

Assessment-Heather

Heather suffers from Schizophrenia in which she has both positive and negative symptoms. One example of her positive symptoms is when she had distorted thoughts such as when she believed that boys have babies and girls don't. She also appeared to be having auditory hallucinations when she was holding a conversation with herself and believed that she had kryptonite in her body and by drinking coffee and coke it kept her healthy. Her speech was disorganized and at times was barely understandable. Her negative symptoms included her lack of motor skills which was witnessed when she kept spilling coffee out of her cup while talking. Her emotional expression was also affected more than once. She became angry when coming out of the house and seeing the two camera men there and when her mother told her she would have to return to the hospital. Once again we saw this behavior when she advised she wanted to go shopping for soap and became irate when nobody understood at first. She meets criteria B in that her social/occupational functions have been affected in that she cannot hold down a job and her interpersonal relationships are now much lower than at the earlier years of her life. This is witnessed in the fact that she now resides at a state hospital and cannot stay overnight at her parents' house.

The signs of disturbance have persisted for at least 6 months once again evidenced by her time at the hospital. I was unable to clearly identify a mood disorder at this time as I'm not sure her mood functions are not a result of the Axis I diagnosis. There was also no mention of Heather had ever taken any controlled substances when caused this diagnosis, and no history of Autistic disorder was mentioned.

Although she meets both criteria for 295.10 disorganized types, I believe that she is diagnosed 295.60 Residual Type of Schizophrenia. Although in the Residual Type it states it should be used when the current clinical picture is without prominent psychotic symptoms such as avolition and poverty of speech it does cover when there are two or more attenuated positive symptoms such as eccentric behavior and mildly disorganized speech. She also still has odd beliefs such as the kryptonite example. Delusions and hallucinations are present; they did not appear prominent and were not accompanied by strong affect. She was talking to herself and advised she had kryptonite in her body however she drank her coke and coffee and began to relax and was at no time a danger to herself. I believe she may have been in a transition stage between a full-blown episode and complete remission due to her coming home for visitation and the hospital releasing her and advising her they would not come get her if she came back it would be on her own. Residual Type also accounts for the disorder being continuously present for many years, with or without acute exacerbations, which her mother advised was the case.

(A) Heather did have delusions however I believe they were not prominent in her life which was indicated by her short time on the subject and did not seem to be of any

importance to her and would not be considered persecutory delusions as she does not fear them. She does have disorganized speech and behavior problems but they did not appear to be prominent either as was evidenced by when she did not want to go back to the hospital and after her mother explains the situation she calms down and agrees.

- (B) There is continuing evidence of the disturbance as noted above and Criterion symptoms of Schizophrenia are present in an attenuated (reduced intensity) form. This was evidenced by her ability to joke with the camera men and to agree that she would have to go back to the hospital. She also never talked of being in any harm.

Diagnosis/Codes

Axis I: Schizophrenia, Type, Episodic with Interepisode Residual Symptoms, With Prominent Negative Symptoms.

Axis II: V71.09 (No Diagnosis)

Axis III: None

Axis IV: Removal from home in which she resides at a mental institution.

Axis V: GAF= 38 (Current) Her behavior is influenced by delusions or hallucinations although in an attenuated state still affect her functioning. Her impairment in communication or judgment can at times be a major problem witnessed when she was at times incoherent and her actions were at times inappropriate