RAW Assessment – Clinician Guide

This guide explains the purpose and use of the RAW (Ready, Able, Willing) model in clinical settings. It is designed to support clinicians in evaluating a client's readiness for recovery and tailoring interventions accordingly.

Overview of RAW

The RAW framework helps clinicians answer:

• READY – Does the client recognize a need for change?

• ABLE – Do they have the tools and support to act?

• WILLING – Are they motivated to begin recovery work?

Each dimension is rated on a scale of 0–4, leading to a total readiness score of 0–12.

1. READY – Recognition of Need

Indicators of high readiness:

• Expresses dissatisfaction with current life

• Identifies personal goals or values being compromised

• Acknowledges risk or harm from continued use

Clinical Notes:

– Low scores may indicate denial or limited insight

– Motivational interviewing is useful to deepen awareness

2. ABLE – Capacity and Support

Indicators of strong ability:

• Stable housing, physical health, transportation

• Access to services, skills for emotion regulation

• Cognitive capacity to participate in recovery work

Clinical Notes:

– Scores of 0–1 suggest need for stabilization before deeper work

– Coordinate referrals for support services as needed

3. WILLING – Motivation and Engagement

Indicators of strong willingness:

• Self-initiated efforts or follow-through

• Verbal commitment to recovery

• Willingness to explore pain, values, identity

Clinical Notes:

– Resistance is not failure: explore ambivalence gently

– Celebrate micro-commitments, even symbolic ones

Using RAW in Practice

• Conduct RAW assessments during intake, reassessment, or case review

• Use results to shape pace, intensity, and type of intervention

• Repeat the assessment to track progress over time

• Combine with STAR Matrix for full complexity + readiness mapping