**Chapter 6:** **Assessment in Social Work with Individuals and Families**

[Bio-psychosocial-Spiritual (BPSS) Assessment and Mental Status Exam (MSE)](http://socialworkpodcast.blogspot.com/2007/02/bio-psychosocial-spiritual-bpss.html)

The Social Work Podcast with Jonathan Singer: The Bio-psychosocial-spiritual (BPSS) assessment is the means for providing context for the client's presenting problems. The purpose of each of the four life domains is discussed, as well as how the information is used in social work practice. Emphasis is placed on solution-focused approaches to assessment.

• How does each of the four domains contribute to holistically understanding the client? How do these domains contribute to a diagnosis?

• Children and adolescents communicate differently than adults. What is the role of the parent in the family counseling session?

• Why are your observations of the mental status of the client important? Do observations change over time? What is the significance of these changes for the assessment process?

• Identify specific strategies or techniques used to assess mental status.

[Irvin Yalom, Outpatient Group Psychotherapy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwnfWMNbg48)

Yalom has made significant contributions in group psychotherapy, which social work has employed.

• How important are relationships within group settings? What role does the facilitator serve in this video?

• Why did Dr. Yalom refocus the group conversation on sexual identity? Who benefited from this discussion?

• Why are group dynamics important to recognize? How does a social worker demonstrate leadership skills in the group process?

[SBIRT: Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment](http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/SBIRT)

From the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): "Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) is an evidence-based practice used to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic use, abuse, and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs. The SBIRT model was incited by an Institute of Medicine recommendation that called for community-based screening for health risk behaviors, including substance use." Social workers are ideal for screening clients for substance use behaviors.

• Describe the SBIRT process. How does the client benefit from this intervention?

• What happens if a person screens "positive" on one of these items? Are there local resources available to address the client’s needs?

• Why are social workers collaborating with health care professionals in the delivery of this assessment model? How does society benefit from SBIRT?