

Appendix A
Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment

Person Details

Mass Health ID Number: xxxxxxxxxx

Name: AJ Viera

Age: 14

Race: Caucasian/Black

Primary Language: English

Current Living Situation: Single mom

Client's Mass health Plan: xxxxxxxx

Enrollment: 6-13-2010

Date of Birth: 03/18/1995

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Language at Home: English

Other: Sister - Tisha, also enrolled

Child CANS Information

Certified Assessor: Laurie Beckel

Phone Number: xxx-xxx-xxxx

Is Currently Enrolled in ICC: Yes

Place of Assessment: Home and Community

Level of Care: ICC

Employer: Child and Family Focus

NPI Reason

Other

Diagnosis

Axis I: 312.8 – conduct disorder, 313.81-oppositional defiant disorder

Axis II: none

Axis III: substance use

Axis IV: problems related to interaction with legal system, educational problems

Axis V: 56

	0	1	2	3
Diagnostic Certainty			X	
Prognosis			X	

SED Determination

1. Does the child meet the part 1 SED criteria? Yes
2. Does the child meet the part 2 SED criteria? Yes

Signature

Date

Family Strengths Needs and Culture Discovery

Date: July 23, 2010

CSA: Child and Family Focus

Care Coordinator: Laurie Beckel

Family Partner: Edie Martinez

Information gathered from: Mariam, Anthony and AJ Viera, Tina Jones (Child Welfare Case Worker, Keith Overhouse (probation officer), and Samuel Wilkerson (therapist)

Family Vision: We are the best parents we know how to be. AJ is off probation because he is drug and violence free, and is succeeding at home and school. AJ has the respect of both parents and peers.

Life Domains and CANS Scores

Family and Residential

Family	2	Optimism	1	Housing Stability	0
Parenting Roles	0	Resiliency	1	Parental Supervision	2
Family Identity	1	Family Stress	2	Parental Organization	1

Mariam and Anthony Sr. were married six months before AJ was born. AJ's biological father had a very short relationship with Mariam and is no longer in the picture. Anthony and Mariam decided to name the baby after Anthony and call him AJ. Anthony has been the father ever since. Mariam and Anthony were married for 12 ½ years prior to divorce. They divorced a year and a half ago and they both love their children and are trying to work together to raise them. AJ is 14 years old and prefers being away from Mariam's house because of the noise and confusion Tisha causes.

AJ identifies with his family and enjoys and respects both parents. He does not like the extra confusion and demands on his mother's time with Tisha. At times he will play with Tisha and they get along fine but often he prefers to be away from her. AJ is optimistic about his future. He feels that once he gets off probation and into a school he likes things will be good. He has been making better choices and recognizes his strengths that can help him to that good future.

Mariam was largely raised by her grandmother who was always there for her. Her parents had many marital challenges around money, jobs, and domestic violence. Mariam knows she has caused challenges for her kids with her own drinking and divorce from Anthony. It is important to her to be there for her kids like her grandmother was for her, and not let problems she might have influence their parenting. She saw both of her parents bash the other parent to the kids, and she is determined not to do that to her kids.

Extended Family and Natural Supports

Natural Supports	1
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AJ is 14 and his best friend and cousin (Nyrell) is around a great deal of the time. AJ is small for his age and got along in school until 5th grade which is about when the divorce happened, and Mariam's drinking escalated. AJ has friends in the neighborhood and at school but many of them use marijuana and other drugs and egg him on in fighting. AJ's dad taught him to fight and defend himself when attacked, which is a core value of Anthony's, who grew up on the streets.

Mariam's best friend is Cara who lives a few houses away. She and Mariam are both in recovery and support each other. They talk daily and get together most days. Mariam has a sister LaRisa who she does not talk to often but who is there for her as a last resort support when she needs child care for Tisha. LaRisa's son Nyrell is a year older than AJ. They spend a great deal of time together at LaRisa's or Anthony's apartment, and at school, and are more like brothers than cousins. They also hang around the neighborhood together. Mariam is a private person and except for Cara has no close personal friends. She once had a close relationship with her sister but that is no longer true. Her sister feels that Mariam was at fault in the divorce, was a bad mother, and generally blamed Mariam for what has gone wrong in Mariam's life.

Legal

Child Welfare	0	Juvenile Justice	2	Adult Corrections	0
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Mariam and Anthony's divorce was final a year and one-half ago. Mariam has custody of both children, and they work out visitation. AJ has been arrested twice related to fights in which he seriously hurt another youth. At the time of his most recent arrest, AJ was found to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana. His probation requires him to keep a curfew of 8:30 school nights and 9:30 PM on weekends. He also gets random drug screens and has to attend school and stay out of fights. He is currently expelled from school over a fight. Further violations could result in a placement in juvenile detention. Keith Overhouse (probation officer) says he has hope for AJ because he is "a smart kid" who is not looking for trouble but also says that if he has more reports of aggressive behavior he could get his parole revoked and he would go to a lock down group home.

