PERSON DIRECTED FRAMEWORK PRACTICAL FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS

(S)   Strategy: Simple description of what the person is actually doing / saying.

Critical Point: What is often described as "*challenging behaviors"* is the last resort kind of strategy and usually only chosen by the person when every other strategies have not helped them get their needs met. This is not only a strategy*,* but also a tragic and suicidal expression of unmet needs, as well as, the loudest (most effective) form of feedback the person is using:

•   In that specific context; With that specific person; At that specific point in time.
•   This feedback tells us that the person is not receiving what we are doing to help them the way we are intending it.
•   This is also expressing a preference and a request

(T)   Triggers: Something increasing the likelihood the person is going to use the specific strategy.

Critical Point: How we (or others) unintentionally contribute, and greatly increases the likelihood the strategy will be used by the person. By definition, this cannot be something the person is doing. It is something often unintentionally imposed on the person.

•   Most times when we do something like this with someone, we have "good reasons" and important needs.
•   This is something the person is not likely to experience positively (i.e., not helping them get their needs for choice, respect, understanding or cooperation met.)

(P)   Precursors: Feedback the person is offering us constantly.

Critical Point: These are also strategies and the way the person is communicating (escalating feedback) that their needs are not met and that we are not helping. This is what happens before ("warning" signs) the person uses the most problematic strategy and we experience the loudest form of feedback.

•   This feedback tells us that the person is not receiving what we are doing to help them the way we are intending it.
•   Always occurs after something we or someone else did (trigger) in the name of helping.
•   This is also a strategy, feedback as well as an expression of a preference and a request

(IR)   Initial Request: What the person was initially requesting.

Critical Point: This is often, but not always, something concrete / simple the person is hoping someone else will do to help them get their most immediate needs met:

•   In that specific context; With that specific person; At that specific point in time.
•   This is also a strategy, feedback as well as an expression of a preference and a request

(SE)   Setting Events: What is going on in the person's life making a strategy more likely to be used.

Critical Point: This is an environment, a condition, a circumstance, an event, a place or a time that makes the strategy more likely to be used by the person.

•   Conditions can be illnesses, symptoms of medical, biological, neurological or mental health issue, someone who is hungry or thirsty, tired, exhausted, pain, afraid, unsafe, terrified etc.
•   Circumstances can be: Boredom, isolation, loneliness, being out of money or cigarettes for example.

(O)   Outcome: What happens after the person uses the strategy.

Critical Point: The person is probably using the strategy because they have learned that it generally works for them. It helps them get their needs met somehow, even though it comes at a great cost in terms of their relationship with others.

•   So by looking carefully at what happens i.e., what the helper or others did or how the environment changed as a result of using the specific strategy, one can better appreciate the person's needs and preferences.

(D)   Debriefing: How we identify where the support process broke down.

Critical Point: This is a simple learning process and not a critical review. The goal is to reflect, learn and develop concrete agreements to insure that the staff and the person have the ability to respond differently in the future.

•   We want to be respectful and make it safe for everyone; We want to be open-minded and non-judgmental when exploring and reviewing a situation.

Person Driven Clinical Solutions