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October 15, 2018

Ms. Tanya Inotaev
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
506 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-3502

**CLINICAL EVALUATION AND
LEARNING DISABILITY EVALUATION**
Re: David Cohen

Tests Administered:

Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-IV
Wide Range Achievement Test-4
Writing Sample
Conners' Continuous Performance Test
Conners' Adult ADHD Rating Scale (CAARS)
Clinical Interview

Woodcock Reading Mastery Test (Revised)
Wechsler Memory Scale-III
Memory for Designs Test
Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test

Reason for Referral: In response to a request from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, David Cohen was evaluated by this Psychologist on September 26, 2018. This client presented a disability of bilateral hearing loss. He stated that he did not start to talk until he was eight or nine years old. Another disability is Tourette syndrome. He described it as "*slim to none.*" It was more severe when he was younger. He took medication in the form of Clonidine 1993. Presently he is taking no medication.

Prior to the evaluation the following materials were reviewed:

- Medical reports from Robert Wood Medical School dated August 4, 2018
- Intake information provided by the rehabilitation counselor
- Resume provided by David Cohen

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Re: David Cohen

According to information received from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Mr. Cohen was seen for evaluation on February 27, 2015. According to material received Mr. Cohen was diagnosed with Tourette syndrome in 1982. Mr. Cohen offered no complaints during his medical evaluation.

Information reviewed from the rehabilitation counselor indicated that David Cohen is residing with his mother in Highland Park. He is not employed. Documentation from Robert Wood Johnson School indicates mental retardation and Tourette syndrome. He also presents with hearing loss in both ears. He is not registered with DDD and does not collect social security benefits. It was felt that Mr. Cohen has difficulty processing and understanding questions. In interview, the rehabilitation counselor stated that Mr. Cohen provided answers unrelated to the topic or questions asked. Mr. Cohen's work experience is minimal.

Mr. Cohen was told the reason for the evaluation. He was told there would be a clinical interview followed by psychological testing. He agreed to the evaluation and signed a release form indicating that the results of the evaluation could be sent to the rehabilitation counselor.

CLINICAL INTERVIEW

David Cohen is a 36-year-old never married white male who is 6'2" and weighs 185 pounds. He was prompt for his appointment with this Psychologist. He was casually dressed. He wore bilateral hearing aids.

Mr. Cohen was found to be very nervous. He anticipates failure. When answering questions he stated, "I don't think I have alzheimers." He seems to get lost in testing. He stated "yikes" when he does not know an answer. Memory was found to be a problem. He worked very slowly. With serial sevens, he was able to subtract seven starting from one hundred on five occasions without making an error. It took him 22 seconds to make the mental computations.

In terms of his education this client attended West Orange High School for three years. For his senior year he attended Total Academy of Bergen County (TABC). He stated it was self-contained classes. He described it as a Jewish high school. When asked why he changed schools he stated that his parents divorced. During mediation with his parents the mediator felt he would be better off at a Jewish school. He also attended Fordham College where he received a bachelor's degree in English in 2005.

In terms of his employment record Mr. Cohen stated that he last worked at National Benefit Brokerage as a clerical administrator. He worked there six hours a day four days a week. It involved clerical and administrative work. Prior to that he worked at Shop Food Services as a customer service representative 16 to 24 hours a week. Prior to that he was employed at the Jerusalem Grill as a support staff member for a short period of time.

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This client has never been married nor does he have any children. When discussing his family he stated that his parents divorced in 1995. His mother is 61 years old and is employed as an administrative assistant at an insurance company. His father is 68 years old and is a retired insurance agent and stock broker. His mother remarried and is divorced again. This client has one sister 33 years old

When asked what life was like growing up Mr. Cohen stated it was good and he had friends. He was involved in the synagogue. He looked upon his early life favorably.

Significant medical problems include bilateral hearing loss. He takes no medications. He denied any severe head injury or seizure.

This client has never been in psychotherapy. He denied domestic violence. He denied anger management classes.

This client maintains he is not depressed. He has never attempted suicide nor does he entertain suicidal thoughts. Anxiety level is felt to be low. He has not suffered any panic attacks. He denied any problems with mood.

Sleep, appetite and energy level were felt to be good. He stated he has no problems with memory, attention and concentration. He denied hallucinations or delusions. He denied flashbacks or intrusive traumatic memories.

This client has never used drugs. He has never had problems with alcohol. Mr. Cohen has never been in trouble with the authorities. He has never been the victim or perpetrator of sexual abuse.

This client maintains that he gets along well with his mother. His favorite hobby includes cooking. He stated he gets along well with his sister. When asked what he wants most out of life he stated it was good health and making a living. He wants to help people. His social life involves synagogue participating.

