

FEBRUARY SOAR DIALOGUE CALL



North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness

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How “B” Functional Criteria are used to Evaluate Mental Disorders

To satisfy the “B” criteria, your mental disorder must result in **extreme** limitation of one, or **marked** limitation of two, of the four areas of mental functioning using a five-point rating scale:

- *No limitation (or none):* Able to function
- *Mild limitation:* Slightly limited functioning
- *Moderate limitation:* Fair functioning
- **Marked limitation:** Seriously limited functioning
- **Extreme limitation:** Not able to function

Limitation reflects the degree to which your mental disorder interferes with your ability to function **independently, appropriately, effectively, and on a sustained basis.**

DDS Evaluation of Functioning

DDS is evaluating the applicant's ability to function in a work setting:

- Independently
- Appropriately
- Effectively, and
- On a sustained basis

Understand, remember, or apply
information

**Refers to the abilities to learn, recall,
and use information to perform work
activities.**



SOAR Tip: Remember that it can be difficult for many of us to recall exact dates of employment or names of doctors visited years or decades ago. It is important to focus on the struggles with memory and understanding that impact the applicant's ability to learn new tasks and apply them at work.

Interact with others



Refers to the abilities to relate to and work with supervisors, co-workers, and the public.

SOAR Tip: Impairments in this area may include a history of altercations, evictions, firings, fear of strangers, avoidance of interpersonal relationships, or social isolation.

Concentrate, persist, or maintain pace



•Refers to the abilities to focus attention on work activities and stay on task at a sustained rate.

•SOAR Tip: DDS will evaluate the amount of extra supervision or assistance the applicant needs to complete a task in accordance with quality and accuracy standards, or at a consistent pace without an unreasonable number and length of rest periods, or without undue interruptions or distractions.

Adapt or manage oneself



•Refers to the abilities to regulate emotions, control behavior, and maintain well-being in a work setting.

•**SOAR Tip:** The applicant must be able to function in these areas consistently over time. One day they may be able to handle taking the bus without incident and get where they're going, but the next day they can't. This, of course, might mean that they could get to work one day, but not another.

Integrating Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)

Rather than ADLs being one separate area of functioning, ADLs are now a **source of information** about all four of the paragraph B areas of mental functioning.

- The principle is that any given activity, including an ADL task, may involve the simultaneous use of multiple areas of mental functioning

For instance, difficulties in an ADL task may result from:

- Difficulty in understanding what to do,
- Being unable to engage in the task around others,
- Trouble concentrating on the task at hand, or
- Becoming so frustrated in the task that the person loses self-control in the situation

Make the **link**
between the diagnosis or illness
and the functional impairment.