

Case managers deal with an array of individuals who are a part of various lifespan development groups; I will first focus on those in the early/middle adulthood who are individuals between the ages of 20 to 50 years old. The early/middle adulthood years are crucial in developing into the individuals they were destined to be; abiding to age norms and their social clock. The Barton parents live with the maternal grandmother and their four children in the grandmother's home; with an active relationship with their eldest daughter's boyfriend. I was introduced to the Barton family in the fall and anticipate working with their family throughout the year. For this lifespan development group, I will focus on the father, mother, and boyfriend.

Comment [jk1]: 2 words in this instance...

Comment [jk2]: Are you suggesting some sort of pre-disposition of who we will end up to be as we age, etc.? OR do you want to use a different word than 'destined'? i.e. 'they have the potential to be' – or some such descriptor?

Comment [jk3]: Nice approach here...

Assessment and Identified Needs

The forty-three year old alcoholic father has poor health due to a previous work-related injury, and has with a fifth grade educational level. The father reports to be a self-taught handy man working in the construction industry and often has his fourteen-year-old son join him on the jobsite. He reports to self medicating with various alcoholic beverages to sustain his chronic neck and back pain due to his inability to seek medical assistance and/or pay his overdue medical bills. He is unable to seek any medical assistance due to his injury being caused by him drinking on the jobsite. His family reports him having violent verbal outbursts late in the evenings, especially after he self-medicates himself. His wife's family disapproves of his behaviors and blames him for their family's misfortune. He is in need of medical, employment, housing, alcohol anonymous support, anger management, food, childcare, and parental support. (a good list here)

The forty-one year old mother of four has relatively good health, works two part-time jobs with a high school education level, and heavily relies on her children to tend to the family needs. She has moved her family into her grandmothers' home with the intent to take care of her ailing grandmother and upkeep up the home. Due to her work schedule, she relies on her three older children to tend to their younger siblings, gather food for the entire family, and be caregivers to their great-grandmother. The mother is in need of employment, medical, housing, food, childcare, parental support, and domestic violence support.

The Barton's oldest daughter is seventeen years old and has recently become pregnant by with her twenty-two year old boyfriend. He does not report living at the great-grandmother's home with the rest of the Barton family, but has an active relationship with the Barton family

members. He reports working full_time on his family's seed farm, but does not report providing any support to ~~his her recently u~~ underage pregnant girlfriend. Though he may not report any further concerns, he will need new parental support to prepare for his unborn child. Good idea to include him in the mix here...

Referrals and Anticipated Outcomes

The father, mother, and daughter's boyfriend need various services to help assist them in bettering their current lifestyle. They are fortunate to have each other as support allies, but need support ~~for~~ from local agencies and organizations to better accommodate their needs they are unable to meet on a daily basis for the entire family.

Comment [jk4]: This has a vey judgmental ring to it – may want to simply state something like, '...assist them in meeting their various needs...'

Medical

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) offers an array of services, and the most commonly known is their Medicaid and Healthy Options program for adults and children. I recommend that both Barton parents and the boyfriend apply for medical benefits. If the father is approved, then he will hopefully use his medical insurance to seek proper health advice for his chronic neck and back pain. I anticipate him having difficulty advocating for his rights as the head of the household because he is unemployed. I hope that if he does follow-up with these services, his chronic neck and back pain could dissolve into something more manageable without having to rely on alcoholic beverages to ease the pain. Though the mother does not have any current health issues, she could potentially have an underlining-underlying health condition she is unaware of. Women are recommended to have an annual physical to identify any concerns in regards to her menstrual and menopause cycles. If the mother does not apply for medical benefits through DSHS, she could seek medical advice from the local Planned Parenthood or a community clinic that provide services for a set fee. These agencies also have an array of other services they may provide, such as the Pregnancy Care Clinic provides clothing, formula, and diapers for any individuals needing parental support for both parents. I anticipate the mother struggling to find the time to seek medical advice between her two part-time jobs and following up with future appointments. If the mother follows up with these medical services, she will continue-be more likely to have good health to better take care of her family. Though the boyfriend is five years older than the Barton's oldest daughter, he should consider his medical

Comment [jk5]: It is hard for a lot of us to advocate for ourselves – especially if we have never been taught how...

Comment [jk6]: Great point...

Comment [jk7]: By whom? Be sure to site your sources of info – to show this is not only based on your opinions, but rather on the opinions of experts...

Comment [jk8]: A realistic challenge

obligations for his unborn child. If the girlfriend has yet to seek medical benefits, he should consider acquire medical insurance to cover prenatal care and post-prenatal cost. The boyfriend may be questioned of the age difference and could have difficulty getting approved because of this. If anything, the boyfriend could acquire the information and assist the girlfriend in applying for these medical benefits.

Comment [jk9]: Yes – it is important to not overlook his responsibilities...

Mental

The family is dealing with several underlining mental issues and could overall benefit from family and individual therapy sessions along with individual support groups. The family is concerned with the father's outburst in the evening after self-medication, and on behalf of his families-family's request I have referred him to seek anger management courses and other support groups to get him through recovers. I anticipate the father pursuing Mental Health counseling through the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR), but denying he has mental issues. I have also suggested the mother to seek Mental Health counseling to debrief on her living situation and family concerns. I anticipate this service helping the mother to better cope with her stress levels and improve her relationship with her family. Unplanned pregnancy is often a difficult situation to grasp – the boyfriend is prone to increasing anxiety and stress levels into preparation of becoming a father. Counseling sessions may assist him to better cope with the anticipated stress of becoming a father and I anticipate him including his girlfriend for future family counseling sessions, which may better unify their relationship for their future child.