When asked what assistance he would like from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, David Cohen stated he wants to work in an office.

LEARNING DISABILITY EVALUATION

The **Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-IV (WAIS-IV)** resulted in an IQ score of 71 placing Mr. Cohen in the borderline intellectual range of intelligence. The composite scores are as follows:

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SCALE	COMPOSITE SCORE	PERCENTILE RANK
Verbal Comprehension	83	13
Perceptual Reasoning	69	2
Working Memory	77	6
Processing Speed	71	3
Full Scale	71	3

The pattern of subtest and scaled scores are as follows. A scaled score of ten would be considered average for his age group.

VERBAL COMPREHENSION		PERCEPTUAL REASONING	
Similarities	7	Block Design	6
Vocabulary	4	Matrix Reasoning	5
Information	10	Picture Completion	3

WORKING MEMORY		PROCESSING SPEED	
Digit Span	7	Symbol Search	5
Arithmetic	5	Coding	4

Mr. Cohen did well in tests that reflect his fund of general knowledge whether gained formally or informally. However, he struggled with general vocabulary. He had difficulty with arithmetic reasoning. On the "vocabulary" subtest he was not able to offer a scoreable response to such words as curious, consume and tranquil. It certainly creates questions how he was able to earn a bachelor's degree in English at Fordham University.

The **Wide Range Achievement Test-4** was used to establish a level of academic functioning. The results for David Cohen's age group are as follows:

Subtest	Standard Score	Percentile Rank	Grade Equivalent
Word Reading	80	9	6.4
Sentence Comprehension	65	1	4.3
Spelling	74	4	4.7

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Re: David Cohen

Math Computation	78	7	5.1
Reading Composite	71	3	

With Word Recognition this client was not able to successfully pronounce such words as **contemporary, triumph and efficiency**. He did demonstrate success pronouncing such words as **tranquility, alcove and horizon**. On the Spelling subtest, 25 words were offered of which he was able to spell 13 words correct. He was not able to successfully spell such words as **minute, ruin, material and believe**. In the written portion of the Arithmetic subtest, he attempted to solve 29 arithmetic problems in a 15 minute period. Of these he was able to solve 18 problems correct. They were problems concerning the four basic functions and elementary fractions.

The **Woodcock Mastery Test** is a diagnostic instrument. The results are as follows:

Test	Grade Equivalent	Age Equivalent	Percentile Rank	IQ Equivalent
Word Identification	5.0	10-7	3	73
Word Attack	3.7	8-4	8	79
Word Comprehension	5.4	10-10	3	72
Passage Comprehension	4.2	9-7	1	64
Basic Skills Cluster	4.6	9-11	6	76
Reading Comprehension Cluster	4.7	10-1	2	68
Total Reading Cluster	4.7	10-1	1	67

All areas were found to be considerably below average range. With antonyms (words that mean the opposite), Mr. Cohen was told to pronounce the word and then present the word that meant the opposite. He was not successful with such words as **dark, enemy, whisper and doe**. With synonyms (words that mean the same), he was not successful with such words as **shove, zero, tale or carol**. He had difficulty with analogies.

The **Wechsler Memory Scale-IV** measures aspects of memory including auditory memory, visual memory, immediate memory and delayed memory. It is measured in an index with a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. The results for David Cohen are as follows:

<u>SUBTEST</u>	<u>INDEX</u>	<u>PERCENTILE</u>
Auditory Memory	47	0.1
Visual Memory	40	0.1
Immediate Memory	49	0.1
Delayed Memory	40	0.1

Re: David Cohen

Mr. Cohen has great difficulty with memory. It includes recalling what he hears as well as what he sees. On the "logical memory" subtest, Mr. Cohen was offered a paragraph of three to four sentences and told that he would have to recall as many details as possible from that paragraph. With a maximum score of 25 he received a score of three for the first paragraph and five for the second paragraph. It did suggest that he was only able to recall 12 percent of the material from the first paragraph and 20 percent of the material from the second paragraph. After 20 minutes Mr. Cohen was asked whether he recalls any information from either paragraph. He stated he does not recall any of the details. On the "visual reproduction subtest" Mr. Cohen was shown a series of designs for 10 seconds. The design was then taken away and he was asked to copy them from memory. He had great difficulty recalling what he had immediately seen.

The **Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test** is a series of nine geometric figures that David Cohen was asked to copy. He was able to view the figures as he copied them. He had great difficulty with this task. Testing does indicate neurological impairment. After he copied the nine geometric figures, they were taken away and he was asked to copy them from memory. Of the nine figures, he was only able to recall one of them.

