

Identify the eight key elements of policy framework

Activity Journal #2

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Policy Framework – Journal 2

Policy Framework

A policy framework is mainly known as a document created that clearly identifies a set of procedures and goals. Our textbook defines a policy framework as “a systematic model for examining a specific social welfare policy or a set of policies, is one means analysts use to evaluate the congruence of a policy with the mission and goals of the welfare state.” It is the expectation that a well-designed policy framework will result in good policies. A simpler way to understand a policy framework is a set of document where goals and procedures are set and used in negotiations, decisions making as a guide to ensure on going compliance and maintenance of non and profit organizations.

All well-designed policy frameworks are characterized by eight key elements: 1. Policy frameworks systematically analyze a social policy or program. 2. Policy frameworks reflect the understanding that social policy is context sensitive, and there are competing priorities in all policy options. 3. Policy frameworks employ rational methods of inquiry and analysis. The data used in policy analysis is derived from scientific inquiry and legitimate sources, and it is objectively interpreted and analyzed. 4. The analytic method is explicit and all succeeding policy analyses should approximate the same conclusion. 5. Policy analysis is based on the commitment to derive the largest possible social and economic benefit at the least possible social and economic cost. A good social policy is one that benefits at least one person (as he or she perceives his or her own self-interest) while at the same time hurting no one (a variation of the Pareto Optimality). Although rarely achieved in the real world of finite resources—and proliferating claims on them—policy analysts should nevertheless strive toward that optimality. 6. Policy frameworks should attempt to take into account the unintended consequences of a

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particular policy or program. This could be aided by constructing multiple policy models or scenarios. 7. Policy analysts should consider alternative social policies or alternative uses of present or future resources allocated to a given policy. 8. Policy frameworks should employ models that examine the potential impact of a policy (or a series of policies) on other social policies, social problems, and the public good.

In my opinion the eight policy frameworks are both rational and systematic. As the goal of a policy framework is to provide an all-encompassing structure, guiding how policies and procedures will be developed. The eight policy frameworks above create a clear vision of what should be considered when developing policy frameworks and the result for effective applying these characteristics to an agencies processing. It has proven in more than one occasion that the political processes currently in practice have backfired. The definition for insanity is to continuously repeat the same thing expecting a different result. To improve results its is important that we take into consideration was has not worked and apply new systems that will positively effect the result of our child welfare system.

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Citation

Karger, H.J., Stoesz, D., (2005). America Social Welfare Policy, A Pluralist Approach, (47-48)