

Service-Learning Reflection Journal

1. Develop a habit of critical reflection as they integrate professional values and leadership principles throughout their career. (Service Learning outcome #1)

- a) Provide examples of learning experiences that met outcome #1.
- b) State the location of the service-learning hours.
- c) How did the experience will assist with future nursing practice?

a) I had not interacted much with individuals experiencing homelessness, and although I did not think I had many biases about homelessness, I still found myself being cautious around everyone during my first day. Although I think it is okay to be cautious, I think I was being cautious because I was expecting it to be rowdy and maybe some would be rude. However, I was wrong. Many of the individuals were very polite and respectful and would make conversation.

b) The location I volunteered at was The Dwelling Place.

c) This experience will assist me in my nursing practice by helping me become aware of the personal biases I may have and learn how to be aware of those and exclude them from my nursing practice. Although I may have biases, I should not let those affect the quality of care that I am providing an individual.

2. Incorporate an ethic of social and civic responsibility into their professional values and practice. (Outcome #2)

- a) Provide examples of learning experiences that met outcome #2.
- b) State the location of the service-learning hours.
- c) How did the experience assist with future nursing practice?

a) I believe that as nurses, it is our responsibility to help those in the community. I believe that volunteering or providing care for vulnerable populations is an ethical responsibility. While volunteering, I was able to help those experiencing homelessness, even if it wasn't direct care. I helped provide supplies, meals, and even someone to just listen to them.

b) The location I volunteered at was The Dwelling Place.

c) Many individuals have biases against those of the vulnerable populations. However, this does not mean that they are not entitled to the same quality of care. I believe this will benefit me as a nurse by enabling me to provide quality care to everyone, regardless of any differences that may exist.

3. Develop an understanding of the complex underlying issues impacting family, population, and community health needs. (Outcome #3)

- a) Provide examples of learning experiences that met outcome #3.
- b) State the location of the service-learning hours.
- c) How did the experience will assist with future nursing practice?

a) I volunteered at a service that helps the homeless population and those who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. Volunteering at this place helped me gain awareness of the needs of this vulnerable population, including access to basic hygiene supplies, clothing, food, showers, laundry, and other essential supplies. I could also see that many of these individuals lacked healthcare access and mental health services.

b) The location I volunteered at was The Dwelling Place. I was able to assist these individuals in supplying them with basic hygiene needs, clothing, and other necessities that they lacked or could not afford. I also help hand out lunch to these individuals.

c) This experience provided me with firsthand experience in helping a vulnerable population. I had never interacted with individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at risk. It helped me become more aware of the issues these individuals face, not just in terms of basic needs, but also regarding healthcare access and mental health service access. It was clear that many of these individuals needed healthcare access and would also benefit from mental health services.

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- a) Provide examples of learning experiences that met outcome #4.
- b) State the location of the service-learning hours.
- c) How did the experience will assist with future nursing practice?

a) I worked alongside other volunteers in packing boxes of canned goods and nuts for delivery. We were on an assembly line and were responsible for a specific product. If any of the volunteers were getting behind, everyone would help them catch up so we could continue with the assembly line effectively.

b) The location I volunteered at was the Eastern Illinois Food Bank.

c) This experience will help my future nursing practice by further developing my collaborative skills. While volunteering, you must work with others whom you are not familiar with. Being able to work effectively with the other volunteers and communicate effectively will help me to communicate with my future coworkers and be an effective asset in the interprofessional team in patient care.

5. Learn about diverse cultural perspectives and develop a respect for cultural differences. (Outcome #5)

- a. Provide examples of learning experiences that met outcome #5.
- b. State the location of the service-learning hours.
- c. How did the experience will assist with future nursing practice?

a) While volunteering, I interacted with individuals experiencing homelessness, and I gained insight into the diverse cultures of their lives and experiences.

b) I volunteered at The Dwelling Place.

c) This experience will help me in my nursing practice by helping me become more culturally competent and be able to provide culturally competent care to my clients. It will also encourage me to be more aware of the different cultures that I might encounter and encourage me to take the extra step to become familiar with the culture.

6. Observe organizational and community decision making styles and reflect on how these are utilized to promote health and wellness in communities. (Outcome #6)

- a. Provide examples of learning experiences that met outcome #5.
- b. State the location of the service-learning hours.
- c. How did the experience will assist with future nursing practice?

a) While volunteering, the Day Center coordinator would give me different tasks to complete and would explain why we would be setting some things out. She would make decisions on what donated items would be set out and where to set them out. For example, we would organize and sort through different winter essentials such as blankets, gloves, and hats. She would then have us prioritize setting some of those items out so the individuals would have some protection during the cold season.

b) The location I volunteered at was The Dwelling Place.

c) This experience will help me in my nursing practice by helping me prioritize the needs of the client. Many times, clients are in need of many things, but as a nurse, I should be able to recognize which needs priority and make decisions based on that.

Meeting the service learning outcomes will meet program outcomes for graduation.

Each student must meet all outcomes.

Meeting Program Outcomes

Service Learning outcome #1 meets program outcome # 5

Service Learning outcome #2 meets program outcome # 4 & 5

Service Learning outcome #3 meets program outcome # 4

Service Learning outcome #4 meets program outcome # 1 & 7

Service Learning outcome #5 meets program outcome # 6

Service Learning outcome #6 meets program outcome # 1