# **Substance Abuse Module (1)**

Question to Consider for this Module: What are the details of the child's substance abuse? Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days.

SEVERITY OF USE - This item rates the frequency and severity of the child's current substance use.

#### **Questions to Consider**

- → Is the child currently using substances? If so, how frequently?
- Is there evidence of physical dependence on substances?

#### **Ratings & Definitions**

- Child is currently abstinent and has maintained abstinence for at least six months.
- Child is currently abstinent but only in the past 30 days or child has been abstinent for more than 30 days but is living in an environment that makes substance use difficult.
- Child actively uses alcohol or drugs but not daily.
- Child uses alcohol and/or drugs on a daily basis.

**DURATION OF USE** - This item identifies the length of time that the child has been using drugs or alcohol.

#### **Questions to Consider**

How long as the child been using drugs and/or alcohol?

#### **Ratings & Definitions**

- Child has begun use in the past year.
- Child has been using alcohol or drugs for at least one year but has had periods of at least 30 days where s/he did not have any use.
- Child has been using alcohol or drugs for at least one year (but less than five years), but not daily.
- Child has been using alcohol or drugs daily for more than the past year or intermittently for at least five years.

STAGE OF RECOVERY - This item identifies where the child is in his/her recovery process.

#### **Questions to Consider**

In relation to stopping substance use, at what stage of change is the child?

#### **Ratings & Definitions**

- Child is in maintenance stage of recovery. Child is abstinent and able to recognize and avoid risk factors for future alcohol or drug use.
- 1 Child is actively trying to use treatment to remain abstinent.
- Child is in contemplation phase, recognizing a problem but not willing to take 2 steps for recovery.
- Child is in denial regarding the existence of any substance use problem.

Supplemental information: Motivational interviewing describes the Stages of Change as a continuum –

- Pre-contemplation: Not currently considering change
- Contemplation: Ambivalent about change
- Preparation: Some experience with change/trying to change
- Action: Practicing change
- Maintenance: Continued commitment to sustaining new behavior
- Relapse: Resumption of old behaviors

PEER INFLUENCES - This item identifies the impact that the child's social group has on his/her substance use.

### **Questions to Consider**

What role do the child's peers play in their alcohol and drug use?

# **Ratings & Definitions**

- **0** Child's primary peer social network does not engage in alcohol or drug use.
- Child has peers in his/her primary peer social network who do not engage in alcohol or drug use but has some peers who do.
- Child predominantly has peers who engage in alcohol or drug use but child is 2 not a member of a gang.
- Child is a member of a peer group that consistently engages in alcohol or drug

PARENTAL INFLUENCES - This item rates the parent's/caregiver's use of drugs or alcohol with or in the presence of the child.

#### **Questions to Consider**

Does the parent(s) use substances? If so, does their use impact the child's use??

### **Ratings & Definitions**

- There is no evidence that child's parents have ever engaged in substance abuse.
- 1 One of child's parents has history of substance abuse but not in the past year.
- One or both of child's parents have been intoxicated with alcohol or drugs in the presence of the child.
- One or both of child's parents use alcohol or drugs with the child.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES - This item rates the impact of the child's community environment on his/her alcohol and drug use.

## **Questions to Consider**

Are there factors in the child's community that impacts the child's alcohol and drug use?

## **Ratings & Definitions**

- No evidence that the child's environment stimulates or exposes the child to any alcohol or drug use.
- Mild problems in the child's environment that might expose the child to 1 alcohol or drug use.
- Moderate problems in the child's environment that clearly expose the child to 2 alcohol or drug use.
- Severe problems in the child's environment that stimulate the child to engage in alcohol or drug.