Comment [jk10]: Mental health continues to be very loaded with subjectiveness and negative connotations for people who utilize mental health services. Therefore, I think this is one of those sensitive areas where you will benefit a great deal from having a lot of support and explanation for your opinions – why do you think there may be some mental health issues? Be sure to use support from experts here – this will really strengthen you rease...

Comment [jk11]: May want to explain why

Comment [jk12]: Again, why? Be sure to explain (I agree that this could be helpful – but we need to explain why – most people will reject a suggestion like this, and many will even be offended by it without enough reasoning provided)

Support Groups (Alcohol, DV)

There are various support groups available within the community, but a majority of the individuals seeking these services often deny they have an underlining issue. I have referred the father to seek guidance from one of the seven local Alcoholic Anonymous groups in the North Whidbey area and/or apply for DSHS Alcohol Abuse Services to assist him in overcoming his addiction to self-medication with alcoholic beverages. I anticipate some resistance from the father seeking help with these support groups because he may not consider it as an addiction or see that he is hurting his family with his anger outburst. Many women tend to not acknowledge themselves being in an abusive relationship/situation, but I advise the mother to seek support from Citizens Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse (CADA). I anticipate the mother recognizing

Comment [jk13]: Realistic...

that she has her family dealing with the abusive behavior from her husband and should advocate for their needs of a healthy and nourishing environment. All three individuals could ~~all~~ benefit from parental support groups that allow them to discuss their concerns and accomplishments with other struggling parents through the Women Infant Children (WIC) program provided by the Island County Public Health Department. I anticipate all ~~there~~ individuals become better parents and members of their families. Similar points here with the DV issues as with the mental health – this is a very sensitive area, and one that would no doubt make Paul defensive (and perhaps the rest of the family), and so will be very important to explain the reasoning for this suggestion...

Comment [jk14]: Or three?

Clothing & Nourishment

The Barton family is constantly growing and I have advised ~~to~~ them to seek the services of the local thrift stores, churches, and the non-profit organization Rice Bowl who provider free clothing to the community. The WIC program not only provides parental support groups, but food vouchers to be used in their local convenient store. There are also several food banks, churches that provide community meals, and community gardens where they can get hold of other nutrition items for their family. I have also referred them to DSHS to apply for food stamps and to apply for free/reduce lunches through their children's schools. I anticipate the family being able to provide adequate amount of food for the entire family with the support of these local services.

Comment [jk15]: A good, practical suggestion here...

Comment [jk16]: Excellent program idea

Good ideas...

Employment

I have referred all ~~there-three~~ individuals to seek employment services from Work Source to better improve their educational level, resume and job search, and increase their employment skills. They may also be eligible for scholarships and/or grants through this organization to help further their educational career. Though the boyfriend and mother already have some type of income, this organization will assist them in finding stable employment potentially with benefits that may or may not be better ~~then-than~~ their current position. I anticipate having the individuals utilize their resource to help better their family's income and lifestyle.

Comment [jk17]: Again – be careful with this term... -- what do you mean here? (lifestyle is often equated with family culture – and if one were to tell someone to better their culture, it may cause some alarm...)

Child Care

If the three individuals are successful at utilizing Work Source to become employed in a more secure position, they will need a reliable child care provider. The DSHS provides a Working Connection Child Care Program to help families with their child care fees. This program has various requirements as to what they consider an approved child care provider, but the service does allow them to work without the stress of who will watch their children.

Comment [jk18]: And even if they don't get new jobs ---

Housing

Though they live in the grandmother's home, the house does not accommodate all their needs and the condition of the home is declining. I have referred the family and the boyfriend to seek housing assistance through DSHS and/or the Habitat for Humanity of Island County. Both programs have different requirements, but providing a secure and healthy environment for the family will help promote a better lifestyle. I anticipate the family following up on these services and acquiring a more adequate living situation for the entire family.

Plan of Action

I will work with the Barton family to overcome their adversity throughout the next twelve months to hopefully prevent any future problems that may delay them to living a better lifestyle. I will follow-up on the referred services as well as focusing on late adulthood during their next consultation. I will assess the grandmother and refer appropriate services to meet her daily needs. You have identified some very helpful services for the family –some that I think they could really benefit from using. A good look at the priority areas for the family – and nice range of service ideas. As noted, be sure to provide ample support for your ideas – to back up your opinions with info from experts – otherwise you may not be taken seriously, etc... -- As noted, there are several typos/writing errors to watch out for – may want to have someone proof the paper for you one final time before turning in. It would be great to see a bit more discussed about the general concepts of the specific stage of focus (so for next time, would be old age, or late-adulthood). Generally positively written – although as noted be careful not to use judgmental terms such as lifestyle change, etc. – its better to simply discuss the facts – and then they (or other readers) can see what behaviors, etc. may need to be changed in order to reach the goals they may have for themselves... Good prioritizations provided – I think if you address these suggestions for your next paper it will be very strong. Thanks. 7