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Case Presentation

Misty Collins

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

SOCW 442

Kathy Purnell, MSW; Instructor

Craig Pressley, MSW; Instructor

Identify a client system available in the agency setting

The client seeking care at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute is a 47 year old Caucasian male who I will call Bob. He has been diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and is in custodial remission from alcohol and nicotine dependence. Bob was admitted to MBMHI on 3/27/96 as a transfer from the forensic services division of the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute. Bob was found not guilty by reason of insanity on the charge of first degree murder, having stabbed to death a male co-resident of that group home. Bob has been a patient at the agency for twelve years now and faces many barriers trying to be discharged.

Review the available social history information on the client system and then incorporate these added elements: functioning of the client system from an individual, family, and community perspective with an emphasis on strengths and resiliency.

Bob was admitted to MBMHI as a transfer from the forensic services division of the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute where then and since he continues to meet involuntary commitment criteria but no longer required the maximum level security for which MTMHI is designed. Bob was found not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) on the charge of first degree murder, having stabbed to death a male co-resident of that group home and judicially committed to MTMHI, forensic services division that same year. For several weeks before the victims death Bob had been contacting the mental health center telling them his life was in danger as he feared his own annihilation at the hands of who was later his victim. Bob believed that the victim was a serious danger and lethal

threat to him. Due to Bob's mental illness, he was placed in MBMHI instead of prison. If Bob were incarcerated he wouldn't receive the proper medication and treatment which controls his mental illness.

Bob has shown his remorse for the crime committed during forensic treatment team meetings but is not yet up for discharge from the agency. Discharge can not occur until it has the approval of two of the doctors on staff and it must then be approved through the court system. The dilemma is balancing his needs with the needs of society. Bob has a support system that is in place to assist him upon discharge. Bob must be allowed into the community to progress but the community must also be protected. Bob will be able to enter the community without harm to society, safety for himself and the community. He faces many biases that are against his release, including society not being ready for him to re-enter the community and doctors not wanting to be responsible for his actions after discharge.

Bob has an industrial therapy job that he completes at the facility to earn an income and give him some responsibility. He also works in the peer recovery center as a peer counselor, attends alcohol and drug counseling classes and anger management classes. These groups help to prepare him for his life after discharge from the agency. Bob consistently and actively participates in all assigned groups. He continues to take his medications as prescribed with no problems. Bob has demonstrated strong leadership skills in the peer support center and goes above and beyond expectations of providing support towards others in the agency. He participates in forensic group where concepts of danger

are explored and ways to prevent future relapses are explored as well. He has done well on staff-supervised leaves with peers and his parents. Bob attends treatment team to continue to work on safe judgment, especially relating to threats and what response is safe, appropriate, and most limiting of risk especially as it relates to his triggers involving real or perceived thoughts or actions by others.

Bob has many strengths that will assist him through the process of discharge and continue on with him while he is at a group home in the community. Bob enjoys sharing when he is with others at the agency and has a great sense of humor. He also holds an IT job at the agency where he has a strong work ethic.

Issues related to diversity should be identified and addressed.

Bob has not been exposed to many diverse populations; this is in part due to him residing at the agency for a long period of time. He is mostly around African Americans and Caucasians and is not exposed to many other cultures. Through unsupervised visits allowing Bob to leave the agency's premises, he will be exposed to a variety of cultures.

Identify another theoretical framework, which is appropriate for social work practice with this client system.

The theoretical frameworks that are appropriate for Bob are the strengths perspective and the systems/ecological theory. The strengths perspective focuses on the client's strengths, resources and coping abilities. This perspective applies to Bob by focusing on his strength of holding down a job,

earning an income, and maintaining a strong work ethic. All of this will assist Bob when he is discharged into the community. Bob will be able to problem solve for himself while the social worker helps him to identify and utilize resources. The systems/ecological theory focuses on boundaries and environmental interactions. This applies to Bob because he must understand the boundaries that the court sets for him upon discharge, such as him not being allowed back into the county where the crime was committed. Bob must follow through with the courts directions upon discharge to prevent him being admitted back into the agency again. The environment that Bob resides in will impact his recovery while in the group home. It is important that Bob is comfortable living in the group home and that he is able to interact in a responsible way with the other members of the home. The environment that Bob resided in last was partially responsible for his actions leading to the crime by ignoring Bob's complaints about his roommate's consistent harassment.

Develop an intervention plan with this client system, which is representative of sound generalist social work practice including evaluation of the actual intervention(s) itself.

Although Bob has made progress while at the agency and the doctors are willing to discharge him, it is ultimately up to the court system to approve his discharge. Bobs intervention plans consist of encouraging his continued participation in groups dealing with anger and insight. The staff will attempt to address any concerns that Bob has regarding his continued hospitalization to relieve his anxiety. Bob has also been encouraged to continue contact with his family. When he is approved and ready, coordinated placement with the mental

health center with gradual re-entry in the community along with mandatory outpatient therapy (MOT) and case management services will occur.

Develop a list of social work tasks and role, which would be utilized with this client system during the intervention process.

Social worker will follow up on contact made to the court about Bob's discharge into a group home.

Social worker will make a referral to a group home that suits Bob's needs.

Social worker will continue to encourage Bob to interact with his family.

Social worker will check to see if Bob is attending alcohol and drug counseling group and anger management group.

Social worker will address any issues regarding Bob's length of stay at the institution with him.