1. VARYING DEFINITIONS OF HOARDING:

- A Public or Popular Definition
- Television Definition of a Hoarding
- Professional Organizer’s Definition
- Public Health Definition
- A Landlord’s Definition
- Desperate Family Member’s Definition
- Individual with the Hoarding Problem
- A Child's Perspective about Hoarding

WHAT’S YOUR DEFINITION?

___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

2. WHAT DETERMINES “DELICACY” IN THIS POPULATION?

A. Mental: ____________________ ______________________________
B. Physical Health and Well Being: ______________________________
C. Financial Impact: ______________________________
D. Trauma: ______________________________
E. Lack of Trust: ______________________________
3. OTHER SUB-FACTORS

- Major depressive disorder
- Bipolar disorder / mania
- Anxiety disorder
- Obsessive / compulsive disorder
- ADHD
- Sexual dysfunction
- Eating disorder
- Panic disorder
- Phobias
- Schizophrenia
- Delusional thinking
- Suicidal thoughts or actions*

4. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

1. Determine your definition of hoarding and which population you are representing: ____________________________

2. Be direct and clear to all those involved - for whom you are conducting the intervention: ____________________________

3. Get a clear distinction of what the delicacies of your client are around this project: ____________________________

4. Understand for yourself which of the disorders / consequences are not a fit for you (i.e. are you prepared to work closely with someone who has suicidal tendencies?): ____________________________

5. Set up for your own personal support system, physical and mental health care: ____________________________

6. Finally Say yes. ____________________________
5. OTHER CRITERIA TO CONSIDER:

- Timing (are there Eviction deadlines or child protective services deadlines)
- Public Health Hazard (is your client facing fines and prosecution by city officials)
- Limited Alternatives (look there is just no other answer – this is it!)
- What’s the Level of Pain Endured by Family (both in and out of the home)
- Availability of Support for our client (can we get the proper teams to help)
- Another Financial Aspect - (are there financial resources to pay for such a venture)
- Mental Health (how many people’s mental health will improve by this intervention)?
- Is this a question of Critical Choice (this is not just about the individual who hoards but the critical masses – children, animals, family, neighbors, communities, public health system)
- Legal Ramifications – Will jail time be served if this is not handled? Will conservators take over the decision making of our clients?
- The Child’s Outlook on the situation

6. HOW TO GUIDE THE PEOPLE IN NEED:

A. Garner their trust
B. Be straight about the expected outcome (repeatedly)
C. Be firm
D. Remain detached from the outcome
E. Interposition yourself between the victim and others
F. Have goals in
G. Particular suggestions for children & parents
7. GOVERNMENT SANCTIONED VS. PERSONAL CHOICE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Personal Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fines &amp; citations</td>
<td>Loss of finances &amp; job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health tests</td>
<td>Ostracized by family &amp; friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosecution</td>
<td>Persecution by the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jail time</td>
<td>Isolation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No say in the matter (action w/o agreement)</td>
<td>No say in the matter (paralysis)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. IMPACT ON PUBLIC SYSTEM

Hoarder          Defense Attorney  
Fire Department   Judge          
Landlord         Volunteers       
Neighbors        Human Rights Counsel  
Family           Professional Organizer   
Building & Safety Judge          
Social Worker     City Council     
DMH              Police – serve court order 
MD – Medication   Waste Management  
Vector Control    Community Development Commission  
Environmental Health Lien holders (banks, etc)  
Prosecuting Attorney Conservator

9. WHAT IS NEEDED TO MOVE FORWARD?

- Is there family support?
- Can a therapist be involved?
- Are medications readily available for treatment?
- Is there a project timeline with dates and tasks in place
- Is a solution in place prior to the intervention?
- Is there a clear understanding of benefits & consequences?
- Do you have proper assistance?
- What supplies are needed?
10. WHO CAN REALLY HELP?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Therapist</th>
<th>Social worker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>Animal Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarians</td>
<td>Child Protective Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Protective Services</td>
<td>Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and Safety</td>
<td>Housekeeping teams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junk removal teams</td>
<td>Pest control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazmat cleanup crews</td>
<td>Car towing services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources for More Information

BOOKS


Breininger, D (2013). *Stuff Your Face or Face Your Stuff*, Health Communications, Inc.