

## **Template for Using Goal Achievement Scaling (GAS) and Task Attainment Scaling**

### **Goal Achievement Scaling (GAS)**

You can apply an individualized scale to evaluate your client's progress on the goals/outcomes (when it does not make sense to take repeated measurements of a client's incremental progress). This is often used when the client is working toward DISCRETE GOALS, e.g., an 18-year-old whose goal is to leave foster care and live independently in a safe and affordable apartment by June 1st. On the surface of this goal, it appears that the client can either be in an apartment by the date (success) or not. However, it is possible to pre-determine levels of achievement which would reflect superior achievement (+4), e.g. obtaining safe and affordable housing near public transportation and having necessary furniture, e.g., bed, kitchen table, chairs, lamps, refrigerator and stove by Sept. 1st. In a similar manner, it would be possible to identify a better than expected level (+3), a satisfactory level (+2), a mediocre level (+1), and no movement at all (0). The student and client would need to collect information and record the information in charts and/or progress notes to substantiate whatever rating is merited by the client's achievement.

### **Task Attainment Scaling**

A worker can apply a similar scale to measure the extent to which your client and you, the worker, follow through with tasks that were agreed upon during the contract with the client. The client's task attainment score and the worker's score should be measured separately.

(+4, +3, +2, +1, 0 --corresponding to total accomplishment of the task in a timely fashion, more than expected task achievement, some achievement, little movement toward task achievement, no effort to carry out the task.)

The client's achievement of tasks and the worker's evaluation of the client's achievement of tasks can be derived by a simple formula, summing the numbers attained for each of the tasks and dividing this sum by the total possible score.

For example, if our apartment-seeking client had agreed to three tasks:

1. Weekly visits to Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) when he/she identifies all available apartments under \$400 within walking distance of Main Street, Elmwood, or Hertel Avenue.

The client goes to HOME three out of four weeks and jots down some but not all apartments in these vicinities and price-range. You give a score of +3 out of 4.

2. Call all potential landlords and visit at least 75% of the vacant apartments. (The client follows through by calling all the apartments on a weekly list except for the week in which he/she did not visit HOME. You give a score of +3 out of 4.)

3. Furnish the apartment by reading the newspaper ads for used furniture and following up with inquiries and by visiting Goodwill and other second-hand furniture and appliance stores. (The client was able to rent an apartment with a refrigerator and stove but needed to buy a sofa bed, table, and chairs from a second-hand store. He/she did this by lay-a-way and plans to have a friend with a van move these items gradually in August. You give a score of +4 out of 4.)

The largest possible sum for these 3 tasks would be 4 X 3 or 12. The actual attainment level was +3 +3 +4 or 10.  $10/12 = .83$  or 83%.

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A. Purpose of your study is to evaluate your client's progress toward his/her outcome goal(s). Which goal(s) was the target of this study?

B. What was the time period of this study?

C. Create and apply a scale to measure client outcomes. Describe each of the points on the goal achievement scale that you will use to measure the extent the client's outcome goal was achieved.

+4 Extraordinary achievement means the client.....

+3 Better than expected achievement means the client...

+2 Expected achievement means the client...

+1 Less than expected achievement means the client...

0 No progress means the client...

D. Provide information from progress notes, etc. to objectify the extent to which your client attained his/her desired outcome. For example, 3 out of 4 or 75%.

E. Now, to measure the extent to which the client and you, the worker, followed through with the change process, begin by listing the tasks for the client and/or worker that are connected to this goal.

Task 1:

Task 2:

Task 3:

Task 4:

Task 5:

Task #:

Under each task, write out standards that would describe—  
(See Task Attainment Scaling (TAS) example.)

(+4) Extraordinary accomplishment=

(+3) Better than expected accomplishment=

(+2) Expected level of accomplishment=

(+1) Less than expected level of accomplishment=

(0) No movement forward on this task=

