

CLINICAL VIGNETTE SCENARIOS FOR RFP

Vignette 1

Shayla is a 9-year-old AA girl currently in the 4th grade. She was referred to due to instances of aggression in the home, medication non-compliance, school refusal, and aggression toward siblings. Shayla has kicked holes in walls, broken her hand punching concrete, has spit, kicked, and punched at family members when angry, and has destroyed her room. She endorses passive death wish, stating that she “wishes her mother loved her like she loves the little kids” and states that she is angry at her father because he will not come and visit her. She is similarly aggressive at school but to a lesser extent and is also habitually truant. She also has poor boundaries and there is evidence of sexual abuse by an unknown perpetrator. Shayla is non-compliant with her medication and has refused to take them for the past month. She is prescribed Abilify 10mg qhs, Concerta 36mg qam.

Shayla has one brother and 2 sisters, ages 7, 4 and 1 from her mother, and 2 additional brothers from her father. Shayla has resided with her 40-year old aunt since July of 2020 when Shayla’s mother contacted the aunt with a request to keep her for a period of one year. Shayla’s aunt originally agreed to do so but was recently diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Doctor’s note that the aunt is in fragile health, and it is unlikely she will be able to care for Shayla for much longer than an additional 2 months. Shayla is not yet aware of aunt’s illness. In the past month she has stated that she would “jump off the bridge” if she had to return to live with her mother or father and that her aunt is “the only one person that cares” about her. Shayla’s aunt has attempted to get in touch with Shayla’s mother to discuss these developments, but her mother has refused to speak to the aunt, saying that she “doesn’t have time” to worry about what is going on at that house”. Historically there is considerable conflict between Shayla’s aunt and mother. Mother is resentful of aunt’s ability to provide for Shayla.

Shayla’s mother explained that she is overwhelmed with caring for all 4 children alone, and that due to Shayla’s behaviors, she was concerned that she would not be able to keep any of the children in the home safe. Shayla’s aunt has observed many of the same behaviors noted by Shayla’s mother, which is the reason for DAS request. Shayla has some contact with her mother that is sporadic, and superficial in nature. Shayla’s father has minimal to no contact with her and has had very few interactions due to his older son peeking in on Shayla when she was using the restroom 5 years ago.

There is no history of D&A abuse with Shayla, but her mother admits to using cannabis regularly. Father has a significant history of D&A use and mental health diagnoses. Father is currently suffering from AIDS-related Kaposi sarcoma and other significant health issues.

Shayla is highly intelligent, and works above her grade level, but is currently refusing to attend school. Aunt notes that Shayla is a victim of bullying and that this bullying may have increased in the past 3 months and that this may be why she is refusing school. Since the start of the school year Shayla has missed a total of 40 days of school which has resulted in truancy charges and CYF involvement. Shayla’s aunt has also contacted CYF regarding care for Shayla in the event of her passing. Aunt states that at this time, she has no court-ordered legal rights to Shayla, only permissions through a notarized document that was signed by both the aunt and Shayla’s mother. Aunt is gravely concerned for Shayla’s safety and care, as there are no additional family members who are willing to care for the child should something happen to her.

Diagnosis:

F90.2: ADHD combined type

F63.81: Intermittent Explosive Disorder

Vignette 2

Micah is an 11-year old boy in the 5th grade that was recently referred for HI toward foster father, SI, fire setting, aggression, and cruelty to animals. Micah has been in his foster home for the past 3 weeks, and foster family is demanding his immediate removal from the home. Micah got into an argument with his foster father after he was denied a second bowl of ice cream, and subsequently lit the comforter on their bed on fire while the foster father and mother were asleep in the middle of the night. Both foster parents were unharmed in the incident. Micah has been described as a “sexual deviant” who has been caught masturbating while watching his foster sister take a shower. He reportedly carved a hole in the back wall of his bedroom closet that would allow him to look into the restroom. Micah has admitted to swinging the family cat around by its tail and throwing it across the front yard. The family woke one morning to find the hamster of the youngest foster son dead in its cage from strangulation. When asked about the incident Micah denied committing the act but hid a smile behind his hand when he observed his foster brother crying. A month ago, Micah was removed from another foster home after hitting his foster brother over the head with a tire iron when the brother would not give him back his toy truck.

This is Micah’s 16th foster home since the age of 2. He was removed from his biological mother after she was found in the home by police, passed out due to a heroin overdose. Micah was found in the kitchen with his leg tied to the dining room table to prevent his escape. He was crying profusely and had likely been restrained there for over 36 hours. There was a younger sister in the home who was found in her crib deceased. It was later found that she died of dehydration. Neither Micah nor his mother know who his biological father is. Micah was immediately placed with a foster family upon removal from his mother’s care and began to show behavioral difficulties right away. He would kick, spit, and yell at foster family when they attempted to touch or hug him and would cry hysterically when put in the bathtub. He wrote on the walls, bit his arms and legs, would take knives and attempt to stab the family dog, and banged his head off the walls and floor. When evaluated by early intervention services it was found that he was significantly delayed in both language and fine motor skills. Micah was still not toilet trained by the age of 5 and would smear feces on the walls. Micah would show an increase in these behaviors after visits with mother (visits were sporadic and mother was often under the influence).

Micah currently has pending charges due to the fire setting, assault on foster brother, and theft from a local grocery store. He also has pending charges for bringing a loaded gun into his school building, and reports that he “forgot” it was in his bag. He expresses no remorse or responsibility for his actions, instead blaming his problems on “these dumbasses from CYF” and “these stupid foster homes”. Currently, there are no foster families in the county willing to take Micah due to his aggressive and dangerous behavior. Micah has had at last count 35 inpatient admissions and has spent upwards of 5 months on inpatient units in one stay. He is unable to consistently participate in school due to his aggressive nature. At his last school placement Micah required 2:1 staffing to maintain him in the school setting.

Micah’s mother had her parental rights terminated due to her unwillingness to attend parenting classes and treatment for her drug use. She has not had contact with Micah in approximately 4 years. There is concern that Micah both observed sexual activity and was used sexually by adults to pay for his mother’s drug debt. Mother steadfastly denies this accusation. She is currently serving 10 years in prison for drug trafficking.

Micah currently has family-based treatment, trauma-based outpatient services, CYF, and Kids Voice involvement. Micah is known to be physically aggressive toward service workers. Micah says that he has no goals and cannot name any positive qualities about himself. Micah is medication non-compliant.

Diagnosis:

F90.2: ADHD combined type

F91.1: Conduct Disorder, childhood onset

F63.81 Intermittent Explosive Disorder

F70: Intellectual Disability

Z62.810: Personal history (past history) of physical abuse in childhood

F94.1: r/o Reactive Attachment Disorder