

Aliyah Johnson

SWK 516

Reflection #6:

1-The case file material on collateral contacts suggests that there might be a wealth of informal resources, or what might also be called natural helping networks. Social workers place a great deal of value on such resources, even more so than formal resources. **Why is this an important focus in practice?**

Social workers place a great deal of value on informal resources than formal resources. This is an important focus in practice because it allows the client to receive support from their neighborhood, whether it's friends, family members or local community members. This support isn't based nor attached to any organizations/agencies. Clients are able to interact on a more personal level. Informal resources endure much longer than formal resources cease to be involved with the client. Some cases don't require formal resources, most clients benefit off just having a friend or colleague listen to them, understand their troubles and provide support. Having a natural connection and formed community with those around you can benefit the progression more positively than hiring someone or obtaining services.

2-One way to think about informal resources is as systems of mutual interdependence. In other words, everyone has strengths, talents, and abilities that can contribute to the well being of other individuals and the community. The trick is to match those systems up. **For example, do Carla Washburn and Reverend Smith have such resources that they could exchange, to the benefit of both? Are there other mutually interdependent relationships that you see in this case?**

Reverend Smith could definitely suggest that Carla visits his church every now and then because it contains many other like minded individuals who can possibly speak to Carla and offer support. Reverend Smith is a pastor devoted to furnishing, building a community within and programs to assist/accommodate fellow parishioners with their needs. I could also see Ms.

Washburn being able to volunteer at this local church and offer support to Rev. Smith on ways to grow his church community since she has experience coming from the local school district. Both Washburn and Smith seem to share similar concerns on a different spectrum but could still work together to support one another.