

SWK 2750 Notes Unit II

Common views of U.S. economic system are based upon some myths of individualism which perpetuate poverty problems

Some of these myths, include:

- Belief about hard work
- Belief about success
- Belief about opportunities
- Belief about failure

What are some of the causes of poverty in the U.S.?

The main methods of defining poverty are:

Absolute poverty
Relative poverty
Market basket approach

Which groups of people are most impacted by poverty?

- Children
- Elderly
- Members of subordinate groups
- Homeless

Social Insurance versus Public Assistance

Many believe in some myths about the social welfare system

- rates are soaring
- huge budget
- continuing dependence
- profits for large families
- unwed parenting encouraged

“Welfare” as most people know it changed in 1996 with the passing of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act.

Some of these changes were in regard to:

- Maximum time limits
- Work requirements
- Services and coverage

“Welfare” is in the form of “TANF” (temporary assistance for needy families)

Additional programs

- Medicaid and Medicare
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- SNAP (supplemental nutrition assistance program) - formerly known as food stamps
- WIC (women, infants, and children)
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- HUD (housing and urban development)

Roles working with poverty include:

- private and public services
- intervention
- housing
- administration and policy
- advocacy
- brokering

There is an ongoing debate in the U.S. about defining “family.” For this class, we will define family as “any group of individuals who are bonded together through marriage, kinship, adoption or mutual agreement.”

What are the sociological functions of a family?

Replace population
Care of young
Socialization
Affection
Regulation of behaviors

Social workers are involved with families in a variety of settings addressing many issues.

- Divorce
- Family demographics
- Family violence
- Teenage and unplanned pregnancy
- Run-away adolescents

Services to families and children in the home include:

Child protective services
Mental health services
Physical health services
Education
Family preservation

Services to families with children outside the home include:

- Emergency care
- Foster care
- Residential care
- Adoption

Working collaboratively with classroom teachers and support staff, school social workers provide supportive services for children and their families.

All states require knowledge in:

- Child development
- Learning
- Behavior modification
- Systems
- Organizations

The main focus for school social workers is:

Helping children!!
See textbook for more specifics

Specific roles when working with families:

Counseling
CPS services (including foster care)
IPV/Domestic violence services
Policy/legislative services
Brokering services
Advocacy
Education and support services

Specific strengths that can be seen in almost all families are:

I. Most people want their families to stay together.

2. Most families seek to improve their circumstances.

3. Families and family members are the experts on what they need.

4. Most families are resilient and resourceful.

5. Families in need often have a healthy distrust of professionals.

Social work in health care settings is recognized as starting in Boston in 1905.... because of one doctor's belief in what we now call the "systems / ecological" perspective.

In health care settings, social workers are part of a "multidisciplinary" team that also includes:

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Therapist (physical, occupational)
- Rehabilitation counselors
- Dietitians

What factors contribute to an individuals overall health?

Major health care concerns in the U.S. include:

- cost of services and care
- insurance coverage
- access to prevention services
- chronic illnesses
- health hazards
- treatments and cures

Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- Current health care policy in the United States
- No denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions
- Children insured under parents to age 26
- Expanded mental health benefits

3 levels of intervention

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary

Health Care Approaches

- Integrative Medicine
- Slow Medicine
- Prevention and wellness
- Managed Care

What are some tasks for healthcare social workers?

- helping others understand
- support and family focus
- brokering
- education
- advocacy

When working with individuals with disabilities, it is important to understand the use of terminology.

Physical, cognitive, developmental disabilities and challenges

Diagnosis of developmental disabilities - substantial limitations in 3 or more of the following areas:

- Self-care
- Self-direction
- Receptive language
- Expressive language
- Learning skills
- Mobility
- Capacity for independence
- Economic self-sufficiency

There are several important pieces of legislation for individuals with any type of disability

Architectural Barriers Act (1968)

“Education for all Handicapped Children Act” (1975):

- Public school
- “mainstreaming”
- Individualized education plan (IEP)

IDEA - 1990

- “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act”
- individualized education program
- free appropriate public education
- least restrictive environment
- appropriate evaluation
- parent and teacher participation

“Americans with Disabilities Act” (1990) also called the ADA:

- Protection from discrimination (employment, public-accommodations, services, transportation, and telecommunications)
- “Reasonable accommodations”

Rehabilitation Act (1954, 1975, and 1998):

- Education and rehabilitation
- Priority access to services

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (2001)

- Commonly called “No Child Left Behind”
- requires that students have basic skills at select grade levels
- use of standardized tests to measure basic skills

Roles working with the differently abled, include:

- counseling
- educator
- advocacy
- research
- brokering
- policy
- case management
- coordinating services
- long-term planning