

Chapter 6: Internship Essentials: The Learning Contract & Supervision

LaQuandra Z. Gooden

Alliance University

Question 1 Answer

My learning contract reflects substantial learning, there are so many concepts I learned from my site supervisor I have never known before. For example, my supervisor showed me how community involvement and development can make a huge impact. In addition, I got to see firsthand that delivery of services should not be the only role I conduct as a prospective social worker, but being more involved within my own community instead of always being involved in other communities that are far away from my own. It was good for me to participate in activities that involved senior citizens in Spanish Harlem. I learned how important it is to be in the field and not just in the office all the time. In addition, I am learning how to integrate social work and Christianity which can be very helpful as I grow in the social work practice and my spirituality. Due to limited hours, I do question how I can get all my tasks done before the internship ends because it is only 60 hours and I am already halfway through it. However, my supervisor will have me not come on certain days for the next month so I can participate in the gardening activity with the elderly and students on the Autism spectrum in April. I really want to participate in that event because I got to witness the importance of community involvement and development which is very refreshing. Just witnessing how the students who are on the Autism spectrum was so happy to meet the senior citizens in East Harlem, was so heartfelt, and in that moment I got to see why community and social interaction can be a pillar in so many people lives.

Question 2

My supervisor style is well matched with mine when it comes to having passion serving underserved communities and people, supportive, expressive style management, independence, task oriented and detail oriented. Our styles are mismatched when it comes to being very clear

when it comes to the speed of completing tasks. My supervisor likes to get things done quickly such as in the moment, I prefer to work on each task one step at a time. This term is important to me because when I feel rushed, I feel pressured and overwhelmed about getting tasks done. Then I tend to worry about my work ethic being criticized, because I did not finish all the tasks for the day. I plan to come to these terms by not worrying about being criticized, because my supervisor never criticizes me. Furthermore, if I am not able to finish a task for the day, I should notify my site supervisor, and speak to my supervisor about my work pace.