SWK 2750
Notes Unit 1

According to NASW "the primary mission of the profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty" Ambrosino, et al. (2016)

What are the basic premises of social work?

- Dignity and worth of every person
- Problems are usually linked and may have communication connection
- Problems can be addressed and people's lives enriched

What are the basic functions and services?

- Restore
- Prevent
- Resources

The basic themes of the profession are:

- Commitment to social betterment
- Enhancing social functioning
- Appreciation for diversity
- Action
- Versatility

How does social work differ from other helping professions?

Sociologist:

- Study society and social interactions
- No interventions (academic in nature)
- PhD required for most positions

Psychiatrist:

- Medical school (MD)
- Medications and hospitalization

Psychologist:

- Focus mainly on cognitive processes
- Testing
- PhD to practice independently

Counselors:

- PhD to practice counseling independently
- Pastoral - focus on theological issues
- Guidance - educational background and focus (also some employment focus)
- Marriage and Family Therapist - focus on marriage and family issues

Nurses:

- Medical training
- Medical procedures

Attorneys:

- Law school (JD)
- Protected counsel
- Legal advice

Police officers:

- Protection of public
- Criminal justice focus and training
- Armed

Social work is also different from other helping professionals in the way certain issues are focused upon and addressed (the "isms").

What are basic civil rights and liberties?

- Guaranteed legal rights
- Protection from discrimination and oppression
- Fair and just dealings between government and people

What is discrimination? How does it differ from prejudice?

- Discrimination is an action
- Prejudice is a thought process

What is social justice and social injustice?

- Justice = all people treated fairly and equally
- Injustice = unfair treatment and unequal access (disenfranchised)

Social workers ensure civil rights and liberties by:

- Protection from discrimination
- Political advocacy
- Personal advocacy
- Improving services

What is sexism and why is it relevant?

- Belief that one sex is superior
- Impacts: education, income and opportunities

What is racism and why is it relevant?

- Belief that one race is superior
- Impacts: education, income and opportunities
- Civil Rights Act of 1964

What is elitism and why is it relevant?

- Belief that one social class is superior (classism)
- Impacts: education, income and opportunities

What is ageism and why is it relevant?

- Belief that one age group is superior
- Impacts: education, income and opportunities

What is able-bodiedism and why is it relevant?

- Belief that able bodied individuals are superior
- Impacts: education, income and opportunities
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

The Code of Ethics for Social Work is the most comprehensive code of ethics for any helping profession. The code is the model for social workers to base their practice decisions upon and serves as the standard for conduct for social workers.

The basic principles included in the code:

- Service
- Social Justice
- Dignity and Worth of a Person
- Importance of Human Relationships
- Integrity
- Competence

The ethical standards toward clients include:

- Informed Consent
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Self-determination
- Conflicts of Interest
- Sexual Relationships
- Derogatory Language
- Termination of Services

To understand how social work came to its professional focus is to know the basic history of the profession. (A brief overview)

What does welfare mean? Charity?

- Welfare: well-being, someone's prosperity
- Charity: love, kindness, alms-giving

King Henry VIII (1536) "Act for Punishment of Sturdy Vagabonds"

Outlawed public begging
Made churches responsible for local poor
Focus on ability to work (labeling)

Queen Elizabeth I (1572): "Parish Poor Rate"

Established a National tax to help care for the poor

"Elizabethan Poor Laws" (1601):

Created three groups of needy:

- Dependent children
- "Worthy poor" also called "unsturdy" or "unable-bodied" *deserving
- "Unworthy poor" also called "sturdy" or "able-bodied" *non-deserving

"Elizabethan Poor Laws" (1601):

Created Government Responsibilities:

-Responsible for needy

-Authority to force work

-Enforce family responsibility

-Local level responsibility

-Residency requirements

Workhouses vs. Almshouses:

