

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2012

TITLE OF PAPER: SOCIAL WORK METHODS

COURSE CODE: SOC 308

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS

ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS

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INVIGILATOR**

QUESTION 1

SCENARIO 1: Presenting Circumstance

Mr. Andrews is age 40, unemployed and living with his wife and six year old son Calvin in a two-bedroom council flat in Free State. He is not only a gambler with a drinking problem; he is also known to the police and social services for domestic violence towards his wife (Mrs. Andrews). He is notorious within the neighborhood for his constant rows and aggression; sometimes accompanied by violence towards his wife. The latter is a catalogue shopping addict. As a consequence of their spendthrift lifestyles, the family is facing action from the evictors for mounting debts. Additionally, their son's aggression towards local children within the estate means that the family is also facing the possibility of eviction from their council home for reasons of persistent Anti-Social Behavior (ASBO). As a further insight into the family's circumstance, the couple's parents are living way from South Africa.

- i) Which social work theories can be used to assess, explain and justify the processes of intervention in this case? Why these theories?
- ii) The positive indicators in this case are that apart from having an insight into their situation they were willing to receive help in resolving their problem. Most importantly, they wanted to rebuild their relationship as opposed to a divorce. Which approach would you use to facilitate the reconciliation process and also assist them to find lasting solutions to their domestic misunderstandings?
- iii) Which intervention would you use to assist Calvin with his anti-social behavior? Justify why you have chosen that intervention.

QUESTION 2

SCENARIO 2: THE OLIVARES FAMILY

Joaquín Olivares, a 38 year old Mozambican immigrant, and his 35 year old wife presented to a family services agency with the complaint of "family problems." The Olivares have been married for twelve years and they have two children (a son aged 6 and a daughter aged 8). They have lived in the Swaziland for eight years. He worked as a machine worker in a factory for five years before being recently "laid off." He presently works as a day laborer. Mrs. Olivares works as a housekeeper for a family.

Mr. Olivares complains that his wife has recently started "to nag" him about his drinking. He admits that during the last few months he has increased his intake of alcohol, but denies that this is a problem for him, as he drinks "only on the weekends,

and never during the week." He drinks every weekend, but is vague about the actual amount.

Mr. Olivares and his wife speak of the difficulties they experience in living in Swaziland. Neither speaks much English. Mr. Olivares admits to being quite worried about his previous lay off, adding that he didn't want to "let the family down" in his responsibilities. As a result, he works long days in order to make ends meet. His weekend drinking is, for him, his way of relaxing, which he feels that he deserves.

1. Identify and sort through the relevant facts presented by the Olivares.
- 2.a) Identify the problems, issues, concerns that arise with the Olivares.
b) How would you classify Mr. Olivares' drinking?
3. Identify the positive and strengths aspects of the Olivares' situation.
4. Analyze the issues in terms of knowledge presented in the training modules.
5. Use training materials to develop a list of options and an initial plan of action for social work intervention with the Olivares.
6. Identify any additional information, research knowledge, and resources that are needed to develop and select options; identify ways to gather what you need; gather what you can.
7. a) Develop a strategy for social work practice with the Olivares. Be sure that you have a concrete and specific strategy for how you would address alcohol-related issues with the Olivares. Consider what kinds of reactions you might expect from each of the Olivares, and develop a plan for how to respond to them. What kinds of referrals in your practice community would you make and why? What are the intervention goals?
b). Does the Olivares' original nationality matter to the case?
8. Identify methods for evaluating outcomes of your plan and next steps/revisions of the plan, depending on various possible outcomes.
9. Discuss implications for community intervention, prevention planning, social policy reform, and advocacy that are associated with the Olivares' situation.

QUESTION 3

SCENARIO 3: Casey

Casey, a 24 year old Caucasian woman, is seeking counseling for anxiety and depression that she attributes to problems in her current relationship. She and her partner have been having an increasing number of arguments recently, typically about Casey's behavior when they go out and about Casey drinking too much.

In response to questions about her use of substances, Casey describes herself as a "social drinker." Her typical pattern is to consume 3-6 drinks during each of 2-3 drinking occasions per week. She began drinking regularly (1-2 times per week) and heavily (to intoxication) at the age of 13, usually in the company of an older cousin or school friends. She continued this pattern through high school but cut back during her first two years of college due to lack of money to buy alcohol and more difficult access.

During her junior and senior years, Casey "came out" as a lesbian to her parents and family. She also resumed drinking heavily. After graduating from college, Casey and her partner of 3 years (Angie, age 24) moved into an apartment together, as both began working full-time. Casey and Angie are "out" at work and with both families of origin.

