

TRAUMA-FOCUSED ASSESSMENT for CUMBERLAND COUNTY JPO



Goals

1. Assess appropriateness for outpatient trauma therapy. If youth is not appropriate, provide family and county with guidance regarding intervention needs.
2. Assess the extent to which current symptoms and difficulties are trauma-related.
3. Assess whether other mental health issues need to be prioritized for treatment.
4. Provide consultative services to Juvenile Probation to guide case planning for youth who may be exhibiting the effects of trauma.

Description

The trauma-focused assessment is completed by a licensed psychologist or a supervised psychology resident and takes 2.5 – 3 hours to complete. It includes the following:

- Clinical interview with the youth and, ideally, the youth's caregiver
- Review of any records provided by JPO prior to the appointment. *Therefore, we ask that you please provide all available information, including school records and records of past mental health treatment.*
- Thorough trauma screening
- Administration and scoring of standardized symptom measures:
 - A global symptom measure, typically the BASC-3 (Behavior Assessment System for Children). This provides standardized scores for a range of symptom categories related to mood, behavior, and functioning. Both the youth and caregiver will be asked to complete a BASC-3.
 - A trauma-specific symptom measure will be completed by the youth and, for youth under age 12, the parent. The Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC) will be used whenever possible.
- Feedback to the family

Deliverables*

- Trauma-Focused Mental Health Assessment Summary* – This brief summary outlines our treatment recommendations, including whether trauma-focused therapy is indicated.
- In addition, if the evaluator determines that a higher level of care is needed (i.e., more intensive than outpatient therapy):
 - If the youth has Medical Assistance, the evaluator will write a Best Practice Evaluation Report. This report will be sent to PerformCare to facilitate the referral to other services.
 - If the youth does not have Medical Assistance, the evaluator will write a report that can be utilized by the family to apply for M.A.
- Upon request, the evaluator can be available to consult with the juvenile probation officer regarding completion of the Trauma-Informed Decision Protocol.

*Consent to release information to the county Juvenile Probation Office will be obtained prior to the initiation of the assessment. As long as the client and/or guardian (if under age 14) does not revoke this consent, results of the assessment will be shared with JPO once the assessment is complete.