

APPENDIX 2

MANUAL FOR THE OHIO YOUTH SCALES

From

*The Ohio Youth Problem, Functioning, and Satisfaction Scales (Short Form):
Users Manual.*

(Ogles, Melendez, Davis, and Lunnen, 1999)

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

The "Problem Severity Scale" is comprised of 20 items covering common problems reported by youth who receive behavioral health services. Each item is rated for severity/frequency (0 "Not at all" to 5 "All the time") on a six-point scale. A total score is calculated by summing the ratings for all 20 items.

The "Functioning Scale" is comprised of 20 items designed to rate the youth's level of functioning in a variety of areas of daily activity (e.g., interpersonal relationships, recreation, self-direction and motivation). Each item is rated on a five-point scale (0 "Extreme troubles" to 4 "Doing very well"). Although the problem severity scale is similar to many other existing symptom rating scales that focus on the severity of behavioral problems, the functioning scale provides a broader range of ratings including "OK" and "Doing very well". This provides an opportunity for raters to identify areas of functional strength. A total functioning score is calculated by summing the ratings for all 20 items. Higher scores are indicative of better functioning.

In addition to the problems and functioning scales, two brief (four item) scales on the parent and youth forms assess satisfaction and hopefulness. Four items assess satisfaction with and inclusion in behavioral health services on a six-point scale (1 "extremely satisfied" to 6 "extremely dissatisfied"). The total satisfaction score is calculated by summing the 4 items. Four additional items on the parent and youth forms tap levels of hopefulness and well-being either about parenting or self/future respectively. Each of these is also rated on a six-point scale. The total hopefulness score is calculated by summing the 4 items.

ADMINISTRATION AND SCORING

The Ohio Scales were developed for quick administration, scoring and interpretation. With relatively minimal training, parents or case managers can administer, score, and interpret the meaning of scores for each of the scales. Each of the scales will be briefly discussed in this section.

There are three parallel forms of the Ohio Scales completed by the youth's parent or primary caretaker (P-form), the youth (Y-form), and the youth's agency worker (W form). This allows assessment of the client's strengths and weaknesses from multiple perspectives. The youth form is designed for youth ages 12-18. The parent and

agency worker versions are designed for youth ages 5-18. The instrument is two pages long, placed on the front and back of a single sheet. The questions for problem severity and functioning are identical on the three parallel forms. The satisfaction and hopefulness scales are slightly different depending on the perspective (parent or youth). On the front side of all three forms is the 20-item problem severity scale. The remaining scales are on the back.

Problem Severity

All three forms include the 20 item problem severity scale. Each of these items is rated on a 6-point scale for frequency during the past 30 days: not at all, once or twice, several times, often, most of the time, or all of the time. The columns for each frequency are coded respectively from 0 (Not at all) to 5 (All of the Time). Each column's score can then easily be added at the bottom of the page. The sum of the six columns then becomes the individual's score on the problem severity scale. No items are reverse-scored.

Functioning

All three forms include the 20 item functioning scale in the bottom half of the back page. Each of these 20 items is rated using a 5-point scale: extreme troubles, quite a few troubles, some troubles, OK, or doing very well. Since raters might have somewhat different conceptions regarding what constitutes the various levels of functioning, we use comparable ratings on the Children's Global Assessment Scale (CGAS) as a reference:

Ohio Scales	CGAS
Doing very well (4)	Superior functioning in all areas; (CGAS 90's)
OK (3)	Good functioning in all areas; (CGAS 80's)
Some Troubles (2)	Some difficulty in a single area, but generally functioning pretty well (CGAS approximately 70's)
Quite a few Troubles (1)	Moderate problems in most areas or severe impairment in one area (CGAS approximately 50's)
Extreme Troubles (0)	Major impairment in several areas and unable to function in one or more areas (CGAS 30's or below)

A common question about the functioning scale involves the rating of items 3 and 13. For young children, raters often wonder how to rate items concerning vocational preparation (Item 13) or developing relationships with boyfriends or girlfriends (Item 3). On these items the rater should rate "OK (3)" if they are unsure or rate the youth based on what might be expected for their developmental level. For example, developmentally appropriate vocational preparation for a 7 year old typically involves school work, chores at home, and other work-like assignments. Note: If insufficient information is available to answer a specific item on the functioning scale, that item should be rated "OK (3)". The