Casey reports that they both decreased their drinking at this point, due to concerns about their finances and interest in starting their new careers. Both partners gradually increased the frequency and quantity of their drinking, as they became involved with a social group of older (late 30's) lesbians and began routinely going to a gay bar.

1. Identify and sort through the relevant facts presented by Casey.
- 2a). Identify the problems, issues, concerns that arise in Casey's situation.
- b). How would you classify Casey's drinking?
3. Identify the positive and strengths aspects of Casey's situation
4. Analyze the issues in terms of knowledge presented in the training modules.
5. Use training materials to develop a list of options and an initial plan of action for intervention with Casey. Who should be included in your work with Casey, and why? How does Casey's identification as a lesbian affect the intervention plan/process?
6. Identify any additional information, research knowledge, and resources that are needed to develop and select options; identify ways to gather what you need; gather what you can.

7. Develop a strategy for social work practice with Casey. Be sure that you have a concrete and specific strategy for how you would address alcohol-related issues with Casey. Consider what kinds of reactions you might expect from her, and develop a plan for how to respond to them. What kinds of referrals in your practice community would you make and why? What are the intervention goals?

8. Identify methods for evaluating outcomes of your plan and next steps/revisions of the plan, depending on various possible outcomes.

9. Discuss implications for community intervention, prevention planning, social policy reform, and advocacy that are associated with Casey's situation.

QUESTION 4

SCENARIO 4: Marcel

Marcel is a 21 year old African-American man, self-referred for inpatient treatment due to drug and alcohol abuse. He is currently unemployed, homeless, and has charges pending due to a number of "bounced" checks written over the past several months. Marcel reports that both of his parents were drug addicts and he experienced physical, sexual, and emotional abuse throughout childhood at their hands. His father died of liver disease at the age of 37.

Marcel also reports that at the age of 14, he was kicked out of his family's home because his father suspected that he was gay. Although they live in the same town, he has not had any contact with either parent for 7 years. Marcel describes his relationship with his older sister as "fair." Marcel is not presently involved in a steady relationship, but does have a network of friends in the local gay community with whom he has been staying off and on. At the time that he left home, Marcel survived by becoming involved in sexual relationships with older men, many of whom were also abusive. He has had numerous sexual partners (both male and female) over the past 7 years, has traded sex for drugs and money, has had sex under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and has been made to have sex against his will. Marcel identifies himself as bisexual, not gay.

Marcel first used alcohol at age 14, when he had his first sexual encounter with a man. He began using other drugs, including inhalants and marijuana by age 16 and amphetamines and cocaine by age 19. At 21, four months prior to entering treatment, he began using crack.

1. Identify and sort through the relevant facts presented by Marcel.

- 2a). Identify the problems, issues, and concerns that arise in Marcel's situation.
- b). What are the most immediate and critical assessment needs?
3. Identify the positive and strengths aspects of Marcel's situation
4. Analyze the issues in terms of knowledge presented in the training modules.
5. Use training materials to develop a list of options and an initial plan of action for intervention with Marcel. Who should be included in your work with Marcel, and why? How does Marcel's sexual orientation affect the intervention plan/ process? What is your reaction to his being bisexual? How do Marcel's age and ethnicity figure into the picture?
6. Identify any additional information, research knowledge, and resources that are needed to develop and select options; identify ways to gather what you need; gather what you can.
7. Develop a strategy for practice with Marcel. Be sure you have a concrete and specific strategy for how you would address alcohol-related issues. Consider what kinds of reactions you might expect from him, and develop a plan to respond to them. What kinds of community referrals would you make and why? What are the intervention goals?
8. Identify methods for evaluating outcomes of your plan and next steps/revisions of the plan, depending on various possible outcomes.
9. Discuss implications for community intervention, prevention planning, social policy reform, and advocacy that are associated with Marcel's situation.

QUESTION 5

SCENARIO 5: SAM

You are part of an ethnographic research team with the goal of helping the Swaziland's Census Bureau find better ways to count the population of homeless individuals and families. Over 12 months, the team has been closely following 156 households as they move in and out of various homeless situations (see Glasser, 1991). In the course of the project, the team has had over 45 separate recorded contacts with a South African man in his fifties, named Sam.

