Foster Care Alumni Studies Final Production Copy Interview

Introduction

In order to build on and compare to previous work, the Alumni Studies interview was largely composed of measures and items from earlier projects in child welfare, psychology, and epidemiology. For specific sources, please see the variables list available at www.casey.org/research/alumni_studies/methods.htm.

The interview was developed by the project team to assess current psychological, health, financial, and social functioning, education and employment, birth and foster family history, services received, recent stressors, and perceptions of the foster care agency staff and foster parents. Average administration time was two to two and a half hours. Interviewing was conducted by trained interviewers from the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan. A respondent booklet, containing response scales and options, was used with many questions to provide visual reference for participants.

1 Revised: March 17, 2003. Compiled by Peter J. Pecora, A. Chris Downs, Ronald Kessler, Nathaniel Ehrlich, Steven Heeringa, Diana English, James White, Jason Williams, Carol Brandford, and Alisa McWilliams. For more information, please contact Peter J. Pecora, Research Services, Casey Family Programs, 1300 Dexter Avenue North, 3rd Floor, Seattle, WA 98109-3547 206/282-7300 www.casey.org/research

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As you think about your foster care experience, what are some of the most important things, people, or experiences that led to your success in life?

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

What could the agency who was working with you have done better?

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “There was no way the foster parents could have done better because the agency should not have picked these people as foster parents in the first place.”

AGREE ……………. 1

DISAGREE ………...2

The agency was correct in picking these people as foster parents, but should have given them better resources. (Do you agree or disagree?)

AGREE…………….. 1

DISAGREE………….. 2
W5  What else could the foster parents who were working with you have done better?
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________

W6  Could anything have been done to improve the move from foster care to living on your own?
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________

W7  If you could tell children coming into the foster care agency anything right now, what would you tell them?
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
W8 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: SEE COVERSHEET
R IS CASEY SAMPLE ..........1...HAND RESPONDENT THE AGENCY
CONTACT CARD AND (GO TO W8a)
ALL OTHERS .....................2...(GO TO W9)

W8a Here is a card that we would like you to fill out if you would be willing to
help meet the needs of children currently in foster care.

R FILLED OUT CARD AND GAVE IT TO MAIL ......................1
R TOOK THE CARD AND WILL MAIL IT LATER .....................2
R DID NOT TAKE THE CARD ..............................................3

W9 Would you like to establish a continuing relationship with the agency? What ways
might be best?

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

W10 Those are all of my questions. We really appreciate the time you’ve given us. Is
there anything else you would like to tell us at this time?

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

W11 EXACT TIME NOW: ______________________________
INTERVIEWER: GO TO COVER SHEET TO VERIFY ADDRESS
INFORMATION, AND OBTAIN CONTACT INFORMATION.
SECTION X

INTERVIEWER OBSERVATION: FILL THIS SECTION OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER LEAVING R’S HOME.

X1 Weather at time of interview:

RAINY, SNOWY 1
OVERCAST 2
HAZY; MOSTLY CLOUDY 3
PARTLY CLOUDY 4
CLEAR SKIES 5

X2 Was anyone else present during any portion of the interview?

YES 1
NO 5…GO TO X6

X3 Who else was present? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

SPOUSE/PARTNER  A
CHILD(REN) UNDER AGE 6  B
PERSON(S) AGE 6-17  C
OTHER ADULT(S)  D

X4 During how much of the interview was one of those persons present?

ALL 1
MOST 2
ABOUT HALF 3
ABOUT ¼ 4
LESS THAN ¼ 5

X5 How much was R distracted by (this person/these persons)?

A LOT 1
SOME 2
A LITTLE 3
NONE 4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X6</th>
<th>How was R’s understanding of the questionnaire?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EXCELLENT……….. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GOOD………………. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAIR………………… 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POOR……………….. 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X7</th>
<th>How was R’s cooperation during the interview?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EXCELLENT……….. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GOOD………………. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAIR………………… 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POOR……………….. 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>X8</th>
<th>How much did R seem to enjoy the interview?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A LOT...............................1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SOME................................2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A LITTLE..............................3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NOT AT ALL........................4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>X9</th>
<th>How much effort did R put into answering the questions?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A LOT………………. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SOME………………. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A LITTLE…………... 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NONE………………. 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X10</th>
<th>Did R use made up or meaningless words?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES ....................1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO......................5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X11</th>
<th>Did R answer some questions in ways that made no sense or that seemed totally unrelated to the question asked?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES ....................1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO......................5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
X12 Did R have a total lack of emotional responsiveness or facial expression that persisted throughout the interview?

YES .................. 1
NO .................. 5

X13 Did R behave if (he/she) was hallucinating? (e.g., as if hearing voices or seeing vision, lips move soundlessly, giggles to self – not just from embarrassment or shyness- glances over shoulder, as if distracted by a voice.)

YES .................. 1
NO .................. 5

X14 How much difficulty did R have reading the Respondent Booklet?

NONE.........................................................1
MODERATE DIFFICULTY......................2
COULD NOT READ AT ALL ..................3

X15 INDICATE WHICH QUESTIONS (IF ANY) THAT R HAD DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING.

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

X16 NOTE ANY ANSWERS THAT MAY BE CONFUSING TO EDITORS OR CODERS, AND PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION TO HELP CLARIFY THE SITUATION.

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
X17  THUMBNAIL SKETCH: WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW. DO NOT INCLUDE ANY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE IF NECESSARY.

X18  BE SURE TO THOROUGHLY EDIT THIS INTERVIEW AND COVER SHEET BEFORE MAILING THEM.