

Report of Results of Chemical Dependency Evaluation

This report form has been designed to assist chemical dependency evaluators in providing concerned parties with data and recommendations from which to make a decision as to whether a person suffers from substance abuse or dependency as defined by the American Psychiatric Association in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual DSM-IV-TR and any subsequent revisions thereof.

1. Name of person evaluated: **Josh Morgan**
2. Date of evaluation: 09/24/2010
3. **State the actual assessment instruments and procedures used in the evaluation (and attach a copy of the results):**

Mr. Morgan met with Mark D. Catalano, MS, LCSW for an interview focusing on his history of drug and alcohol use as well as on current use patterns. Legal history was outlined, as well. The Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) was administered and scored and is included in the results of the evaluation. The results indicate that he seems to understand the items and responded in a meaningful way (RAP=1). The Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST) was administered as part of the interview.

Mr. Morgan's scores on the SASSI classify him as having a low probability of having a Substance Dependence Disorder. Scores on the Face Valid Scales (FVA=3, FVOD=9) indicate that Mr. Morgan does admit some substance use and consequences of his use, and he does acknowledge a history of some loss of control. There is some evidence that he approached the assessment in a defensive manner (DEF=6). An elevated DEF score (5 is average) suggests the respondent is trying to conceal or minimize personal problems and increases the possibility of the SASSI missing substance dependent individuals. Elevated DEF may also reflect situational factors or circumstances surrounding the evaluation.

The OAT scale measures the surface traits commonly associated with substance dependence. Mr. Morgan's low score on the OAT scale (OAT=3) indicates that he perceives himself to be an infrequent social drinker. The SYM scale was developed as a measure of common causes, consequences, and correlates of substance misuse. Mr. Morgan's below average score on the SYM scale (SYM=2) suggests he does not have an acknowledged pattern or history of serious substance misuse. His low score on the COR scale (COR=3) is an indication that he does not think like other people in the criminal justice system. However, a significantly low score on the COR does not rule out the possibility of further problems with the criminal justice system.

The SAT scale measures subtle attributes of substance abuse and measures affective domain or the amount of pain at a deep level one feels in relation to their substance use. Mr. Morgan scored low on the SAT scale (SAT=1), which indicates that substance use is not deeply ingrained as a problem. He scored above close to the 85th percentile on the FAM scale (FAM=10) which may indicate a tendency to focus on other people's needs, rather than on his own. Another possibility is that he may have problems in such areas as establishing a sense of personal power and setting limits with others.

Mr. Morgan scored a 4 on the MAST screening tool which indicates that he may be an early to middle problem drinker. Factors leading to this score included an acknowledged history of conflict with relatives over his drinking, history of physical fights which involved alcohol, and problems between he and a near relative or close friends.

4. Has this person, in your opinion, met the DSM criteria for substance dependence? If so, state the period of time during which this person manifested the dependence criteria and if any of the remission specifiers apply to this person.

Mr. Morgan does not endorse any symptoms of substance dependence. He denies withdrawal symptoms, substance-obtaining behaviors, compulsive drug-taking behavior or decreased productivity in spheres of life due to alcohol and/or drug use. He also denies difficulty quitting, stating he has never tried to quit or cut back as he has not perceived his drinking to be a problem. Mr. Morgan denies alcohol use has any current negative impact on his life.

Mr. Morgan reports his first use of alcohol was in his teens. Mr. Morgan reports a history of experimenting and abusing a variety of illegal substances including amphetamines and hallucinogens. He openly acknowledges this was a period in his life before marriage and having children when he was abusing these substances. He reports his last abuse of these substances was "more than 5 years ago". His first and only acknowledged legal citation occurred in 2005 when he received a Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) charge. Mr. Morgan reports that he had consumed a few drinks in a short amount of time prior to being pulled over driving home. He reports he willingly complied with officers and successfully completed the court order. He reports completing a court ordered Alcohol Awareness class and attending a few AA meetings where he reports feeling "like a fish out of water" because the other attendees had such extreme stories of dependency.

