

Identification Paper

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Professional Development and Identification Paper

I have been interning at Moccasin Bend for approximately two months now and I realized that working with mentally ill clients has been a passion of mine for many years. I began to look back at my life and examine the point to which mental illness became important to me and it was when I gained custody of my only grandchild; Tracy. He had a very difficult life for such a small boy. It started with problems at home then proceeded to his school environment and finally to his community. Tracy was constantly displaying behavior problems, anger, frustration and disobedience. After many disciplinary actions taken by the school; he was finally diagnosed with ADHD and Bi-polar. This child was mistreated, discriminated against and disciplined all for what was thought to be unruly or bad behavior, when in fact it was a mental illness out of control, unrecognized, and un-medicated. This is the point when I decided someone had to fight for people like Tracy. I believe the best way to help such a vulnerable group of people is to become a social worker. The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, in particular the needs of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. People with mental illness face discrimination and oppression daily. One of the ethical principles of the NASW code of ethics states “social worker respects the inherent dignity and worth of the person”. Being a professional social worker I will fight to prevent and eliminate domination of, exploitation of, and discrimination against any person, group, or class on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political belief, religion, or mental or physical disability. My responsibility to clients is to enhance their mental ability and their well-being, my desire is to help individuals

improve the quality of their lives. My main aim is to provide services that will encourage him/her to be more independent. Another ethical responsibilities is “informed consent,” I will speak clearly in an understandable language to inform individuals, family, or communities the purpose of the services, risks related to the services because of the requirement of a third-party. Individuals have the right to refuse or withdraw consent. When I have clients who have difficulty understanding the primary language used in the practice setting, I will take steps to ensure their comprehension. I will provide the client with a qualified interpreter or translator whenever possible. My final ethical principle is “privacy and confidentiality,” privacy should be respected; private information should not be solicited from clients unless it is essential to providing service or conducting evaluation or research. Individuals should be informed to the extent possible, about the disclosure of confidential information and when feasible, before the disclosure is made. Whether information is disclosed confidential as a result of a legal requirement or based on person consent. I believe privacy refers to the individual’s right to be free from unreasonable intrusion by the government or by individuals into their personal space, information, thoughts, or feelings. Confidentiality refers to the clinician’s responsibility to protect the private information shared with the helping relationship. The limits on confidentiality to protect the client from harm, to report child abuse. Mental illness is the vulnerable and oppressed in our society. My goal is to empower individuals who live in poverty.

I view my profession in terms of relationships and my interactions with peers and colleagues; I view myself as a person in the future with a degree helping people with chronic mental illness, addressing their needs as they strive for stability and in our

community. I will protect individuals from poor care by education them to assess the quality of services they are receiving. I will be the best social worker I can be. My interactions to my peers and colleagues are with respect, and dignity. I share true honesty with them because I need feedback for motivation. When I have had a difficult day at Moccasin Bend I seek advice from peers who have demonstrated knowledge or who can relate to the subject. The areas I need strength is not to be afraid to speak in front of others (language is flat and country), I need to take more risks and realize that mistakes are learning tools. Another area is speed writing, taking notes during assessment is difficult because the memory only holds so much information, but I will continue to practice it. My first 200 block hours in the field is too observe and practice profession conduct in all my affairs. Another strategies I will implement is staying focus with individuals who are being non-complains. I should not take it personal, when I am not being effective or making reasonable progress with an individual. I should prefer the person to other professionals who can help met their need.

I view my professional with high standards I will engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully. I will try very hard to prevent and eliminate domination of, exploitation of, and discrimination against any person, group, or class on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, sex, age, marital status, religion, or mental or physical disability. These things are important to me because of my professional development, which came through my education and my field placement. I look at myself as a woman of integrity who will protect and enhance the dignity and integrity of the profession.

I will facilitate my transition from student to professional social worker through intern training; leading different groups, during more assessments, discharging people back into the community, and being apart of the treatment team, also taking notes, and going to professional board meetings. Most of all, practicing professional ethical conduct in all my affairs and continue to increase knowledge and skills. Dealing with ethical challenges such as conflicts of interest can arise; addressing these issues can help my profession from a student to a social worker. I believe for me, communication will help with this transition because it is a tool individuals use to express feelings and develop relationships. A relationship allows a person to get check and get feedback. Again this will help the transition from student to social work.