

Further Considerations

In addition to the questions to consider when referring clients for a mental health assessment, Child Welfare Professionals should consider and document the following information/observations, as it will help the Child Welfare Professional in engaging the client to connect him/her with the appropriate services. In addition, the information might help the Mental Health Professional in working with the client:

- Age of onset
- Number of previous episodes and type(s) of episode
- Medical history
- Familial history of substance abuse or Bipolar Disorder (or other affective disorder)
- Perception of support system
- Information about recent stressful life events
- Information concerning past or current manic behavior(s)
- Observations regarding change(s) in hygiene and/or speech

