

The Psychology Center

1609 Main Street

PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORT

Preliminary Report

Confidential Patient Information

NAME: Jewel M.

AGE: 14 years, 3 months

DATE OF BIRTH: April 6, 1997

DATE OF EVALUATION: August 4 & 5, 2011

ASSESSMENT METHODS:

Clinical Interview
Behavioral Observations
Psychosocial History

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – IV (WISC-IV)
Children’s Depression Inventory (CDI)
Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children (MASC)
Draw A Person (DAP)
Sentence Completion Blank
Three Wishes Technique

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Collateral interview with adoptive mother
Review of court counselor’s records

REASON FOR REFERRAL:

Juvenile Court delinquency charges pending

Jewel and her adoptive mother (AM) report that she has lived with her adoptive parents most of her life. Her biological mother (BM) was 15 when Jewel was born. BM was friends with the adoptive parents’ son and had spent time in their home. BM liked AM and when Jewel was about 4 months old, she asked AM to keep Jewel for her. Before that, she was in and out of town, living with various friends and relatives for short periods of time. Jewel speaks of her biological mother’s having “given her away,” although she says she understands why her mother could not take care of her. Jewel’s father is unknown.

When Jewel was about a year old, BM appeared out of the blue. When AM went to make coffee, BM left with Jewel. The adoptive parents did not see Jewel again until she was 2 ½ and BM called asking them to come get Jewel because she had been arrested. They drove to Virginia to get Jewel, and they adopted her the following year.

AM is a nurse and her husband is a truck driver. They have lived in the same home for over 20 years. Jewel expresses love and appreciation for AM but says she can't really talk to her about anything because she is always busy and doesn't understand anyway. She initially says little about the adoptive father (AF), but later discloses that he has a short temper and she avoids him as much as possible. He has slapped her occasionally and is more often verbally abusive. He has told her numerous times that she is going to turn out "just like her biological mother" and that she is "probably brain damaged" because her mother, BM, drank heavily the whole time she was pregnant with Jewel.

Jewel is in eighth grade and her school performance has been very erratic. Last year she was suspended for stealing a girl's watch – no juvenile petition was filed. She had other behavior problems and was placed in the alternative school. She said the teachers and the other students there "were all stupid," and that she was being treated unfairly. She especially missed participating in basketball. She had been on the junior varsity team at her regular school. She is back in the regular school now but has not been allowed to rejoin the basketball team.

Jewel has a boyfriend ("Shooter") she started seeing when she was at the alternative school. She admits that he abuses her, makes her help him sell drugs, and is "pretty worthless." Once he made her have sex with a friend of his, and he wants her to have sex for money to help him buy drugs. Jewel also says that Shooter – and sometimes her adoptive mother – are the only people in the world who care about her. Jewel reports that she drinks "once in awhile" and has been drunk about three or four times in her life. Once was the night of the incident that got her picked up by police. She had been at a party with Shooter. She says he was very drunk and started hitting on her and she just had to get away. She knows that taking the car was wrong, but says that she had no idea it was stolen. She says that hitting Shooter's brother was totally an accident because he stepped in front of the car as she was hurrying to drive off. At the same time, she expresses some guilt and remorse about her involvement in his being seriously hurt.

BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATIONS: Jewel was assessed while she was a resident of the Detention Center. She wore standard issue Detention Center apparel. Her grooming was appropriate. She is small in stature and looks younger than her 14 years. She was cooperative with the interview process, giving relevant and responsive answers to all questions put to her. She appeared to be quite willing to share her story with a sympathetic listener. Her speech was normal with respect to rate, tone, volume, and diction. Her affect was appropriate to the interview situation.

Jewel gave good effort on all aspects of the intellectual evaluation, demonstrating persistence even on items that were somewhat difficult for her. She also showed appropriate interest in and attention to the questionnaire and projective tasks that she was asked to complete.

TEST RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION: Jewel's responses on the Wechsler led to an overall score in the above average range of intellectual functioning (Full Scale IQ score: 120). She did less well on tasks that require visual-spatial analysis and nonverbal reasoning. Her performance on tasks that depend mainly on the capacity and stability of working memory was in the average range. Her performance on tasks that mainly require processing speed was above average.

Jewel reports relatively few symptoms of depression on the Children's Depression Inventory, about the same number as the average youth in her age and gender category. Depression does not appear to be a clinically significant issue for her, although she cannot be described as happy with her life.

Jewel also reported about an above average level of anxiety symptoms for a female of her age, on the Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children-10 Item. She reports some increased vigilance about her safety which is not unusual for youth who place themselves in somewhat dangerous environments.

Jewel's responses on projective tasks suggest that she is feeling considerable stress even though she is not clinically depressed or experiencing a true anxiety disorder. She expresses considerable ambivalence about her relationship with Shooter and his friends. Though she sometimes regards him as her "real family," she expresses a wish that she had never become involved with him. She expresses some desire to get out of the relationship, but also feels loyalty to Shooter and does not see a way to end her involvement with him.

SUMMARY AND DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION: The instability and chaos of the early part of Jewel's life most likely disrupted the normal attachment process that should have occurred. Although her overall relationship with AM is positive and has been a stable factor in most of her life, AF's attitude toward and treatment of Jewel have served to undermine the benefits of that relationship and of a home life that appears more supportive than it is. She has a strong sense of her biological mother's abandonment of her as well as a strong sense of loss from never knowing who her biological father is. She is vulnerable to other people, like Shooter, who will take advantage of her, and she sees no real alternative for herself. She comes close to meeting the diagnostic criteria for Conduct Disorder, and appears to be at risk for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Clarification of her diagnosis and specific recommendations require a more extensive period of evaluation. It is clear that she requires close supervision if she is to avoid further antisocial illegal behavior.

To Whom It May Concern:

August 3, 2011

This letter concerns a student of mine, Jewel M., at the Detention Center. I am the teacher at the Detention Center and have taught over 200 students since my arrival here in January, 2008. Since Jewel's arrival on May 20, 2011, she has made a big improvement behaviorally and has been allowed back in the normal classroom. She is also improving academically. She participates in class, does her own work, and completes her homework. This grading period she is passing all of her subjects with a "B" average in Math and an "A" average in English, Science, and Social Studies. Please take this into consideration when passing any judgment on her future. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me at (919) 955-2020. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marion Mobley

Marion Mobley

Lead Teacher