Sam used heroin, cocaine and alcohol. He suffered from chronic liver disease and various intestinal ailments. He was evicted from public housing because "they didn't like my friends" (referring to the drug dealers) and he was "persona non grata" at the local single room occupancy (SRO) hotel. When the team first met Sam he was sleeping at friends' apartments and in the hotel lobby. A frequent fear of Sam's is that he would fall asleep and be robbed.

The research team became advocates in Sam's quest for housing. At the suggestion of a team member, Sam spent several weeks in a local shelter, but the nuns asked him to leave when he wanted to keep his bed, but spent nights outside of the shelter. The team helped him to get a security deposit that was needed for an apartment. One of the team members went to look at rooms with Sam, and after a full ten months, they found a landlord who would accept him. One of the team members, a fourth year medical student, often called the local hospital to find out the results of laboratory tests for Sam. The team also paid for Sam's birth certificate, which he had lost a long time before, but needed for access to some forms of housing.

Through the 12 months of the study period, Sam went from sleeping in lobbies, at friends' places, in a shelter, and finally in his own room. At the end of the 12 months, Sam told the team that he was very worried about his health because he kept passing out. He said that he was not using "a lot" of drugs or alcohol, but he was not abstinent. He still had his own room.

1. Identify and sort through the relevant facts presented by Sam's situation.
2. Identify the problems, issues, and concerns that arise with Sam's situation.
 - 2a. How would you classify Sam's homelessness?
 - b. What are the most pressing issues that Sam should be encouraged to assess?
3. Identify the positive and strengths aspects of Sam's situation.
4. Analyze the issues in terms of knowledge presented in the training modules.
5. Use training materials to develop a list of options and an initial plan of action for social work intervention with Sam, given your current role.
6. Identify any additional information, research knowledge, or resources that are needed to develop and select options; identify ways to gather what you need; gather what you can.

7. Develop a strategy for social work practice with Sam. Be sure that you have a concrete and specific strategy for how you would address issues with Sam. Consider the reactions you might expect from Sam, and develop a plan for how to respond. What kinds of referrals in your practice community would you make and why? What are the intervention goals?

8. Identify methods for evaluating outcomes of your plan and next steps/revisions of the plan, depending on various possible outcomes.

9. Discuss implications for community intervention, prevention planning, social policy reform, and advocacy that are associated with Sam's situation.

QUESTION 6

SCENARIO 6: STEVEN

COZY CORNER is a shelter that houses 19 men and women in a modest house, located in a semi-industrialized part of a small town (see Glasser & Zywiak, 2001). The building was last used as a pizza parlor, and people still come in asking for pizza. The shelter also houses a community soup kitchen and seven additional "Transitional Program" beds for people who stay for up to two years. The people who stay at COZY CORNER feel as if they have finally arrived in a place of safety. They feel secure and can sleep safely at night. As a result, they also feel that they can finally begin to address some of their problems.

Steven came to COZY CORNER two weeks ago, after being asked to leave his aunt's home. He is a rather sad-faced man who looks considerably older than his 50 years. Steven says that he has been drinking heavily throughout all of his life, and that he also used drugs a lot in Vietnam. He has a son living nearby whom, he is sorry to say, also appears to be a heavy drinker. Steven is very proud of his daughter (she is a teacher), and wishes that he could see his grandchildren more often.

Steven is very grateful to the staff at COZY CORNER because in the two weeks that he has been with them, they took him to get a cataract operation and he could immediately see again. They are also helping him sort out his legal problems, since he did not show up for some court hearings. Steven feels that he could stay sober if he could stay in a place like this. He is applying for their transitional program.

1. Identify and sort through the relevant facts presented by Steven's situation.

2a). Identify the problems, issues, and concerns that arise with Steven's situation.

b). How would you classify Steven's homelessness?

3. Identify the positive and strengths aspects of Steven's situation.
4. Analyze the issues in terms of knowledge presented in the training modules.
5. Use training materials to develop a list of options and an initial plan of action for social work intervention with Steven.
6. Identify any additional information, research knowledge, and resources that are needed to develop and select options; identify ways to gather what you need; gather what you can.
7. Develop a strategy for social work practice with Steven. Be sure that you have a concrete and specific strategy for how you would address alcohol issues with Steven. Consider what kinds of reactions you might expect, and develop a plan for how to respond to them. What kinds of referrals in your practice community would you make and why? What are the intervention goals?
8. Identify methods for evaluating outcomes of your plan and next steps/revisions of the plan, depending on various possible outcomes.
9. Discuss implications for community intervention, prevention planning, social policy reform, and advocacy that are associated with Steven's situation.