

April 21, 2016

Rhys Tucker, Chief Probation Officer  
The Bedford Municipal Court  
165 Center Road  
Bedford, OH 44146-2898

**Re: Clinical Alcohol and Drug Assessment for Erik J. Blotzer (DOB – 09/18/1991)**

Dear Mr. Tucker:

I performed a Clinical Alcohol and Drug Assessment for Mr. Blotzer in reference to his January 2016 disorderly conduct and possession of paraphernalia and cannabis possession charges in Cuyahoga County. This assessment included a 50-minute clinical interview by telephone, and the administration of:

- A Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST)
- An Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT)
- A Drug Use Disorder Identification Test (DUDIT)
- A general anxiety/depression screening

The following items provide a summary of the screening results, my diagnostic opinion and professional recommendations:

**MAST:** score = 1 / *NEGATIVE SCREEN*; no direct or indirect indication of problem alcohol use;

**AUDIT:** score = 5 / *NEGATIVE SCREEN*; scores of 8 or more indicate *hazardous use*, scores of 15 or more in men indicates *moderate to severe* disorder present

**DUDIT:** score = 0 / *NEGATIVE SCREEN*; scores of 6 or more indicate problematic use (“mild-moderate”), scores of 6 or more (male) suggest presence of mild or moderate condition, 25 or more indicate high likelihood of a severe disorder present

**Substance Use Risk Factors:**

- family history = extended family members with substance use problem
- prior DUI charges = N/A
- early onset of alcohol/drug use = N/A
- prior substance use treatment = N/A
- peer influences = N/A
- work environment = N/A
- contraindicated prescription use = N/A
- anxiety or depression symptoms = N/A
- general health problems = N/A
- current family stress = N/A

Risk profile = 1 of 10; low risk profile

**Present Use Status:** low risk problem alcohol use; no cannabis use since January 2016

**Anxiety/Depression Screening:** no clinically significant concerns reported

**Substance Related Legal History Reported:** denies any previous history of alcohol or substance related arrests/legal charges

**Clinical Interview/Summary:**

ALCOHOL - Mr. Blotzer's written screenings provided no indication of an alcohol use disorder at any level (mild, moderate or severe). He reported his normal use of alcohol prior to this charge as 4-6 drinks on 1-2 occasions per week. He also acknowledged use of 8-10 drinks on an estimated 10 special occasions (weddings, birthdays, etc.) per year.

Mr. Blotzer and I discussed his January 2016 incident and his general use of alcohol at length. Mr. Blotzer's clinical interview did not reveal a preoccupation with alcohol, continued use despite loss of control, use despite ongoing negative consequences in areas of major role functioning, or a tolerance condition. In my best clinical judgment, I was unable to find the incident or his overall history and presentation as indicative of someone experiencing a DSM-5 alcohol use disorder.

I did discuss with him two items of concern (binge pattern of use on special celebrations and family history of problem drinking) and shared with him World Health Organization standards for low risk problem alcohol use.

ILLICIT DRUG – Mr. Blotzer acknowledged initial experimentation with cannabis during his senior year of high school. He reported that his cannabis use increased to 4-6 occasions per week throughout college. Over the past year he reported smoking 3 times per week after work, before falling asleep, or if at social occasions where marijuana was present. Mr. Blotzer has abstained from cannabis use since January 2016. He reported experiencing initial psychological withdrawal symptoms and ongoing difficulty falling asleep. He denied experiencing any cravings for cannabis and denied any difficulty in abstaining from cannabis use. Mr. Blotzer appeared highly motivated to maintain his present abstinence in order to avoid future negative legal consequences and maintain his present employment. He denied experimentation with any and all other illicit substance categories including: stimulants, hallucinogens, inhalants, opiates, etc. I found no part of Mr. Blotzer report suspect of minimization or deception.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG – Mr. Blotzer denied any recreational use of prescription medications which are prone to abuse including stimulant/ADD medications, narcotic painkiller medications, and anxiolytics and sleeping medications. The interview did not reveal hesitation, discrepancy with his written screenings or other non-verbal signs of minimization or covering a prescription drug use problem.

**DSM-5 DIAGNOSIS in Reference to Substances:** F12.10 cannabis use disorder, mild, in early remission

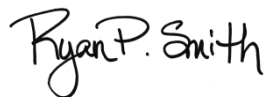
**Treatment Recommendations:**

- 1) Abstinence – recommend abstaining from all illicit substance use permanently;
- 2) Drug Testing – recommend random drug screens at the direction of probation officer;
- 3) If another negative consequence is incurred as a result of any alcohol or other substance use, it is recommended Mr. Blotzer seek an updated evaluation where minimum level of care is intensive outpatient treatment.

If the court possesses additional information about Mr. Blotzer's use of alcohol or drugs that might impact the outcome of this assessment, I would be happy to review it and consider any appropriate modifications or amendments to the present report.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist the court, Mr. Blotzer, and yourself in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ryan P. Smith MSW, LISW-S, LICDC, SAP  
SW Lic. #I.1000155-S, CD Lic. #101182  
cc: Erik J. Blotzer

**Prohibition against Re-Disclosure:** This information has been disclosed to you from records protected by Federal Confidentiality rules. The Federal rules prohibit you from making any further disclosure of this information unless further disclosure is expressly permitted by the written consent of the person to whom it pertains or as otherwise permitted by 42 C.F.R Part 2. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is not sufficient for this purpose. The Federal rules restrict any use of information to criminally investigate or prosecute any alcohol or drug abuse client. Drug abuse patient records are also protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), 45 C.R.R parts 160 & 165. (These conditions apply to every page disclosed and a copy of this authorization will accompany every disclosure.)

**Diagnostic Conclusions / Limitations:** Directions Counseling Group provides Clinical Alcohol Assessments based on objective and standardized screenings and interviewing methods as well as self-reported information. Clinical conclusions are made to the best of the professional's ability with data on hand at the time of the assessment. Expanded assessments which involve additional background research, collateral information and third party verification can be provided as an additional service upon request.