuse issues
   - Adult psychological functioning
   - Psychiatric/medication needs
   - Mom: verbal, 11th grade education. Motivated for tx. Third attempt at recovery. Drug abuse since age 19. In relationship with father of children for 3 years before he left and moved to South Carolina. Mom has history of depression. No meds currently.
     Relationship: Periodic mutual play, but mom feels child does not “like” her and the two often remain unengaged with each other

7. Other agencies involved
   - CPS and family court. Medicaid/TANF recipient
   - Maternal history of incest and depression. Child is delayed and mother is unable to discern child’s cues for interaction. Need housing.

8. Clinical formulation
   - Parent and child
     (0–3 diagnostic system)
     Mom: Substance abuse and depression
     Child: Developmental delay and underreactive
     Limited reciprocity and mutual joy in relationship

9. Clinical impressions
   - Consider your subjective feelings and responses to the relationship you have with the child and family.

10. Reflection on clinical relationship
    - Frustration at mother’s failure to follow up on suggestions; concerns and wish to protect child; feeling depressed and helpless with mother

11. Recommendations
    - Refer for psychotherapy for mother and referral for medication evaluation. Dyadic psychotherapy and referral of Malika to therapeutic nursery.

Figure 5.2. Case consultation cue sheet with case illustration.
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