

Discussion Questions for Mental Health Intervention Case Study

Shane is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Willow Creek Middle School. He received strong grades until 4th grade. He is currently failing 5 of his 6 classes. The only class he is not failing is PE. His teachers report that Shane does not pay attention and have stated that he “frequently appears preoccupied.” Shane’s mom is a single parent and Shane does not have any contact with his dad. There are reports that Shane’s father had “mental problems” before he abandoned his family two years ago. In addition, before the father left the family it is suspected that Shane (and his siblings) witnessed frequent violent domestic battles. On at least one occasion these fights resulted in his mother’s hospitalization. Ms. Jenkins has three other children: John a 17-year-old boy, Matt a 10-year-old boy and Jennifer an 8-year-old girl. Matt and Jennifer are doing okay in school, but John is in serious trouble due to truancy and substance abuse. Both Shane and John have frequent arguments with their mother, each other, and with their siblings. Shane has a group of friends who he spends most evenings with. His mother has not been able to impose a curfew.

In responding to the following questions you may specify the intervention as having had occurred at any point in Shane’s school history.

1. To what extent do you feel that consultation services will be able to address these challenges? _____

2. Do you think referral to a community mental health care provider is indicated? If “NO,” when (under what circumstances) would such a referral become appropriate? If “YES,” to which type of mental health professional would you refer the student _____

3. Would group counseling be appropriate for this student? If “YES,” what type of group? If “NO” under what circumstances would this intervention become appropriate? _____

4. Would individual counseling be appropriate for this student? If “YES,” what would be the focus of the counseling sessions? If “NO” under what circumstances would this intervention become appropriate? _____

5. At any point in this student’s history would crisis intervention have been (or currently be) appropriate? If ‘YES,” what would be the primary goal of such intervention? _____

6. Might this student be eligible for special education according to ED eligibility criteria? Explain your reasoning. _____
