

Running head: CASE PRESENTATION

Case Presentation

David Malone

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

SOCW 411

Mrs. Kathy Purnell, MSW

February 20, 2008

Case Presentation

Case Study part A

Identify a client system available in the agency setting

Eli was referred for clinical psychology services related to behavior and emotional concerns. These concerns include hyperactivity, impulsivity, a short attention span, aggression, and oppositional and defiant behaviors exhibited primarily in the home environment. It also was of note that Eli was reportedly sexually molested by an older boy this past summer, and since this period of time, his hyperactivity and oppositional behaviors has greatly increased. Eli is a six year age Hispanic boy.

Review the available social history information on the client and then incorporate these added elements: Functioning of the client system from an individual, family, and community perspective with an emphasis on strengths.

Eli attends the first grade at a local Elementary school. Prior to attending the school, Eli has attended Head Start program, and he has attended day care. Eli also receives Speech/Language services at this time. Eli's teachers report that he has a short attention span, is hyperactive and impulsive, has difficulty following directions, and exhibits attention seeking behaviors. Eli's strengths are that he is a very likeable and social child; he has no trouble making new friends.

There is a positive family history for hyperactivity and substance abuse. Eli lives with his mother, and has never met his father. Eli's mother has a number of concerns regarding her son's behavior. Eli is oppositional, defiant, and verbally aggressive toward his mom, he is extremely hyperactive and impulsive, he has nightmares, fears the dark,

and he often wants to sleep with his mother, he bites himself, he often has separation anxiety, and several times since this past summer, he has exhibited enuresis. His mother said that these behaviors have intensified since the summer months when the molestation could have occurred.

Eli is independent in his self-care activities. His mother describes his gross motor skills as being satisfactory and there are no problems with fine motor skills. There are concerns about Eli's speech delays; however his mother does not report that he has any major problems with stuttering or mispronouncing sounds. He seems to take things literally sometimes and has difficulty following oral instructions. His mother reports that it is hard for him to stay on task and gives examples that it took Eli two hours to write six words. He enjoys drawing, swimming, being read to, and reading. Eli wants to play basketball soon. He has always been a picky eater, but his mother reports that Eli is more selective now.

Issues related to diversity should be identified and addressed

Eli's mother is bilingual and wants Eli to be the same. Eli has difficulty speaking both English and Spanish. His mother has said that Eli for the most part speaks English at school and at home. Eli had a typical birth weight and normal motor development; however saying first words at 18 months, his speech-language skills did not progress, and he did not use two to three word phrases until age four. Speech-language therapy was begun at age three and now he seems to be communicating quite well.

Identify another theoretical framework, which is appropriate for social work practice with this client system

Behavioral and Learning theory is a theory that explains how one responds to a stimulant in their environment. In the case of Eli, I would use this theory to explain his behavior before and after the reported incident of molestation made by his mother. Play therapy is a tool that can be use to explain Behavioral and Learning Theory. A play therapist observes a child playing with toys to determine the cause of the disturbed behavior. The objects and patterns of play, as well as the willingness to interact with the therapist can be used to understand the underlying rationale for behavior both inside and outside the session.

Develop an intervention plan with this client system, which is representative of sound generalist social work practice including evaluation of the actual interventions themselves.

- Play therapy for Eli is recommended.
- Individual therapy for Eli is recommended. A therapist could assist Eli in developing more effective coping and problem solving skills.
- Consulting with a doctor on proper medication is recommended. Eli's hyperactive and impulsive difficulties appear to be affecting his daily functioning, and perhaps medication could regulate that.
- A comprehensive cognitive and academic evaluation is recommended. This type of evaluation would address or rule out any learning difficulties that may be affecting his academic progress.

- Involvement in low stress activities, extra curricular activities are recommended.
Eli enjoys drawing, swimming and playing sports; these activities could be an outlet to release energy.

Develop a list of social work roles.

- LCSW will administer play therapy
- LCSW will administer individual therapy
- Case Manager could check out Eli's behavior at home and could determine if there were any factors in the home to could be the cause of the problem.