Interviewing to Determine a Student’s View of the Problem

(1) Review “Student’s View of the Problem” forms in School-Based Client Consultation, Referral, and Management of Care (pp. 54 - 59)

(2) Note below your view of the role of teachers and school support staff should play in exploring students problems from the student’s perspective.

(3) Interview a student who is having problems or role-play with a colleague/friend.

(4) In what ways might such an interview assist school staff in better understanding how to address barriers to student learning?

Source: UCLA Center for Mental Health in Schools; Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563 (310) 824-3634; smhp@ucla.edu
Excerpt From

*From the Center's Clearinghouse ...

A Technical Aid Packet on

School-Based Client Consultation, Referral, and Management of Care

This document is a hardcopy version of a resource that can be downloaded at no cost from the Center’s website (http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu)

This Center is co-directed by Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor and operates under the auspice of the School Mental Health Project, Dept. of Psychology, UCLA.
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
Student's View of the Problem -- Initial Interview Form

Interviewer ______________________ Date______________

Note the identified problem:

Is the student seeking help?     Yes   No
If not, what were the circumstances that brought the student to the interview?

__________________________________________________________

Questions for student to answer:

Student's Name _______________________________ Age _____   Birthdate ___________

Sex:  M  F       Grade _______       Current Placement ______________________
Ethnicity __________       Primary Language ____________________

We are concerned about how things are going for you. Our talk today will help us to discuss what's going O.K. and what's not going so well. If you want me to keep what we talk about secret, I will do so -- except for those things that I need to discuss with others in order to help you.

(1) How would you describe your current situation? What problems are you experiencing? What are your main concerns?

(2) How serious are these matters for you at this time?

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<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>very serious</td>
<td>serious</td>
<td>Not too serious</td>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
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(3) How long have these been problems?

___ 0-3 months       ___4 months to a year       ___more than a year
(4) What do you think originally caused these problems?

(5) Do others (parents, teachers, friends) think there were other causes?
    If so, what they say they were?

(6) What other things are currently making it hard to deal with the problems?

(7) What have you already tried in order to deal with the problems?

(8) Why do you think these things didn’t work?

(9) What have others advised you to do?
(10) What do you think would help solve the problems?

(11) How much time and effort do you want to put into solving the problems?

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<th>6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>not at all</td>
<td>not much</td>
<td>only a little bit</td>
<td>more than a little bit</td>
<td>quite a bit</td>
<td>very much</td>
</tr>
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</table>

If you answered 1, 2, or 3, why don't you want to put much time and effort into solving problems?

(12) What type of help do you want?

(13) What changes are you hoping for?

(14) How hopeful are you about solving the problems?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>very hopeful</td>
<td>somewhat</td>
<td>not too</td>
<td>not at all hopeful</td>
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If you're not hopeful, why not?

(15) What else should we know so that we can help?

Are there any other matters you want to discuss?
(For use with very young students)

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what's going O.K. and what's not going so well. If you want me to keep what we talk about
secret, I will do so -- except for those things that I need to discuss with others in order to help
you.

(1)  Are you having problems at school?    ___Yes     ___No

If yes, what's wrong?

What seems to be causing these problems?
(2) How much do you like school?

1 not at all  2 not much  3 only a little bit  4 more than a little bit  5 Quite a bit  6 Very much

What about school don't you like?

What can we do to make it better for you?

(3) Are you having problems at home?  ___Yes  ___No

If yes, what's wrong?

What seems to be causing these problems?

(4) How much do you like things at home?

1 not at all  2 not much  3 only a little bit  4 more than a little bit  5 Quite a bit  6 Very much

What about things at home don't you like?

What can we do to make it better for you?
(5) Are you having problems with other kids? ___Yes ___No
   If yes, what's wrong?

   What seems to be causing these problems?

(6) How much do you like being with other kids?

   1 2 3 4 5 6
   not at all not much only a little bit more than a little bit
   quite a bit very much

   What about other kids don't you like?

   What can we do to make it better for you?

(7) What type of help do you want?

(8) How hopeful are you about solving the problems?

   1 2 3 4
   very hopeful somewhat not too not at all hopeful

   If you're not hopeful, why not?

(9) What else should we know so that we can help?

   Are there any other things you want to tell me or talk about?