Case Study Vignettes to use for Role Play

Case Study 2: Kara²

Roles to assign
House supervisor, behavior specialist, nurse, parent, physician or psychiatrist, direct care staff person, case manager, speech and language therapist.

Vignette
Kara is a 27-year old woman living in a community residential setting. She has moderate intellectual disabilities, limited verbal skills, and at one time was diagnosed with a mood disorder, but it is unclear whether that diagnosis is still considered accurate.

“Kara has exhibited aggressive behavior over several years that appears to have some pattern associated with it, but staff have been unable to clarify it. Thus, over a period of 9 months, her staff counted the number of aggressive episodes she had daily during a 2 and a half hour time interval each morning.

A clear and consistent pattern emerged. For 8 out of the 9 months, aggression was more frequent during premenses and menses than during nonmenses. During nonmenses, the number of aggressive episodes was typically only one or two per morning, whereas during premenses and menses it was typically six episodes or more per morning. Interestingly, for 98% of the episodes of problem behavior, a demand was given prior to the problem episode and since demands were given at about the same frequency during nonmenses as during premenses and menses her staff wondered if there was a relationship (p. 413).”

Instructions
You are members of Kara’s interdisciplinary team. What types of interventions would you choose for Kara? Consider setting events, antecedents and consequences as well as medical information. Are there additional data you would take to further test your hypotheses or to evaluate your intervention?

1. Based on a case study in: