Clark County Truancy Program
Mental Health Screening Protocols: Administering MAYSI 2

Introduction

The Clark County Truancy Project (CCTP) intervention services focuses on reconnecting truant students with appropriate school programs. Standardized screening tools are used as part of the intake process to identify student needs and make appropriate referrals to community resources. The Massachusetts Youth Screening Assessment (second version, MAYSI 2) is one of the screening tools used to determine the mental health support needs of the truant youth.

Procedures for Administering the MAYSI 2

1. **When to Administer MAYSI 2**
   The Truancy Specialist's initial contact with a youth is usually via letter, phone conversation, or group orientation meetings. These are intended to introduce the Specialist and program to the youth and family. This usually happens at times and in places not conducive to interviewing or screening, so the MAYSI-2 will not be given during initial contact.   The Truancy Specialist's will administer it later, during an appointment to talk to the youth and/or parent about the truancy referral. The program policy is any screening will happen within 30 to 90 days of the initial contact.

2. **Where to Administer MAYSI 2**
   The MAYSI-2 will be administered in a quiet location with minimal distractions. If the youth takes the MAYSI-2 at school, then the specialist will try and secure a private office or location. The MAYSI-2 can also be administered to the youth at their home during a home-visit. During a home visit the truancy specialist will attempt to have the youth take the MAYSI-2 with as much privacy as possible, and it is preferred that the youth take the MAYSI-2 without the parent in the same room. This allows the youth the opportunity to freely answer all questions confidentially.

3. **How to Administer MAYSI 2**
   The youth will take the MAYSI screening via software on a laptop computer. Each Truancy Specialist will be assigned a laptop with MAYSIWARE will be loaded onto it. The Truancy Specialist will enter demographic information on the youth, and then they will bring up the screen that begins the MAYSI-2. The youth will put on a headset and MAYSIWARE will read each item to the youth. The youth will simply use the mouse or keyboard to respond "yes" or "no" to the 52 questions. The MAYSIWARE software program administers and scores the questionnaire.

4. **Introducing the MAYSI2 to the Youth**
   The tool should be administered to each youth in the same way. The introduction should follow a basic script. The tone of the introduction is very important. This should be done in a non-threatening way.

a. You should let the youth know that you are going to be asking them some questions to help you get to know them, how they are feeling, and about things they may or may not have experienced. You should let them know that you're trying to find out if they have any needs that you can help them with so you can find out if there is anything in particular that is preventing them from attending school.

b. It is important to let them know who or who will not see the answers of the MAYSI-2. The specialist should be straight forward about who will see the answers. Apparently the program does not intend to show the actual scores to others outside the Truancy program (see next discussion below). If this is so, the Specialist can tell the youth that their actual answers to MAYSI-2 items will not be shown to others.

c. It is also important to let the youth know that taking the MAYSI-2 is voluntary. There is nothing to be gained by insisting the youth take the questionnaire.

d. The specialist should be in the vicinity of the youth when they are responding to questions. As the youth begins to respond, the specialist should step off to the side, so the youth does not feel as though someone is standing over him or her. It is fine if the specialist answers questions about what a statement or a specific word means, remember, however, MAYSI is not a test of their academic level.

5. **Managing MAYSI Data**
    The MAYSIARE **progr**am stores each youth's MAYSI-2 scores and builds a database of all scores taken by youth in the truancy program. The Truancy Specialist can retrieve the youth's MAYSI-2 scores, and the program can review the aggregate mental health needs of youth entering the program. This information can be used to determine what types of referral services will best serve youth and families. In order to view the data in aggregate, data from each laptop will need to be merged to a central database. MAYSIWARE can export data to Excel or it can be exported to SPSS (Statistical Software for Social Sciences) for purposes of reviewing the program data.