Cultural Identity

Cultural Identity	1	Knowledge Congruence	2	Expression of Distress	1
Cultural Rituals	0	Help Seeking Congruence	0	Spiritual Religious	3
Language	0				

The family is multi-racial and AJ embraces his African American and Hispanic heritage. His closest friend is his cousin Nyrell, who is African American and his father Anthony Sr. who is Hispanic. AJ enjoys spending time with his father working out and playing in pick-up soccer games. There are a group of the soccer players (mostly Hispanic) who get together after the game and watch "real" soccer from Europe or South America. The family celebrates traditional American holidays and Anthony's friends have a big Cinco de Mayo day that AJ and his cousin enjoy. At times AJ feels his multi-racial heritage causes people to look down on him but he does not dwell on it. Anthony and Mariam respect the helping opinions of the professional staff about AJ's and Tisha's issues, but don't feel comfortable or confident that they can use the information to help AJ. They are willing to take help offered and openly express their concerns for both their children.

Health and Development

Health of child	0	Developmental disabilities	0	Parental development delay	0
Health of other family	0	Medication adherence	0		

Mariam, AJ and Tisha are healthy and don't have any current medical concerns. They now regularly visit the health department clinic for check-ups as required in the child welfare and juvenile justice plans.

Behavioral and Emotional

School Behavior	3	Oppositional	1	Eating Disorder	0
Psychosis	0	Conduct	2	Personality Disorder	0
Hyperactivity/Impulsivity	2	Adjustment to Trauma	0	Sanction Setting Behavior	2
Depression	0	Emotional Control	2	Parental Mental Health	0
Anxiety	0	Substance Abuse	1	Parental Substance Abuse	1

AJ has been seeing a therapist at the mental health center for the past five weeks (Samuel Wilkerson) as part of his court ordered services. He has had three individual sessions and Mariam and Anthony have gone with him twice. Mariam and Anthony find that Samuel has helped them and AJ understand some of his behavior and the things they might do to help. AJ says Samuel is OK but he does not see why he has to go down there every week. Samuel says that AJ has some self-image issues because of his size and some anxiety about his safety. He says that AJ has been open with him and the family seems to really want things to go better.

Mariam began drinking as a teen and then it seemed like she was drinking more and it was causing a problem. When she ended up in the ER with Tisha over a fall that Tisha took, she was aware she was under the effects of alcohol and it scared her. She did not want to be the kind of Mom her mother had been. She knew that Cara had quit drinking with AA. Mariam talked to Cara, and decided AA was not for her due to her need for privacy. Mariam maintains her sobriety by talking to Cara, and Cara has taught her some 12 Step strategies. Mariam is proud of her recovery, but also knows it is shaky due to stress. Mariam is concerned about Anthony's drinking but feels he does not drink when he has the kids. Anthony does not feel that he is an addict.

Independence

Self Care	0	Judgment	2	Parental financial resource	1
Independent living skills	0	Financial Resources	0	Parental involvement	1
Transportation	0				

AJ takes care of all his own self-care areas and is proud of creating his own styles in grooming and clothing. He is street smart and knows how to stay safe in the neighborhood. He manages the money he earns helping Anthony at his job, fixes his own breakfast and lunch many days and keeps his room reasonably clean and organized for a fourteen year old boy. AJ has made some poor judgment calls in the past at school and in the community but is doing neither since he was placed on probation.

Anthony has his work van which can be used to get to appointments. Mariam and AJ can walk most places they go and are close to the bus line when they need to go further. Cara has a car and they often do their shopping together.

Anthony and Mariam make enough money to meet their needs but it is a month to month challenge to get all the bills paid. They want the best for their children and reach out for help but are not comfortable or confident they have gotten what AJ needs.

Education and Vocation

School attendance	3	Learning disability	0	Educational system	2
School achievement	3	Educational resource system	3	Vocational	0

AJ did ok in school through sixth grade. He began having some problems with rules and motivation in fifth grade. He had a teacher, Ms. Lilly, who took a special interest in him and he had a pretty good year even though he was starting to show signs of defiance. In middle school, his problems escalated. AJ says the only class he likes is shop and that Mr. Jackson, his shop teacher, is pretty cool. Mr. Jackson says AJ is a hard worker and quick on shop projects. He seems to like anything to do with cars. AJ was suspended for his fighting and is at risk of permanent expulsion if his fighting does not stop. He enjoys helping his dad and Nyrell set-up and clean-up after painting jobs. He is a hard and steady worker.

