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Swk499: Integrative Seminar

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Seminar Paper 9

Reflective Assessment on Competency #9

Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

In what ways have I accomplished this competency/practice behaviors? I have accomplished this competency while participating in my field practicum. One of the ways that I was able to perform this competency was by study files and reports on a participant to have a better understanding of their needs. After interacting with the participant and evaluating them, I then consider which practice or method best fits the approach and would give me the outcome that is most effective. I accomplished this competency by motivating participation, and contributing to their changes and improvement.

How has my thinking changed over time? My thinking has changed by realizing that I would have to carefully monitor all of my participants' files and records. Before my *SWK416-516 Generalist practice with Individuals and Families*, I did not realize how much I would have to critically analyze my participants' progress. I was naive with the amount of paper trail there is in the social work profession.

What are the practice behaviors that indicate my competency in this area? Once again, the practice behavior that indicates my competency in this area would have to be in my field practicum. For example, throughout my fieldwork I have learned to study different practices to best deal with individuals. Another way I practice this competency is by going over participant's outcome with colleagues as a way to meet the agencies' goals with the city while bringing the most effective outcome of the participant. I also critically evaluate my own performance and assure that I am constantly meeting the agency's rules and regulations, while also making sure that I am meeting the standards of The NASW Code of Ethics.

What curriculum content areas (social policy, practice, etc.) relate to successfully completing this competency? The curriculum content areas that relate to successfully completing this competency are SWK 314/514: Human Behavior in the Social Environment I, SWK416/516 : Generalist Practice I with Individuals & Families (NOS), And SWK357 Field Experience. During my ***SWK357 Field Experience***, I had the opportunity to complete a paper where I had to analyze the relationship between practice and organizational structure in your field placement settings.

What learning experiences helped me to accomplish this competency? All the courses that I have mentioned all helped me with the learning experience for this competency. However, My Field Practice has been the most effective way for me to learn this competency. The agency I attend allowed me to be able to fully grasp the understanding by giving me the opportunity to interact with individuals and do case management work. Being in the field really exposed me to properly evaluating an individual. Throughout my field practicum I have been able to apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment. I have also done Biopsychosocial which gives me a framework of what are the needs of my participant.

What “gaps” can I identify in my learning experience? What will I do about these “gaps”? The “gap” that I can identify in my learning experience is monitoring and keeping track of the evaluation process of my participation. The reason I have a difficult time monitoring the outcome of my field Practicum participation is because my own personal Life demands. I only volunteer twice a week in this agency and with the demands of my actual job, school, church, and family, I barely got time to manage a caseload. The way I can get better at this is by actually leaving my current job and making the transition to working in the field.

Professional Growth Plan, identify goals for continued personal and professional growth and discuss how you plan to reach these goals). Some of my goals are to become more in sync with technology and find ways to better evaluate my clients through database and case notes. Learn to understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness. Be able to impact families and groups by evaluating policies and community development projects that can benefit people in marginalized communities.

Integration

Use a case to evaluate your interventions: Jimmy is a young teenage male. He is having a difficult time in going to school and passing his class. He started hanging out with bad influences in the community and he started to get into trouble with the law.

What evaluation of interventions did you do? I completed the Narrative Therapy Intervention.

What type of evaluation is used in your placement agency to assess change? (e.g., team meetings, 6-month reviews, goal development). The type of evaluation that is used in my placement agency is mentoring and counseling. They also do staff meetings to discuss participant's cases and come up with the best approach for that individual as a group.

What research methods are utilized in evaluating progress with clients or program effectiveness in your agency? The most effective method I have noticed while in the field practicum is when we gather information on a client and help manage his court process. We complete this by completing case notes, keeping track of curfew calls, School and program attendance. We have a reward method that allows participants to receive stipends when they achieve success in the program. This method keeps participants wanting to attend and receive a reward. The way I do my own research method is by receiving feedback from my colleagues and supervisor in order to help me in the evaluation and decision-making process.

How effective do you think these are? For the population we serve, these methods have been very effective.

Discuss how findings are applied to improve practice at your field agency. Findings are applied to improve practice at your field agency by doing annual reviews on the program recidivism rate. We also do constant research and peer reviews on what are the most effective approaches to our participants and what is the current need of the community we serve. We also associate with other local organizations and schools to advocate for resources for our program and other agency.