

Practice Vignette 2 “Carmen”

Carmen is a 15 year old girl who was recently convicted of prostitution. This was her second conviction as she was convicted of drug possession last year. She was put on probation at that time but was off when she was arrested. She was caught soliciting an undercover police officer in an area known for prostitution. Carmen was angry and aggressive with the arresting officer and had to be restrained when taken to detention.

Carmen lives with her mother, grandmother, and four siblings in an apartment. Mother’s boyfriend of six months also lives in the household. Mother reports that Carmen does not listen to anything she tells her, even when she is screaming at her. Mother states Carmen just goes about doing what Carmen wants to do without regard to others. Carmen states that she hates living in the apartment and that her mother’s boyfriend is always ‘coming on’ to her. She has not had sex with him because as she states ‘he’s a pig’. It appears that Carmen only has a decent relationship with the grandmother, who dotes on her as the oldest grandchild, and the youngest sibling, a brother who is seven years old. Every one else in the household has a difficult relationship with Carmen.

Carmen was removed from her parents when she was seven due to charges of sexual abuse against her father. According to reports, Carmen’s father had sexual intercourse with her on at least six occasions over a six month span. Grandmother called in the report when she caught them in the act and Carmen was removed from the home. Carmen’s father went to prison. Two years ago, Carmen was reunited with her mother. Carmen’s mother had serious psychiatric problems, including a diagnosis of bipolar disorder but has been in recovery for the past year with good medication management. Carmen’s mother also was sexually abused by her father when she was a child.

Carmen has not gone to school this year (past two months) although she is enrolled as a freshman at her neighborhood high school. She states she is uninterested in school and will drop out as soon as she turns 16. Last year, Carmen attended more regularly and was a C student in 8th grade. Both she and mother reports that she doesn’t cause problems when she goes to school, she just doesn’t like going. She is more than one year behind academically.

Carmen reports smoking marijuana almost daily. She used to use cocaine and possession of this drug is what leads to her first conviction. She reports however, that she has stopped using cocaine for about six months because it was making her paranoid. She recognizes that her drug use is a problem for her but she feels she needs it to get by and isn’t ready to do anything about it.

Carmen states that she had only been working about a week as a prostitute when she was caught. She got involved with a friend who was doing it and thought it would be ‘easy money’. She states that this friend is gang involved and was trying to get her more involved. However, Carmen stated that she was afraid of the initiation and hadn’t decided.

Recommended Scores for Carmen

Trauma Experiences		Community Life	2	Substance Use	0
Sexual Abuse	2	Relation Permanence	1	Developmental	0
Physical Abuse	0	Youth Involvement	3	Self Care	0
Neglect	0	Resiliency	3	Access to Child Care	0
Emotional Abuse	1	Resourcefulness	3	Family Stress	2
Medical Trauma	0			Acculturation	0
Natural Disaster	0	Child/Family Acculturation		Employment	0
Wit to Family Violence	0	Language	0	Education	0
Wit to Comm Violence	0	Identify	1	Financial Resources	0
Wit to Crime	2	Ritual	0	Community Connect	0
		Cultural Stress	0	Legal	0
Trauma Stress Symptoms		Knowledge congruence	0	Transportation	0
Adjustment to Trauma	2	Helpseeking congruence	0	Safety	3
Traumatic Grief	0	Expression of distress	0		
Intrusions	1			Current Caregiver	
Attachment	1	Behavioral/Emotional Needs		Supervision	--
Dissociation	0	Psychosis	0	Problem Solving	--
		Impulse/Hyper	1	Involvement in care	--
Life Domain Functioning		Depression	1	Knowledge	--
Family-nuclear	2	Anxiety	1	Organization	--
Family-extended	0	Oppositional	2	Social Resources	--
Living Situation	2	Conduct	2	Physical Health	--
Social-Peer	3	Anger Control	2	Family Stress	--
Social-Adult	2	Substance Use	3	Cultural Congruence	--
Developmental	0	Somatization	0		
Legal	3	Behavioral Regression	0		
Eating	0	Affect dysregulation	1		
Sleeping	0				
Medical	0	Risk Behaviors			
Physical	0	Suicide	0		
Dental	0	Self Injurious	0		
Sexual	3	Other Self Harm	3		
Daily functioning	0	Exploitation	3		
Living Skills	0	Danger to Others	1		
		Sexual Perpetration	0		
School		Delinquent Behavior	3		
Attendance	3	Runaway	0		
Behavior	0	Intentional Misbehavior	1		
Achievement	2	Fire setting	0		
Relation with teachers	0	Bullying	0		
Youth Strengths		Permanency Plan Caregiver			
Family-nuclear	2	Supervision	2		
Family-extended	1	Involvement	1		
Positive peer	2	Knowledge	2		
Optimism	3	Organization	0		
Decision-making	2	Problem solving	0		
Well-being	2	Social Resources	1		
Educational	2	Residential Stability	0		
Recreational	3	Physical Health	0		
Vocational	3	Mental Health	1		
Talents/Interests	3				
Spiritual/Religious	3				