Mariam finished high school and has worked in several retail and beauty shops since that time. She is a hard worker who got good references. She missed work during her time of heavy drinking, and was laid off from the last few jobs. She has not been able to maintain work due to not having child care for Tisha. She wants to go to work and earn money because she is using up her small savings. She would like to get more education and says her sister is an LPN, which interests her. She is under so much stress; she reports she does not really know what to do. Anthony holds a steady job as a house painter. He is happy with his work.

Social

Social skills	2	Community connections	1
Sexual development	0	Interpersonal skills	2

Mariam has not had time for recreational activities for a few years. She enjoys socializing with Cara. She enjoyed working in the beauty shop where she cleaned up and greeted people when the greeter was cutting hair. She used to enjoy family dinners and outings, but the family has not done any of that for a while. She likes watching movies with AJ. When she and Anthony first got together, she liked to dance and enjoyed quiet time.

Anthony enjoys being in the park with AJ and Nyrell. They play video games together, which AJ and Nyrell do well (better than Anthony, Anthony reports!). AJ likes the games with quick reaction times and plays agility sports and Nyrell's Wii system. He and Nyrell work out, sometimes with Anthony, who has a value of being in shape. They also play soccer but the coach at school will not allow AJ to play due to AJ's fighting. Nyrell will not go out for soccer if AJ is not allowed to play. AJ and Nyrell like to walk around the neighborhood and say they would like to work on cars, although they never have up to now.

AJ has a few close friends and has good interpersonal interactions with them. On a larger community level or at school, he can be stand-offish and threatening when he feels people are making fun of him or getting too close. He is community safe but has a history of some aggressive behaviors and vandalism in the community.

Mariam gets along well with others and has enjoyed jobs where she is around other people. She has one very close friend, Cara, who lives right around the corner. Mariam says "Cara is my rock". Cara is also in recovery from alcohol addiction and has two children. One, Ruby, is about Tisha's age and although they do not play together due to Tisha's outbursts, they tolerate each other when their mothers visit or when Cara or Mariam are doing child care for each other. Cara

says that Mariam has had a real hard time with alcohol, divorce, AJ, and especially with Tisha, but that she is a strong and positive woman who will see it through. She says that Mariam is the one person who accepts her for who she is and is always there for her.

Mariam dreams of being able to date and to establish another relationship, but knows that until some of her problems get better, there is no way to have a male friend. Anthony is dating but has no serious relationships.

Psychotropic Medication

None at present

Safety

Suicide risk	0	Sexual aggression	0	Fire setting	0
Self-mutilation	0	Runaway	0	Bullying	0
Other self harm	0	Delinquent behavior	1	Exploited	0
Danger to others	2				

AJ has been involved in fights in the community and at school that got him on probation and expelled. Nyrell is good at calming AJ down and diffusing the situation. These incidents are all related to specific triggers and do not take the form of bullying. AJ will leave the house when he becomes upset with the noise but always comes back that night or stays at Anthony's or Nyrell's and calls home. Mariam has done a good job of not drinking for the last year. When she did drink, there have been safety issues. Mariam, AJ and Anthony have been very frustrated with AJ's behavior and have expressed enough concern that they could injure her when she is thrashing around. The family is very concerned about AJ.

Spiritual

The family has not been part of a faith community and has no interest in doing so at this time.

Financial

Mariam, Tisha, and AJ live in a duplex that is satisfactory to her and allows her to save a bit of money so she can stretch her savings. She learned to be thrifty from her Grandmother. She feels the neighborhood is safe enough most of the time and she has enough street smarts to keep her and the kids safe. Her best friend Cara lives a few houses away. Her sister lives less than a mile away. Anthony Sr. lives in a small apartment with two bedrooms so AJ can sleep there sometimes. Mariam does not have any other friends in the neighborhood. Mariam is sometimes overwhelmed with all the demands for both children and their related services. She cares deeply about them and has made progress with organizing things so she can manage.

Needs:

- AJ needs help to get off probation. To do this, he must meet nightly curfews, be clean on random drug screens, and attend school each day, and be free from violence to others
- Mariam has a sister nearby she would like to have closer relationship with
- AJ needs help to find and engage in more activities with people who will not tempt him to smoke marijuana or get into fights
- AJ needs help to find a school vocational setting that he enjoys, and attend school regularly
- Mariam has a need to stay clean from alcohol addiction

Potential Team Members

- Mariam
- Anthony
- AJ
- Nyrell
- Cara
- Josie Brown school
- Keith Overhouse AJ's probation officer
- Samuel Wickerson (AJ's mental health clinician)

The strengths, needs and culture discovery was reviewed and revised as needed by Anthony, Mariam and AJ on July 27, 2010.