Currently, Mr. Morgan admits that he drinks approximately 6-12 beers per week. He reports that he typically drinks a beer or two after work. Mr. Morgan works for an employer that reportedly approves of alcohol being consumed on the premises and he reports it is common for employees to have a mini-fridge in their office and for employees to gather for a beer after work or for special occasions in the office. He also acknowledges coming from a family where the use of alcohol is part of their family traditions. He states he has been drinking at this level for the past 5 years. His most recent use of alcohol was more than one month ago after being court ordered to avoid drugs and alcohol as part of divorce and custody proceedings. He cites this as his longest sustained period of time without alcohol or drugs since his first use in his teens. He has never been treated for substance abuse nor does he attend any 12-step program.

Given the history above, there is no evidence to support a current diagnosis of substance dependence. Further, Mr. Morgan's scores on the SASSI do not validate a diagnosis of substance dependence.

5. Has this person, in your opinion, met the DSM criteria for substance abuse? If so, state the period of time during which this person manifested the abuse criteria.

Based on the information provided in the assessment, Mr. Morgan has in the past (approximately 5 years ago by report) met the DSM criteria for substance abuse as evidenced by his acknowledged abuse of a variety of illegal and controlled substances, alcohol-related legal penalties, and conflict with significant others. Criteria for substance abuse includes a maladaptive pattern of substance use, occurring within a 12-month period, during which there is legal problems, failure to fulfill obligations at work, home or school, involvement in high risk or physically dangerous situations, or continued use despite numerous negative consequences. Mr. Morgan maintains that he does not overindulge in alcohol currently and denies current use or abuse of illegal or controlled substances.

6. Any collateral information gathered from friends, family, and associates.

Communication with three references provided by the client corroborate the client's claim that he is a "social drinker", typically drinking 1-2 drinks on occasions with friends or family and typically after work to unwind with business associates. All three deny ever having a concern about Mr Morgan's drinking and deny any knowledge of prior treatment for alcohol or other substances.

7. Please indicate any recommendations, observations or comments below.

Given the information provided from this assessment, it appears Mr. Morgan is currently drinking at a moderate level. His reported regular use of alcohol (1-2 beers in the evening) at this level may be indicative of his work and family culture which promotes the use of alcohol. Based on his score on the MAST, this regular use of alcohol could also indicate an early problem. Mr. Morgan is encouraged to be aware of his family history and use caution if he plans to continue drinking alcohol. Mr. Morgan appeared to take the assessment seriously and appeared open about his current and previous use, however, his slightly higher than average DEF (6) and low SYM (2) score on the SASSI indicates he may have minimized his use history and the significance of the negative impact substance use has had on his own life and the life of his family. Most significant to me is the role alcohol has played in relational conflict in his family history. He reports that his paternal grandmother would have a drink before bed and one of his paternal uncles drowned in what he assumes to have been an alcohol related accident. He also reports that his mother separated from his father due in part to his father's drinking. Mr. Morgan does acknowledge that at least in part, his own conflict with his wife was related to his use of alcohol.

Although he has evidenced poor judgment in the past regarding his use of alcohol and other substances, Mr. Morgan does not appear to be breaking the law currently and appears to be able to discontinue use of alcohol when necessary or desired. While Mr. Morgan's family and work environment expose him to alcohol regularly, he states that his family and friends would support his decision if he chose to discontinue the use of alcohol altogether.

If Mr. Morgan were to be charged with another legal infraction related to alcohol use, I would strongly recommend some level of treatment, be it an intensive outpatient program or an educational/support group. At this point however, no formal treatment recommendations are being made. Based on clients life experience and familiarity with alcohol and other substances, I do recommend substance abuse education and work on values clarification regarding usage.

Signature of Evaluator:

Mark D. Catalano, MS, LCSW