

# Case Conceptualization Paper MH Intake for Client JW Debbie LewisVann.doc

*by* Debbie Lewis-Vann

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### Intake Report

#### CONFIDENTIAL

Client Name:	Jay Wu	Supervisor's Name:	Michele Hernandez,
Address:	2 Washington Street New York, NY 10004	MA, LPC, NCC, ACS	
Gender:	Male	Date of Interview:	02/02/2021
DOB:	Sept 15th, 1990	Date Report Written:	02/06/2021
Highest Level of Education:	Bachelors	Date Report Submitted:	03/00/2020
Current Employment Status:	Employed		
Current Marital Status:	Single		
Examiner's Name:	Debbie Lewis-Vann		

#### **Referral and Purpose of Evaluation:**

Client JW, presented for evaluation with hope for better to be understood, referred by a friend from within his religious circle. Client states he does not understand the reason why since early childhood into early adolescence he has difficulty with socialization and that he recalls been bullied in Middle and High School. Client states that he also has vivid imagination of been a cat and still does to date, noting that he believes he has Asperger and states that he often experienced challenges developing and maintaining social interaction with human being.

#### **Description of Client/Behavioral Observations:**

Client JW is a first generation born, Asian American male 30 years old, an only child to parents of Cantonese ethnicity originated from South China. He works as an IT Automator, is a single heterosexual with an undergraduate college degree in computer programing, who lives alone. JW

outward appearance; appropriately dressed in long sleeve white shirt and a black necktie, his hair was neatly combed, sitting upright as noticed from virtual lens. JW was cooperative and polite during his conversation however his thoughts wander off and he began to ask bizarre questions about cats, at times it seems that there was a disconnection of mind and body. During intake, JW would demonstrate awkward sounds, when asked about the sound he states, "I am a Cat Warrior" noticeable JW displayed indirect eye contact using a side view subsequently, he would restore to be a shy individual.

**Presenting Problem:**

Client JW's presenting problem seems to be aligned with symptoms for criteria A & B from the DSM-5 for Autism Spectrum Disorder further investigation will determine. JW's verbalized description of his childhood experiences and challenges socializing with peers, he has also indicated that he feels like himself when living in his imaginary world as a cat and been around his cats, (direct quote) "they understand me." He continues to describe himself, as well functioning with routines, most challenging are high school bullying and his inability to concentrate. JW, states "that he finds himself easily upset, often he becomes perturbed with people around him especially when they try to change his environment, I become angry and have mood swing which has led him to school suspension during high school because he bites into a boy's arm." He expresses that no one cares about his feelings, there is no justice for him because people think he is weird. He believes that his parents are ashamed of him because he is not like other Asian kids, recalling that at a very young age his parents told him that the children in his community were selfish and that they (his parents) would play with him. JW, stated that his awareness of allergy to cat fur was heightened at the of 15y/o. Despite his allergy his connection with cat grew because a cat rescued him from dogs' attack. JW responded no to psychiatric diagnosis or any form of medication, indicating that in Asian culture it is "social shame" and

states that his parents played along in his imaginary world to avoid him been notice by others in their community.

### **History of the Illness and Other Relevant History:**

JW continue to describe his experiences growing up, indicating that he learned more about himself while attending college. A friend introduced him to another student they stated, “you both are excellent in drawing” meeting this student who shared with me his social challenges once he became tested and diagnose having “Asperger” he began learning to manage his social and learning challenges. JW stated he learnt to write down things that would annoy him and what he noticed about himself, after much reading he self-diagnose, “Asperger and Attention Deficit.” He said, this is how I learnt to cope and managed my life in college.” JW, explained that growing up as a child, he did not have friends, not having any siblings he played by himself most of the time, both his parents worked. He recalled that in elementary school, his parents telling him that he must focus and pay attention in school and stop daydreaming. You are being placed in a special class so that you can learn, his mother told him at the age of 10. JW, said “the name calling, and teasing started and continued into high school, this was very hard many times I feared going to school, several times in Middle School I was sent to the nurse because I complained of stomach pain and was sent home.” JW said, “that he felt better been at home, no one understands me, and he did not want to be around his classmates, he would draw picture of his cat “my best friend.” When asked about going to the doctor. JW, indicated his visit to the doctor was twice yearly for school physical and vaccination because they did not have medical insurance and they only saw Chinese doctors.

JW said he believes, “post college life; working is good because I do my work and then go home, He has noticed the challenges of the past have returned, people from my church are noticing and

gossiping about me have caused me to stay away from general socialization to avoid any awkward situation, he has stated on several occasions he has demonstrated lack of emotion towards his church family by insulting individuals when they have tried to inquire about my about my awkwardness, Its much safer to be alone.” JW, paused for a while then said, “I am confused I taught I understood myself and that would be enough, but people don’t accept me nor care to understand who I am.” He lamented, “if only I had enough money to get professional help perhaps, I’ll be able to manage my life successfully. Amongst my professional peers JW stated that he ignores their comments with the attitude if they do not like it, then it is their problem, letting them (co-workers) know that he does not socialize outside of work keeps them at a distance” Since Covid-19, “co-workers’ relationship has been the lease of his issues.” working in IT people are generally low key on socialization. JW denies his knowledge of any family psychiatric or psychosocial illness/problems, domestic violence in home, sexual assault, sexual abuse nor his experience of date rape.

**Mental Status Examination:**



During session it was observed that client JW tries extremely hard to stay focus, several times his eyes were closed, when asked why? His reply was I am trying to be present but, in my head, I am thinking about, “Charr Warrior” what is that? JW, it is my Cat video game. Interviewer, ask client where does he feels most safe and why? Client’s response when I am a Cat. He continues to explain that sometimes he can see himself as a “Cat Warrior” and he would go from place to place and help people who are been picked on. What? He became excited with a strange laughter stating, “In high school I was a “Cat Warrior” when I bite the boy in his arm. What did the boy do to you? JW, said “they placed tum-tack upside down on my chair, when I sat down, I was hurt.” JW wandered off current and began to describe when he was in elementary school how a cat saved his life from dogs. Humm... How did you feel after biting the boy? He smiled



in a silly way and stated, “justice was served now they will leave me alone.” During JW narrative, he demonstrated delusional beliefs of cat powers, showing no remorse or empathy. His facial expression depicts a grin it was like he became another person.

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There is no implication of suicidal ideation, intent to harm or hurt anyone, no prescription drug, or OTC, abuse of alcohol, drugs, or herbs. His speech and thought’s structure were somewhat jumbled. Client also showed strength in his willingness seeking help for deeper understanding of his personality, impressively he showed deep compassion for individuals who are unable to defend themselves, during his delusional imagination of been a “Cat Warrior” JW implied he has a strong social network with him religious community but lacks the confidence to interact socially. He expresses warmth in his desire for social interaction once he has adequate self confidence and self-esteem JW feels he wants to learn how to be empathetic to their curiosity.

**Clinical Formulation:**

Based upon client JW’s presentation of symptomatic and description of his emotional and social behavior there is a parallel alignment associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), combined with social challenges, impulsive and emotional comorbidities. Early intervention such as Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) along with social skill application infused psychoeducational therapies have been known to improve communication, social skills, and other behaviors. The complexity of JW’s behavioral characteristics have been impacted by cultural and traditional beliefs and parental behavior influenced socio-culture scrutiny and may have hindered effective assessment and treatment intervention. Early delusional thoughts of  4 been a Cat and drawing pictures of cat motivated his desiring to isolate, learning and behavioral issues at school during childhood; not been able to focus, expression of anger, inability to be intuitively communicate with others. JW’s special interest in Cats and his delusional thoughts of

been a cat, created a safe space, adversely affected his self-esteem and image, impacting his social well-being while increasing vulnerability towards cultural ostracizing and school budding. His anger, rage and outburst are also reflection of his frustration and a desire to be understood. JW's behavioral patterns impaired his communication, perpetuating social fear, anxiousness, increasing social avoidance. Other co-morbidities: JW verbalized during intake, lacking empathy for others, repetitive patterns, daydreaming, and lacking focus highlights a working diagnosis for ASD, and Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD) as formulated in DSM-5 (2013). Due to JW's verbalization of his desire to protect vulnerable individuals like himself using his Cat power caution is necessary to evaluate, anger versus frustration should be considered. In recent research peer reviewed journal of child and adolescent psychiatry, (Klin & Volkmar, 2000, as cited in Dolfi et al., 2019) identified 7 therapeutic principles for patients with Asperger syndrome, number 6, "analyze the situation that generate frustration and the way in which patient's frustration affects the ones around." Client JW's expresses desired to socialized within his religious community and wishes that they could understand him. Overall client JW explicit anxiety does imply harm to self or those no further assessment is warranted at this time.

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## GRADEMARK REPORT

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FINAL GRADE

20/23

GENERAL COMMENTS

### Instructor

Debbie:

This was a great initial attempt at intake. Consider attention to your spelling and signatures at the end of the report in the future.

I'm not certain if this gentleman is connected with counseling supports but you may want to offer some supports for him via psychology today.

Good attempt to interview given the nature of the discussion. He definitely sounds like he is a bit detached from reality at times.

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PAGE 1



### Comment 1

being

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PAGE 2

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PAGE 3

QM

**Sp.**

Spelling error

***Additional Comment***

began

QM

**Sp.**

Spelling error

***Additional Comment***

learned (USA)

QM

**Sp.**

Spelling error

***Additional Comment***

Learned

PAGE 4

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QM

**Sp.**

Spelling error

***Additional Comment***

thought

QM

**Sp.**

Spelling error

***Additional Comment***

least



### **Comment 2**

Be sure to include:

Oriented x4, status of thought process, whether they confirm SI, HI, or A/V hallucinations.

QM

**WC**

Word choice error:

Sometimes choosing the correct word to express exactly what you have to say is very difficult to do. Word choice errors can be the result of not paying attention to the word or trying too hard to come up with a fancier word when a simple one is appropriate. A thesaurus can be a handy tool when you're trying to find a word that's similar to, but more accurate than, the one you're looking up. However, it can often introduce more problems if you use a word thinking it has exactly the same meaning.

***Additional Comment***

This writer inquired, " How did you feel after biting the boy?"

PAGE 5

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### **Comment 3**

Important to consider he has hx of having bit someone.

Should state no current intent to hurt...

### **Comment 4**



being