

Supervisor Quality Checklist for Strengths And Needs (Re) Assessment

Answer yes or no for each question below. Please explain the rationale for your rating in the corresponding remarks section of each question. The Strengths and Needs Assessment/Reassessment is one component of the assessment of risk of future harm. This tool can be used to examine the quality of the Strengths and Needs (re) assessment portions of the Family Assessment or the Case Review tools. Rating the assessment elements below requires examination of the activity logs for the case being assessed.

1. Were all children and adults in the home observed and assessed? Yes No

Please review the activity logs to determine if this is complete. The OAC requires, and best practice includes, an assessment of all children and adults in the home for the Strengths and Needs (Re) Assessment. Waivers must be completed for all non-verbal children who were not interviewed.

Specific observations that indicate thorough interviews include:

Documentation of child demeanor, clothing, hygiene, parent-child, adult and sibling interactions, etc

Remarks:

2. Does the family Strengths And Needs (Re)Assessment include observation of interactions between the caretakers and the child(ren)? Yes No

An assessment of strengths and needs should include observations of how the caretaker(s) interact with their children and how this informs the RC/NRC ratings, as well as how assessment elements are interrelated within this unique family.

Remarks:

3. Were collaterals contacted and/or information gathered from available sources (e.g. witnesses, medical professionals, school personnel, counselors, law enforcement, service providers, etc.)? Yes No

It is possible that no collateral contacts were required. Family assessments frequently require collateral contacts to support assessment information. Strengths and Needs (Re) Assessments frequently require collateral contacts to determine family member's progress on case plan goals and the corresponding impact upon assessment elements within the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment. If a family is engaged in services, collateral contacts are likely necessary.

Remarks:

4. Does the information provided in the Strengths and Needs tool for child functioning reflect the relevant information provided in the activity logs? Yes No

All case activities and information should be documented in activity logs as they are gathered. The documentation provided in the Family Assessment or Case Review tool should be a summarization of the relevant information documented in the activity logs. Specific, behavioral examples should be provided, address each element and attend to the relationships between those elements.

Remarks:

5. Does the information provided in the Strengths and Needs tool for adult functioning reflect the relevant information provided in the activity logs? Yes No

All case activities and information should be documented in activity logs as they are gathered. The documentation provided in the Family Assessment or Case Review tool should be a summarization of the relevant information documented in the activity logs. If Parenting Practices is identified as a Risk Contributor, the underlying cause for the Parenting Practice must be identified within another element of Adult Functioning as a Risk Contributor.

Remarks:

6. Does the information provided in the Strengths and Needs tool for family functioning reflect the relevant information provided in the activity logs? Yes No

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All case activities and information should be documented in activity logs as they are gathered. The documentation provided in the Family Assessment or Case Review tool should be a summarization of the relevant information documented in the activity logs. If Domestic Relations is rated as a risk contributor, the Family Functioning rating and rationale should reflect these concerns as they relate to roles, responsibilities and relationships. This does not mean that if Family Roles, Responsibilities, and Relationships are rated as a risk contributor that Domestic Relations must be rated as a risk contributor.

Remarks:

7. Does the rationale provided support all of the RC and NRC ratings?

Yes No

Each RC and NRC must be supported with a narrative supporting the rating. The narratives must explain how risk contributors are increasing the risk of maltreatment and be in behavioral terms. If a rating is not supported by a narrative, note which ratings need to be supported. Each child and each adult must be addressed separately in the narrative rationales for each rating. Remember that Strengths and Needs Re-Assessments receive a rating of RC if any member of the family is rated as a risk contributor thus an explanation of the rating is required.

Remarks:

8. Is the interrelatedness of the categories and individual assessment elements within the Strengths and Needs assessment/reassessment described in the narrative?

Yes No

Understanding the interrelatedness of the assessment elements in each individual family is essential to a quality assessment of risk. If the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment/Reassessment narrative does not include a thorough explanation of how the assessment elements are interrelated, note the need for improved assessment in the remarks section. For example Parenting Practices are rated an RC due to Ms. Smith not supervising her two year old daughter during long periods of time while unconscious. This behavior and rating is interrelated with the RC rating of the substance abuse element, as Ms. Smith's heroin use is causing the long periods of unconsciousness and lack of supervision.

Remarks:

9. If Non-Risk Contributors have been identified as strengths, is there thorough explanation of how the strengths can be used to resolve or mitigate risk of future abuse and/or neglect.

Yes No

In order for a Non-Risk Contributor to be considered a strength it must be able to be used to reduce the risk of future harm in some way. The absence of a Risk Contributor alone, cannot be considered a strength. For example Extended Family, Social and Community Connectedness is rated an NRC. It is also a strength for a family because Ms. Smith has several family members and friends who are available and willing to provide supervision her two year old daughter and provide transportation to and from services. Description of strength should be included in the narrative describing the assessment of the element.

Remarks:

10. Does the documentation within "family perception" reflect what the family has said they think and believe about the issues at hand?

Yes No

The family perception should include exactly what the family states they believe about the issues at hand. Family members' actions may indicate they feel differently than what they say, or they may communicate conflicting thoughts and beliefs about the issue affecting them, and the caseworker should reflect this in other areas of the assessment.

Remarks: