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Seminar Paper 1

1. What values and ethical dilemmas have challenged you in your fieldwork? Ans:

Dignity and worth of the person challenged me in my field placement. There was this particular client that I did his assessment in order to evaluate his needs. My population is incarcerated, for a second my bias has impacted me and to wonder why that client would keep going back to jail for the same charge which are robbery, eluding, shoplifting. from 1980 to 2016. This has challenged me because as the client was giving the dates, the time served, and the charges my thought was that then this person must be a robber and nothing else. As a learner in the field of social work the way I dealt with that issue is , I have to reflect that the mistakes we commit in our life do not define who we are. After talking with my supervisor I came to the conclusion that I need to accept them and let them teach me who they really are instead of what their mistakes make them look. My biggest dilemma is how do I serve these clients the best I can while knowing the engagement that comes with them because of their past mistakes. I am still learning how to manage my facial expressions, my bias, and how to show compassion to them.

2. How did you use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values? My personal values are very important to me because they make me who I am. The population I deal with in my internship really challenges me in every aspect, self awareness is my reflection and self regulation to get through the day of my internship. I am always questioning myself everytime I make a certain gesture, thoughts or behavior. My field supervisor emphasizes facial expressions, behavior, and attitude because most of the clients we attend have mental health issues. My supervisor taught me that anything can upset the clients and they will not take it lightly. As a

result of that I am always a step ahead of my bias and always try to correct myself. Even if I do not support certain beliefs I put aside my personal point of view and be as professional as my client expects me to be. Learning about cultural competencies in Generalis 1 class and my previous field placement have helped me to embrace the idea of letting the client present me who they are instead of the files in my hand say about them.

3. Provide examples of how you demonstrated professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication. I demonstrate professional demeanor behavior at my field placement by treating social workers, legal assistants, clients and other interns with respect equally. I am also being ethical by respecting the client's wishes when it comes to prefer name, gender, and so on. I must follow the agency rules as I represent them and dress appropriately and follow their dress code. When dealing with clients over the phone we must manage our tone, be clear, and be aware of how we say things, as my supervisor likes to say most of the time is not what you say is how you say it. The first time I talked to a client that is transgender over the phone I had to think of how I would want to be treated before addressing that client. I was not sure about the gender of the client and what name I should use as there were two names, one female and one male. I called the client regarding mail the client received at the office and needed to be picked up. I remember asking the client how would you like for me to address you and I mentioned both names to the clients and the client picked the one they preferred. At the end of the call I realized that by acknowledging them and giving them the voice to be heard could go a long way because she was thanking me and appreciating me not assuming how she would want to be called.

4. Reflect on the use of technology in your field agency. How is it used? We are allowed to use our phone's laptop while in the office but not when we are dealing with a client unless we

are doing research for that client. I know they use a zoom platform for those that can't come to the office for orientation but I haven't been taught about that part yet. On Wednesday I have to do a social group where I present a topic, give some flyers and show a short video to reinforce what was on the flyers or to reach them differently as individuals learn different ways. For instance this wednesday I had a short video about how to take control of their destiny as the mission of the agency is to reintegrate them into the society where they can be normal again and benefit from whatever that is available to them. Most of the clients spend the majority of their time in jail when they come out everything is new, they don't have jobs, no identification, no house, and no doctors/ healthcare. At the agency they also provide them a computer lab where they are welcome to come everyday to use it for job search and completing some training; some of them even play on the computer.

5. Provide examples of how you used supervision to guide your professional behavior and judgment. I have supervision weekly, my supervisor always makes note of what I need to improve and always reflects back on my change ment. For me my supervision helps me to be more aware of my actions, and be more prepared next time. This week I did my first assessment, I was so focus on completing the assessment sheet I did not notice that I did not present myself to the client before beginning the session, I did not talk about confidentiality, and I was also lack of empathy although the client was sharing vulnerability with me I did not empathize with him. My supervisor had to ask necessary questions or follow up to the client based on what the client was sharing. Then during supervision she let me know of all these that I miss. I believe that will help to prevent the same mistake and be more professional in my next session.