The Lake Assignment

This podcast focuses on child neglect, social justice, and the nurse's role in involving the state. After listening, answer the following questions completely. You must include at least 1 scholarly source within the last 5 years that addresses child abuse or removing children from parental custody to support your opinion in at least one of the questions. This source must be properly cited with in-text citations and the full citation must be provided in APA format. **Total word-count for this assignment is to be no less than 700 words** (this only applies to the content of your answers, not the questions or citations).

1. Do you think that investigators (DCFS/police) made assumptions based on the social status of Amanda and Maurice?

It seems that assumptions were made based on the social status of Amanda and Maurice. They were relying on government assistance and only had one car. The investigators seemed to think that Amanda and Maurice murdered her children so that they could have a "better" life. However, the attorney pointed out that without her children, Amanda would not receive the support from the government that helps her to afford housing and food.

2. Based on your knowledge of psychotropic medications, do you think it was appropriate for investigators to interrogate Amanda after she received 3 different medications while admitted in an inpatient psych unit? (this occurs around 11 mins in).

No, because psychotropic medications affect mood, behavior, thoughts, and perception. Amanda was on three different medications increasing the likelihood of Amanda not being in the right frame of mind to answer questions accurately. Not to mention that she was also dealing with the unimaginable loss of her three children. The types of medication that Amanda was on were not specified, so I cannot accurately ascertain what potential side effects she could have been experiencing or how the medication was affecting her. It is in poor taste for the police to

question her during this time and not record it. I cannot believe that her doctors would allow this, knowing how the medication could affect her.

3. Based on Maurice's testimony (about 15 mins in) regarding his behavior with Amanda's children, do you think he was acting maliciously or using poor judgment during the day of the accident?

Based solely on Maurice's testimony regarding his behavior with Amanda's children, his actions could be interpreted as malicious, especially since he admits to wanting to scare them. Whether that malicious intent extends itself to physical harm and thus murder is up for debate. It is also suspicious that Maurice never hit the brakes, even though he claims to have panicked. The first instinct, even when panicking, should be immediately hitting the brake in an attempt to stop whatever is happening. However, people react to stressful situations differently, so an accurate assumption of his intentions and whether or not he was acting maliciously or using poor judgment cannot be made.

4. Do you think there was a racial bias that impacted Maurice's sentence more than Amanda's?

Per the interview with Amanda's attorney, a racial bias did impact Maurice's sentencing. The judge did not allow the jury to consider involuntary manslaughter, and Maurice was sentenced to life in prison while Amanda only got five years for child endangerment. No information is given as to why the judge did not allow for the consideration of involuntary manslaughter. The allowance for one and not the other seems highly unfair to me. I'm unsure how it is even legal to deny the jury the consideration, which makes it seem like he wasn't really giving them a choice

and had already decided Maurice's fate. With the little information given, I feel that Maurice's case should be reopened, with a new judge and his previous judge should be called into questioning for racial bias. Giving longer sentences to people of color is a rampant injustice that needs to be corrected.

5. Since Amanda was convicted of child endangerment, do you think she has the right to have additional children after serving her time in prison?

I did not follow the trial or have enough information to believe that she was or was not rightfully convicted of child endangerment. However, if she was rightfully convicted and served her time, I think she has the right to have additional children. With that being said, I think they should watch her more closely and that she should be required to have welfare checks for her children to ensure that they are not in danger. I do not have a degree in criminal psychology, but I think everyone should get the benefit of the doubt, especially after they have served their time. There is a significant stigma surrounding people who have committed crimes and served time. People should be wary, but also be open to the belief that people can change and learn from their mistakes. I don't feel comfortable with this topic, especially since I do not have all the information, just a brief synopsis of the events. I believe that other people should not be allowed to control what others do with their bodies, but when/if a child is brought into the world, the child should be protected.

6. Do you think the hospital staff had the right to notify DCFS that Amanda Hamm had more children? What about the father's rights?

I do think that the hospital staff had the right to notify DCFS that Amanda had more children if they were given the impression that the children were in danger. Healthcare professionals are required by law to report any suspected or known child abuse (Azizi et al., 2017). Given that she was charged with child endangerment of her previous children, I think the staff should be wary of anticipatory neglect.

I think it is awful that the court made Amanda relive her trauma from losing her children as they viciously fought to keep her from her living children. However, Amanda accused her husband of being abusive makes me glad that the court pursued the issue. If she had an order of protection against him for herself, then he definitely should not be around the children. It appears that Amanda is still making the same mistakes regarding abusive men.

I'm not sure how to feel about the father's rights. If I was not told about his previous criminal history and abuse towards Amanda, I would probably be more sympathetic to his plight that DCFS interfered without any reported allegations of neglect or abuse. However, since they provided this information, I believe that the DCFS made the right decision to remove them from the home and place the children in their aunt's care.

7. What is your opinion on "anticipatory neglect" in this case? Do you think that the courts ruled in the benefit of the Hamm-Ware children in this case?

My opinion on the anticipatory neglect in this case, is that the court made the right decision. The risk of child abuse increases when the parents have a history of abuse or neglect (Azizi et al., 2017). I do believe that the court was ruling in the benefit of the Hamm-Ware children. Based on Amanda's previous actions that resulted in the death of her three children, it is better to err on the side of caution.

Reference

Azizi, M., & Shahhosseini, Z. (2017). Challenges of reporting child abuse by healthcare

professionals: A narrative review. *Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Sciences, 4*(3), 110–

116. https://doi.org/10.4103/jnms.jnms_3_17

The Lake Assignment Rubric
N433: Clinical Learning Activity

Debriefing Journal Rubric
Minimum Words: 100 per question

CRITERIA	POOR	FAIR	GOOD
Concise and Complete **Total: 3 points**	• Content is incomplete. • Major points are not clear and /or persuasive **1 point**	• Content is not comprehensive and / or persuasive. • Major points are addressed, but not well supported. • Research is inadequate or does not address course concepts. **2 points**	• Content is comprehensive, accurate, and persuasive. • Major points are stated clearly and are well supported. • Content and purpose of the writing are clear. **3 points**
Thoughtful Reflection - How will this affect your practice? **Total: 10 points**	• Paper lacks many elements of correct formatting. • Paragraphs are inadequate or excessive in length. • Unspecific as to how simulation meets learning objectives. **1 point**	• Paper follows most guidelines. • Paper is under word length. • Lacks some specifics as to how simulation meets learning objectives. **5 points**	• Paper follows designated guidelines. • Paper is the appropriate length as described for the assignment. • States clearly as to how simulation meets learning objectives. **10 points**
APA Format Correct spelling/Grammar. **At least 1 scholarly reference required.** **Each question is answered with at least 100 words** **Total: 10 points**	• Lack of APA format. • Paper contains numerous grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors. • Language uses jargon or conversational tone • Lack of APA citation use and Reference page if references used. • 2-3 questions do not meet the 100-word requirement **1 point**	• Inappropriate APA format. • Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. • Language lacks clarity or includes the use of some jargon or conversational tone. • Inappropriate APA citation use and reference page if references used. • 3 questions meet the 100-word requirement **5 points**	• Correct APA format • Use of 1 scholarly reference • Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed; spelling is correct. • Language is clear and precise; sentences display consistently strong, varied structure • Correct APA citation and reference page if references used. • All questions meet the 100-word requirement **10 points**
Paper submitted to Dropbox within 72 hours of the simulation experience. **Total: 2 points**			Paper submitted to Dropbox on time. **2 points**

Total Points: _____