James Madison University’s Counseling Center

**Case Presentation Format**

Please prepare a one-page (front and back) case summary including the elements listed below. You do not have to address each sub-point, but use them as helpful suggestions when constructing your presentation. The first ten minutes of the hour will be for the group to read your case summary and then you will have the opportunity to highlight important elements of the case, treatment, and then to open the floor for questions that we have about your case. This will likely be a very interactive presentation.

*Note: When choosing a client to present, it would be helpful to present a client with whom you are still working. In this way, some use can be made of the feedback you receive and your questions to the group can be guided by questions you actually have about where you are going with your client.*

* **Identifying Information:** Age, gender, ethnic background, marital status, current occupation and/or class status and major, physical characteristics, manner of dress, number of sessions to date, other pertinent information

* **Reason for Referral:** How did the client get to your counseling center? Who/what was the referral source?

* **Presenting Problem and History of Problem:** What is the problem as seen by the client? Problem duration? Problem history? What has the previous treatment, if any, been?

* **Background Information:** Only include information pertinent to the group’s understanding of the client. In other words, don’t overwhelm us with too many details, but don’t leave out important background information for brevity’s sake.

* + **Family History:** What is the pertinent family background? What were the significant early events in the client’s life?

* + **Interpersonal Style and Relationship History:** What is the client’s pertinent interpersonal and relationship history?
  + **Medical History:** What is the relevant medical/psychiatric history?

* + **Religious/Spiritual Background:** How does the client’s religion or spirituality impact the presenting issue (if at all)?

* + **Academic History:** What is the relevant information about schooling/success/educational difficulties?

* **Assessment Results and Interpretation:** What, if any, assessments were given and what were the important findings?

* **Conceptualization:** Your integration of the cognitive, behavioral, emotional, and interpersonal aspects of the client synthesized into a comprehensive understanding of the client’s current functioning. Most often guided by your particular theoretical orientation, but may be grounded in your understanding of the problem as well.

* **Treatment Summary:** What are your long and short-term goals? What has treatment consisted of thus far? What has been the progress to date (if any) and how has progress been measured? Any changes in your approach since you first began treatment with this client? What techniques and theoretical base are you using? What has been your subjective/internal reaction to this client? How have you dealt with it (in supervision and/or with the client directly)?

* **Treatment Plan:** Specify your treatment plan for the future, making sure that it meets the standards of good care for the client’s issues.

* **Questions:** What questions do you have for the case conference attendees? Where/on what issues would you like feedback? What concerns do you have about working with this client that you would like addressed in the case conference? Ask specific questions that you would like addressed rather than letting the staff come up with them for you. In other words, feel free to take control of how you would like to see the discussion develop.