The **Memory for Designs Test** is a series of 15 geometric designs presented to Mr. Cohen one at a time for five seconds. The design was then taken away and he was asked to copy it from memory. Mr. Cohen was only able to recall one of the 15 figures with some degree of accuracy. Once again, testing did indicate neurological difficulties.

The **Conners' Adult ADHD Rating Scale (CAARS)** was offered to Mr. Cohen. On this test 66 statements were offered to Mr. Cohen. Statements included the following, "I am an underachiever" or "I'm always on the go." Mr. Cohen was asked to select one of four answers. It included "not at all," "just a little," "once in a while," "pretty much often," and "very much, very frequently." Mr. Cohen was not able to complete this test. He had great difficulty. Although some of the items were read to him he still could not comprehend and respond.

The **Conners' Continuous Performance Test-II** is a computer generated test. A series of letters is flashed on the computer screen one at a time at different speeds and intervals. Mr. Cohen was told to strike the "mouse" every time he saw a letter except for the letter "x." This is a 14-minute test. Results of the test indicated there was an equal chance that the profile belonged to a clinical or to a non-clinical individual. The performance was found to be slow and inaccurate. Generally this pattern is a strong indicator of an attention related deficit. Reaction time became considerably less consistent as the admission progressed indicating a problem maintaining attention. The performance was generally erratic and indicative of poor attention capacity.

There is little question that Mr. Cohen has difficulty focusing. His attention span is short. He gets lost. However, this might be due to other factors rather than attention deficit difficulties.

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Re: David Cohen

A **Writing Sample Test** was offered to this client. He was asked to write a paragraph concerning "Winning the Lottery." He wrote the following paragraph:

"If I won the lottery I would invest my money and live off the interest."

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPRESSIONS

David Cohen was evaluated for a learning disability. There was also a clinical evaluation. Mr. Cohen is a 36-year-old never married white male who has struggled with employment. He suffers from bilateral hearing loss. He wears bilateral hearing aids.

Results of the clinical evaluation suggested and individual has struggled from early years. In fact, he had been diagnosed with Turrets. There was never any diagnosis of emotional difficulties. He appears to be in good contact with his surroundings. There was no evidence of any thought disorder such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

What Mr. Cohen did show was evidence of difficulty functioning. He maintains that he has a bachelor's degree from Fordham University. Results of the evaluation raise questions concerning his level of education. It would very interesting to obtain his transcript from Fordham University to determine how he earned a bachelor's degree in 2005.

Results of the learning disability evaluation suggested that Mr. Cohen does not suffer from a learning disability. To have a learning disability there should be a significant difference between intellectual functioning and academic levels. In this case he was found to be functioning in the borderline intellectual level with an IQ score of 71. Academic levels seem to correlate with intellectual functioning.

Results of the Woodcock Reading Mastery Test indicate that Mr. Cohen is reading on a grade level of 4.7. The ability to comprehend passages was also on a fourth grade level. Results of the Wide Range Achievement-4 indicate that sentence comprehension and spelling were also on a fourth grade level.

What was significant was neurological difficulties. Mr. Cohen showed evidence of neurological impairment. He had great difficulty with such tests as the Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test and Memory for Designs Test.

Memory is a problem area. Mr. Cohen has great difficulty recalling what he hears as well as what he sees. The findings were significant.

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Re: David Cohen

When considering employment it should be pointed out that Mr. Cohen works very slowly. He has to be able to work independently without worrying about speed.

Another finding is that Mr. Cohen shows evidence of neurological impairment. Academic levels are limited. He needs a repetitive type of job of low stress.

There is evidence of neurological difficulties. However, it is felt that a neurological evaluation would not produce any more information than is currently evident. When considering employment Mr. Cohen needs a great deal of support.

It is recognized that Mr. Cohen suffers from bilateral hearing loss. He stated that he is only wearing hearing aids for a few years. He communicates by reading lips. Therefore, he would get lost in a noisy room or with a large crowd. It is felt to be advantageous that Mr. Cohen take a sign language course while he has some degree of hearing. It would assist him greatly during his later years. It is much easier to learn sign language with a degree of hearing rather than when you are profoundly deaf.

Diagnosis: From ICD-10-CM:

Axis I - Clinical Syndromes

None identified

Axis II - Personality Disorders

Borderline Intellectual Functioning (R41.83)

Axis III - Physical Conditions and Disorders

1. Bilateral hearing loss
2. Neurological impairment
3. Tourette syndrome

Thank you for the opportunity of examining David Cohen. If you need any additional information or would like me to expand on any of the views presented, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Alan S. Gordon, Ed.D.

ASG/jgs

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