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SWK 658

Dr. Yoon

Journal Record Assignment

Group work is an important element in social work practice. The small group, class-room process continues to be a rich learning experience for myself and fellow peers. Working on class-room assignments within a group setting has been instrumental in enhancing my skills and abilities in effectively conducting group work not only within the classroom but in work with clients at my field-placement agency. I must certainly admit that group work is not as simplistic as initially perceived. I have been an active participant in some of the group therapy sessions conducted at my place of employment and find it rewarding yet challenging. Additionally, I will be facilitating my first group therapy session in a few weeks and feel much more prepared given the combination of theoretical and practical experience.

The weekly tutorial training videos, and complimentary group exercises continue to be effective learning tools/strategies. I especially look forward to my participation in these role-play, exercises as I consider myself a “hands-on” type of learner. These learning activities, further enable me to hone my client engagement skills, and reinforce the necessary techniques required to be a competent group facilitator. The group to which I’m currently assigned, consists of a diverse group of social-service professionals, with a collective wealth of experience in the social work field- source of significant strength for group. As we have the unique opportunity of benefitting from each others’ perspectives.

While, still in the initial stages of development, the group continues to undergo tremendous growth and members have established a clear and defined working relationship. Group members continue to reinforce a democratic style of governance in support of overall objectives. Collectively, group continues to promote collaborative decision-making and I do feel as though I have equal input in making decisions. Also, we have become more adept at problem-solving, and conflict resolution. There are some current challenges experienced by group namely, lack of leadership/direction, uneven task distribution, power struggles ,etc. however, I do consider these issues to be “growing pains” as the group continues to grow and evolve.