Policy Title: 8010V.1 Criteria for Social History and Assessment of Vocational, Spiritual, Cultural, Educational, and Legal Factors
Patient Age Group: (X) N/A ( ) All Ages ( ) Pediatric ( ) Adult

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to define the criteria and procedures for gathering a comprehensive social history as part of the assessment process at Centro Savila Behavioral Health Services. This includes the evaluation of vocational, spiritual, cultural, educational, and legal factors as part of the client's social history. The policy ensures that clinicians obtain relevant and holistic information to inform treatment planning and provide client-centered care appropriate to the level of care required. A comprehensive social history allows the treatment team to better understand the client's life circumstances, strengths, challenges, and needs across these domains.

Scope:

This policy applies to all licensed clinicians, intake specialists, case managers, and other staff involved in the assessment and treatment planning process for clients at Centro Savila Behavioral Health Services. It provides guidelines for assessing various social history factors as they relate to the client's mental health, substance use, and overall well-being. These assessments will be integrated into treatment plans and used to guide interventions, referrals, and support services.

Policy Overview:

Centro Savila Behavioral Health Services is committed to providing comprehensive and individualized care that addresses all aspects of a client's life. In addition to the standard mental health assessments, clinicians will gather information about the client's vocational, spiritual, cultural, educational, and legal history and current circumstances, as appropriate. This approach ensures that the client's treatment plan reflects their full range of needs, preferences, and available support systems.

Criteria for Social History and Assessment Procedures:

1. **Vocational Assessment:**
    - **Employment History**: Clinicians will assess the client's work history, including current employment status, past employment experiences, job skills, and any

vocational training or certifications the client has received. Key areas to explore include:
    - Current job or employment status (e.g., full-time, part-time, unemployed)
    - Work history (e.g., job roles, duration, reasons for employment changes)
    - Work-related skills, strengths, and weaknesses
    - Job satisfaction and barriers to maintaining employment
    - Work-related stressors or mental health impacts (e.g., job-related trauma, burnout)
  - **Barriers to Employment**: Clinicians will evaluate any barriers to the client's vocational goals, such as:
    - Mental health or substance use challenges impacting job performance
    - Lack of education or training for desired jobs
    - Physical health challenges or disability
    - Discrimination or workplace harassment
    - Criminal history impacting employability
  - **Vocational Goals**: The clinician will assess the client's career goals, aspirations, and interests, including any desire for further education, job training, or career change.
2. **Spiritual Assessment:**
  - **Spiritual Beliefs**: Clinicians will inquire about the client's spiritual or religious beliefs and practices, including the role of spirituality in their life and recovery. This assessment helps ensure that treatment respects the client's beliefs and values. Questions may include:
    - "Do you have a spiritual or religious practice that is important to you?"
    - "How does your spiritual or religious practice help you cope with challenges?"
    - "Would you like spiritual support as part of your treatment, or is there a religious leader you'd like us to involve?"
  - **Impact of Spirituality on Recovery**: Clinicians will explore how spirituality or religious involvement might serve as a protective factor in the client's mental health recovery or contribute to stress, such as conflicts with faith communities or struggles with spiritual beliefs related to mental health or substance use.
3. **Cultural Assessment:**
  - **Cultural Background**: The clinician will assess the client's cultural identity, including ethnic, racial, and cultural factors that may influence their experience of mental health and recovery. Key areas of inquiry may include:
    - "Can you share your cultural background or traditions that are important to you?"
    - "Are there any cultural practices or values that we should be aware of in your treatment?"
    - "How do your cultural beliefs influence your views on mental health treatment?"
  - **Cultural Strengths and Challenges**: Clinicians will evaluate both strengths and challenges related to the client's cultural background, such as:
    - Protective cultural factors (e.g., family support, cultural resilience)
    - Cultural stigmas or barriers related to mental health or substance use

        - Discrimination or racism affecting mental health or access to care
    - **Culturally Competent Care**: Clinicians will ensure that the treatment plan incorporates culturally relevant interventions and works to minimize cultural misunderstandings or misalignments between the client's values and available care.
4. **Educational Assessment:**
    - **Education History**: Clinicians will gather information about the client's educational background, including levels of schooling, academic performance, and any educational challenges faced. Key areas to explore include:
        - Highest level of education completed
        - Academic achievements and struggles (e.g., learning disabilities, gaps in education)
        - Special educational needs (e.g., individualized education plans (IEPs), accommodations)
    - **Current Educational Needs**: The clinician will assess any current educational goals or challenges, such as:
        - Desire for further education or skill development
        - Barriers to continuing education (e.g., financial constraints, childcare, mental health issues)
        - Any vocational or job-related training needed
    - **Support Services**: If applicable, the clinician will assess whether the client is utilizing any educational support services (e.g., tutoring, vocational training, adult education programs) and whether additional resources are needed to support educational goals.
5. **Legal Assessment:**
    - **Legal History**: Clinicians will inquire about the client's legal history, including any current or past legal issues that may affect treatment, safety, or stability. This may include:
        - Criminal history (e.g., arrests, convictions)
        - Pending legal issues (e.g., court orders, legal proceedings)
        - Legal issues related to mental health (e.g., involuntary commitments, guardianship)
        - Probation, parole, or restitution requirements
    - **Impact of Legal Issues on Treatment**: The clinician will assess how legal issues may be affecting the client's mental health or ability to engage in treatment, including:
        - Stress or anxiety related to legal proceedings
        - Impact of legal restrictions on treatment participation (e.g., inability to travel, curfews)
        - Social stigma or shame related to legal history
    - **Referrals for Legal Services**: If appropriate, clinicians may refer clients to legal aid services, advocacy groups, or other resources that can assist with navigating legal challenges. This could include assistance with criminal defense, expungement, family law, or housing disputes.

Integration of Social History into Treatment Planning:

1. **Holistic Treatment Plans**: The information gathered through the social history assessment will be integrated into the client's treatment plan, helping to ensure that interventions address not only mental health or substance use issues but also the client's vocational, spiritual, cultural, educational, and legal needs.
2. **Referral to Appropriate Services**: Based on the assessment, clients will be referred to appropriate community resources, vocational training programs, educational support services, legal aid, or spiritual counseling, as needed. These referrals will be documented in the client's treatment plan and discussed with the client during the treatment planning process.
3. **Monitoring Progress**: Clinicians will regularly review the client's progress in relation to the goals identified through the social history assessment, adjusting the treatment plan and interventions as needed to address evolving needs in the vocational, spiritual, cultural, educational, or legal areas.

Confidentiality and Record Keeping:

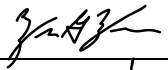
All information gathered in the social history assessment will be documented in the client's medical record in accordance with confidentiality laws, including HIPAA and state regulations. The information will only be shared with authorized individuals or entities as per the client's signed consent or as required by law.

Policy Review and Quality Assurance:

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects current best practices and community needs. Clinical staff will receive training on conducting comprehensive social history assessments, cultural competency, and how to address the diverse needs of clients in treatment.

Approved by: William G. Wagner, Executive Director
Date: 11.12.24

Signature:

Item	*Date*	*Signature*
Executive Director	11/12/2024	
Deputy Director	11/12/2024