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SWK456/556: Generalist Practice with Groups

Organizations and Communities (NA)

2/22/2023

Reflection #2

Challenges and Barriers to Choosing Community (Project)

The challenge and barrier I faced while selecting the community were making sure the group was all satisfied with the selection. The first barrier I faced was, checking my own bias and prejudgment. For example, we selected a Hispanic community (Washington Heights) located in the upper west side of Manhattan. 3 out of the 4 group members have a Hispanic background, the other group member is African American. I automatically assumed that this group member was not going to feel comfortable or want to participate in the project because the community mainly resembled me and the other group members. I started to notice that I was paying more attention to that one particular group member and was trying to be more sensitive to how she felt instead of agreeing with the other group members. To my surprise, this particular group member was fascinated with exploring the Washington Heights community. Little by little, I started to notice that she seemed fine and the idea of her not feeling comfortable was all part of a personal bias and prejudice that I was personally dealing with. This person's action and her willingness to research the community, help me get over my dilemma of not wanting to make a group member feel left out.