



Hand To Hand Collaborative Connectedness Scale - Procedures

The Hand To Hand Outreach Program uses the Connectedness Scale to assess the degree to which a client recognizes both informal and formal supports in her life that help her raise her child(ren). The Connectedness Scale provides an indication of whether the outreach activities successfully connect home visiting services with those women who are isolated and especially difficult to engage.

The Connectedness Scale is completed by the third home visit. There are three components to the Scale: a sheet of labels (balloons), another sheet of labels (agency/client information), and a drawing (the home visitor chooses between four drawings). The home visitor ensures that the client understands the activity and gives her encouragement to complete it, but does not guide, even subtly, the client's choices.

- The client is asked to select whichever “balloons” help her raise her child.
- If she relies on that source of support regularly, she may place the balloon close to the drawing of the woman. If she can rely on the support only sometimes, she may place the balloon farther away from the woman.
- She may place any number of balloons.
- She may wish to use the blank balloons to write additional sources of support.
- After the client has completed the activity by placing whatever number of balloons she chooses, the home visitor may engage in a discussion about ‘support’ as part of the service delivery. It is “strongly recommended” that the client not revise the Connectedness Scale – the selection and placement should be based on her first instinct, not as a result of dialog.
- The home visitor fills in and attaches a completed agency/client label to the Connectedness Scale sheet.

The home visitor collects the completed form (any unused balloon labels can be left with the client), and ensures that it is given to (*staff name*) for data entry. If the client wishes a copy of the form and/or labels, it is up to the discretion of the home visitor to offer them or not.

(*Staff name*) will then record the results in a designated database during the pilot phase.

Also during the pilot phase, you may contact the Program Evaluation Assistant, (*staff name*) at (phone number) (email address@xxxxx), to request more balloon labels, additional agency/client labels and/or more Connectedness Scale forms. If you would like to produce more copies in-house, (*staff name*) will email you the Word documents for the Connectedness Scale (four versions), the balloon labels and the agency/client information labels. To print the balloons, order Avery labels number 5293 (1²/₃" 600 labels per packet - laser). To print the agency/client labels, order Avery labels 6879 (1¹/₄" x 3 ³/₄", 600 labels per packet - laser).

The Hand to Hand Learning Community will meet in a few months to discuss the experiences of the home visitors with this pilot activity.