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Swk499: Integrative Seminar

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Reflective Assessment on Competency #7

Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

In what ways have I accomplished this competency/practice behaviors? I have accomplished this competency by assessing participants in my field practicum and helping them connect with the services and resources that it's needed. I also analyze and share information with colleagues to create better outcomes for my participants through assessments. For example, During the assessment process, I completed a maysi-2 screening questionnaire and aces assessment that allow me to collect information about my clients and come up with ways to apply theories that best fit their situation. These screening and questionnaire assessments help give me an idea of the types of abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences that my client has gone through. After learning about their personal experience, then I can mutually come up with an intervention goal.

How has my thinking changed over time? My thinking has changed since I first considered the social work profession because now I am more aware of the importance of collecting data and organizing the information I receive from my client's Biopsychosocial assessments. At the beginning of my BSW, I was only looking forward to connecting with clients and helping them overcome their obstacles through compassion and understanding their situation. However, today I understand that there is a paper trail that has to be constantly updated when working with clients.

What are the practice behaviors that indicate my competency in this area? The practice behavior that indicates my competency in this area is for example, all my participants are court mandated, so when my agency receives referrals they expect us to come up with strategies that allow the court system to have other alternatives instead of incarcerating youth. Then, I became engaged in the participant's life and helped them come up with goals and solutions to their problems. By doing this, it shows the judge that they are working together to meet their demands.

What curriculum content areas (social policy, practice, etc.) relate to successfully completing this competency? The curriculum that contained the area of practice for Competency 7 was Swk416/Swk516 Generalist Social Work Practice 1 with Individuals and Families. In this course, I had to complete a genogram and ecomap of a participant of my field placement. The assignment for this course was to learn the social history of my participant. I also had to develop a written assessment of the participant's strengths and weaknesses.

What learning experiences helped me to accomplish this competency? The learning experience that helped me accomplish this competency was when I started working together with a co-worker and parents to bring out a better result for the participant.

What “gaps” can I identify in my learning experience? What will I do about these “gaps”? The “gap” that I have identified was keeping track of all the data collection and being able to modify my approach toward my client when necessary. I will remind myself to take notes while communicating with my participants and insert them into the system as soon as I am finished with the participant.

Professional Growth Plan, identify goals for continued personal and professional growth and discuss how you plan to reach these goals). My professional learning plan is to continue to educate myself on the different human behavior and social work theories that exist and learn to apply them properly to my clients.

Integrative Questions

Identify a case situation you have worked with and describe the model(s) of assessment that you applied in your work with the case. I worked with an individual in my field practicum that needs to be motivated in continuing his education and stop smoking weed. This person did not have any desire to do anything productive with his life. I decided to apply the strength-based perspective. Instead of focusing on what he was not achieving I helped him recognize his previous accomplishments and how far he had come despite all his trials and tribulation. This client’s strength was that he was able to set and accomplish goals no matter what difficult situations were in front of him. He was able to accumulate high-school credits without having a mentor or anyone that can guide him. This client has shown signs of resilience and resistance. With this understanding, the client decided to enroll back in school and start going to the gym as a way to push himself to be more active.

Describe the data you collected. Working with youth, the data I collected is mainly concerned with Physical Abuse, Emotional Neglect, Recidivism rate, and trauma. The form of data

collection is done through the ACE assessment. This assessment helps indicate a higher risk for health problems later in life. Another form that allows me to collect data on my participants is the Maysi-2 questionnaire. This is a behavioral health screening that is mainly used for juvenile justice programs. I also keep data collection of incarcerated relatives like the statistics of teens that dropout of high school and the connections to getting arrested in the “school-to-prison pipeline”.

In what ways did you apply your knowledge of human behavior in the social environment and person-in-environment to assist in the assessment process? I was able to apply my knowledge about human behavior in the social environment by implementing different methods like interviewing participants, encouraging, direct supervision, and using verbal and non-verbal communication.

What cultural, religious, ethnic, and gender-related issues do you need to consider? I need to take into consideration my participant’s cultural, religious, ethnic, and gender background because these concepts describe my client as a whole. All of these give me a better understanding of what is important to my client and how to approach them.

What are the strengths and limitations of the client system? The strength of the client system is the ability to communicate and set goals. The client system allows you to work together with individuals, families, and communities to reach a common goal. However, the limitations of the client system are that it all consists of how interactive the individual, family, and community are towards the system that is in place to assist.

What were the mutually agreed-upon goals and objectives? The mutual goal agreement was that my participant was going to enroll back in school and I would tutor him and help him with his homework. We also agree to start working out together as a form of getting physical activity throughout his day.

What intervention strategies were selected based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of the clients? One intervention that worked for my participant was the solution-focused intervention. This intervention allows my participant and me to make goals and focus on achieving them. Instead, only focuses on his problem. After a time, I noticed that by making minor progress my client’s self-esteem improved. He started making better decisions and seemed more optimistic about living.