



Weekly Field Placement Journal

Name: Mike Hoback

Week of: 3/18/2013-3/24/2013

Hours worked this week: 20.5

Total hours this semester: 644

Describe meaningful *learning activities/experiences* for this past week.

This week I spent time collaborating with members of the local chapter of the NASW to help bring about social change and promote social justice. We chose award winners from within the community that helped bring about social change and who continue to work towards social justice. I also spent time in McMinn County completing biopsychosocial and AOD assessments with clients and reviewed current best practices that are being used when dealing with individuals on probation and parole. Per the research studies I read motivational interviewing seemed to have the largest impact when dealing with these types of clients so I attempted to incorporate some of these techniques into my sessions careful not to overstep my boundaries and practice in an area in which I was not proficient.

1. Analyze experiences you engaged in this week that challenged you to use what you've learned in a social work course including:

a. Describe how learning experiences fulfilled *practice behaviors*.

Spending time collaborating with members of the local chapter of the NASW to help bring about social change and promote social justice helped me work towards competency 8: Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work- advocate with and inform key stakeholders to optimize the impact of policy. Reading research dealing with the best treatment approaches with my client population and the incorporating some aspects of this into my sessions with clients helped me work towards competency 3: Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments- Demonstrate autonomous application of critical thinking to diverse complex professional scenarios.

b. Discuss how you implemented learning from class work.

In our policy class and in our class assignment in which we completed a policy brief and then advocated for change has really helped me in dealing with policy issues. I believe advocating was the most informative class I took while at southern probably because that's what I can see myself doing. I have always found this intriguing and the class gave me the groundwork to build skills which I can use and have used to make a change within the community. In the past city council elections I helped coordinate with several local nonprofits such as DAV

(Disabled American veterans) and the Southeastern veterans association to support local candidates for the city council race that we believed hold true to our values of social justice. Four of the candidates I campaigned for went on to unsettle the incumbents in the race with one more set for a run off in a few weeks. The skills I learned at Southern have given me the confidence to believe I can make a difference in local policy as well as state and national policy.

2. Describe areas of growth or concern to address during supervision.

No area of concern to address this week. Working on completing my practicum in the coming weeks.

3. Supervisor comments:

Student Signature

Date

Field Instructor

Date