Workhouse: Housing for "unworthy" poor
　　Pool of labor

Almshouse: Housing for "worthy" poor

"Outdoor and Indoor Relief" (1772)

- Outdoor relief - services outside an institution for worthy poor
- Indoor relief - services within an institution for the unworthy poor

"Speenhamland Act" (1795)

Established the first minimum wage
Government had subsidies for businesses

Assumptions carried over from European roots to Colonial America:

- local Government responsibility
- financing through taxation
- classification of those in need
- different types of relief and assistance

Charity Organization Society (COS) (1877):

- sought to organize charities to prevent duplication of services
- led to social casework
- trained "friendly visitors"

Mary Richmond (1917):

- a founding "Mother" of social work
- wrote "Social Diagnosis"
  - other founding Mothers of social work include: Dorothea Dix and Jane Addams

The Stock Market crashed in 1929 leading to the "great depression." President Roosevelt helped put into place a series of policies and programs created to address the needs of the citizens.

Federal Emergency Relief Admin. (FERA):

assistance to victims of a disaster

Works Progress Admin. (WPA):

provided job opportunities during the depression

Civilian Conservation Corps. (CCC):

employed people to complete projects across the U.S. (many of them in national and state parks)

Social Security Act (1935)

- Insurance: based on work contributions
- Assistance: based on classification
- Funding to other services (see exhibit 2.1 p. 32)

Food Stamps Program (1964)

- program to address hunger and malnutrition among low-income families
- vouchers to purchase designated foods
- Renamed in 2008 ("SNAP" - supplemental nutrition assistance program)

Head Start (1965)

- Early childhood education, health and nutrition for low-income children
- Focus on parent-child involvement

Family Support Act (1988):

- job training and support for individuals receiving AFDC
- provided money for child care, transportation and work expenses
- requirements for work hours to receive benefits

PRWORA (1996):

"Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act"

Replaced AFDC - complete overhaul of "welfare" program

TANF:

- "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families"
- became the "welfare" program for the U.S.
- strict time limits and work requirement for assistance

JOBS:

- "Job Opportunities and Basic Skills" training
- courses to ready recipients for participation in the workforce/transitioning to independence

Affordable Care Act (2010)

- expanded access to insurance coverage
- expanded access to mental health services and preventative services
- no limitation for pre-existing conditions

Systems and Ecological Theory

see notes outline on website for relevant terms

People and multiple systems

- Micro
- Mezzo (also spelled Meso)
- Macro

"Generalist Model" perspectives

- Strengths perspective
- Empowerment
- Person-in-environment perspective
- Social and economic justice
- Evidence-based practice

Advocacy Focus

- Collaboration
- Management and planning
- Critical thinking and application of theory
- Analyzing evidence
- Advocacy (engagement and empowerment)

Justice and Advocacy

- <u>Relational Justice</u>: focus on people's ability to make decisions

- <u>Distributive Justice</u>: focus on people's ability to use resources and income to meet basic material needs

Change Process

- Engagement
- Assessment
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

Christianity and Social Work practice

- Psalms 140:12
- Proverbs 31:8-9
- Isaiah 1:17; 58:6
- Micah 6:8
- Zechariah. 7:9-10
- Matt. 7:1; 10:42
- Luke 6:36-38
- John 15:17

- Eph. 5:21
- Phil 2:1-4
- Hebrews 13:16
- James 2:5-18
- **1 Pet.2**:17; 3:8-**15**;4:8-11
- 1 John 3:18

Basic Rights

- Be treated with respect
- Set priorities
- Ask for wants
- Get what is paid for
- Say "no" without guilt

"The unexamined life is not worth living"

Socrates

"People entering human service should be aware of their personal value systems; they also need to be able to assess the consistency of their values with those upon which human services are based. The harboring of internal inconsistencies does not lead to personal or job satisfaction or to mental health."

Naomi Brill

"Do what you love, but make sure you have the ability. Identify your strengths and make them work for you."

Pia Savage