**Questions for families to ask when choosing a therapist/social worker**

\*Consider why you are looking for therapy?

\*Who will be involved? Self, Child, Family

\*What is most important to you? culture, expertise in a clinical modality, experience with a topic sexual abuse, behavior, addiction, personality d/o, diagnoses, behavior, sexual offending, family reunification, residential care.

**Clinical Training**

 What clinical modalities are you trained to provide ie Dialetical Behavior Treatment, Functional Family Therapy, Multi Systemic Therapy, Family Therapy, Youth with Sexually Inappropriate Behavior, Reactive Attachment Disorder, school avoidance?

Can you explain family therapy, how does it work and are there different types of family therapy?

**Affiliations**

 Are you a member of any national organization that supports the specialty work that you provide i.e. \*Attach, Association For the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA), DBT – Linehan?

**Services and Supports**

Understanding my child’s diagnoses, treatment and prognosis is important, will you provide information, current treatment modalities, literature and training opportunities.

Are you familiar with Genetic Testing for medication management? What are your thoughts?

**School/Special Education**

 Will you work closely with me to help me with school issues and participate in school meetings to attest to my child’s needs?

 Will you provide written information, documentation that will be helpful when I attend a Committee on Special Education meeting for my child?

 Are you well versed in special education? Have you worked closely with schools? If you are in agreement with the school versus with my preference will you discuss the issues with me before speaking with the school?

**Medication**

 Are you well versed in medication education?

Do you work with a medication provider, psychiatrist, medical practitioner, psychologist?

**Addiction Counseling**

Are you well versed in addiction counseling?

 What are your thoughts regarding the use of marijuana?

 What are your thoughts regarding medication management of addiction?

Do you offer family counseling/support when you are providing addictions counseling?