

School Social Work Service

Setting coordinator : Irene Law

2 Sept 2023

Today's agenda

- 1. SSW service**
- 2. School system**
- 3. Preparation**
- 4. Reminders and Important dates**

1. School Social Work Service

Objectives of School Social Work Service

- To help students with their personal, family and interpersonal relationship or schooling problems
- To help student develop their potentials, achieve healthy personal growth, attain adequate and proper school education, establish harmonious human relationships and elicit their concern for the community

remedial

**Developmental
& preventive**

Through Multi-systems intervention

Service targets

students

families/
parents

teachers

School system

community

Roles of school social worker

- **Counselor:** provide guidance and counseling to students who encounters problems
- **Consultant:** provide consultation to students, parents and teachers so as to address the needs of the students
- **Coordinator:** coordinate and mobilize different resources from the communities
- **Community and social educator:** help students and families to develop positive attitude and social values towards life and promote harmonious family relationship by groups, workshops, or programs.

Work nature

Casework

**Groups and
programs**

Enquiries

**Coordination
of community
resources**

Primary school social work-

Case categories

Learning problems
(Special Educational
Needs)

Behavioral
problems

Emotion/
psychological
problems

Family related
issues

Social/
developmental
problems

Health and
physical problems

Secondary school social work - Case categories

Related to
schooling

Peer relationship

Family related
issues

Emotional/
mental health

Behavioral
problems

Developmental
adjustment

Sex-related
issues

Others

Ways to identify students' needs

- Talk to the students directly
- Observe the dynamics and school life of students
- Collect information from teachers or SSW
- Meet class teachers especially S1/P1
- Read annual report and annual plan to understand school's direction
- Browse reports on newspaper
- Do internet search
- Literature review

Types of groups/programs

- Therapeutic groups
- Developmental groups
- Talk/workshops
- Community services
- Visits/ camping
- Exhibitions
- Competition
- Others

2. School System

School as Secondary Setting

- Work inside a setting which the other professionals are majority
- Social work as a subsidiary function
- Interprofessional collaboration

How to work in a Secondary Setting

1. Understand the serving school
2. Understand different stakeholders' perspectives
3. Establish good collaboration
4. Have planning and evaluation

School system

- Guidance team
- Discipline team
- SENCO
- Class teachers
- Career guidance team
- Extra-curricular activity team

- Education psychologist
- Speech therapist
- Parent-teacher association
- Clerical/supportive staff/janitors/ others

Interprofessional Collaboration

- Be clear of own social worker's role
- Set up professional images among teachers
- Keep close reporting to the accountable body

Are you willing to approach teachers actively?

School Culture

- Fixed school calendar, according to schedule , fit in schedule (few sudden event)
- Structured
- Academic oriented
- Class discipline is significant
- Clear division of labor
- Accountability

School calendar



Implication

- School events at specific period:
 - the suspension of activities for exam
 - post-exam periods for student activities
 - the parents' days
 - staff development days
 - teachers' busy period
- Plan for your class visits, workshops or programs
- You can predict your recruitment, students' participation and teachers' involvement in your programs.

Implication

- Potential stress that students encounter:
 - the school commencement
 - the exam period
 - parents day
 - the increase of parent-child conflict due to academic performance, poor parent-children relationship
- Any adjustment of stationing days and other placement arrangement
- Others

Confidentiality

Exceptions:

- (1) Client's own life is in danger
- (2) Serious danger to other people
- (3) Serious threat to the social worker
- (4) Serious threat to the community

Cases/issues in need of immediate reporting to SSW and supervisor

- Suspected/diagnosed child abuse, sexual abuse
- Suicidal cases/ intense emotional problem
- Suspected/ unwed pregnancy
- Mental health cases requiring immediate intervention
- Involve media concern

How to start your work in a new school?

How to start your work in a new school

- Morning assembly
- Class teacher lesson
- School activities
- Recess/lunch at corridor or snack shop
- Arrange class visits



Exposure

3. Self Preparation

Personal Preparation

Appearance

- Properly dress
- hairstyle
- No or few accessories
- Tatoo covered
- Nail

Attitude

- Pleasant
- Approachable
- Take initiative
- Punctual
- Courtesy

Language

- Use proper ways of expression

Professional Image

Personal Preparation

Appearance and personal hygiene

- Properly dress, smart casual, no jean
- Hairstyle, dye hair with darker color, avoid highlight
- No or few accessories
- Tattoo not exposed, if any
- Nail

Personal Preparation

Attitude

- Pleasant
- Approachable
- Take initiative
- Punctual
- Courtesy

Personal Preparation

Language

- Use proper ways of expression
- Age appropriate

Boundary

- Conscious about the worker-client relationship with students
- Be clear about the limitation and boundary
- Different practice between teachers and school social workers

Psychological preparation

Psychological preparation

- Esteem (able to face rejection, apathetic attitude)
- Able to face loneliness, work independently
- Stress and anxiety
- Ready to be flexible and multi-tasking
- Confidence and competence towards various stakeholders, teaching staff, parents etc.

Professional knowledge and skills

Knowledge preparation

- Life span development about children, adolescents and parents.
- Knowledge and ways to handle the SEN such as ADHD, autistic and other emotional problems.
- Understanding about the influence of various systems especially the family influence towards child and adolescent development.

Knowledge preparation

- System perspective
- Marco perspective: youth in the school and youth in the community perspective
- Agency perspective : agency's direction and development

Knowledge preparation

- Knowledge in handling crisis such as suicide, child abuse case etc.
- Understanding the cause and intervention of school bullying.
- Updated information about current changes of education system and the effects on the students and teachers.

Professional skills

- Engagement skills
- Casework and crisis management
- Groupwork and program skills
- Effective communication with school personnel
- Planning and evaluation
- Good interpersonal relationship with different stakeholders, such as parents, teachers, etc.
- Networking and mobilization of resources
- Work management and time management
- Writing skills

Practice Wisdom

- Let your work be visible to teachers and often introduce your work during meeting
- Be active to share your views on students' development
- Be accountable
- System work – cross team collaboration
- Be active to engage more students
- Be courageous

LOVE the clients you serve
PASSION

Other related issues

- Sexual conviction record check
- National Security Law



AI generated language models

As per the 2023 – 24 course outlines of SOWK4006, 4007, 6225 & 6231

- ‘In order to maintain clients’ confidential data and in line with the ethical practice of the profession and the requirements of the personal data (Privacy) Ordinance, 1995, which are reiterated in the social work fieldwork placement handbook (pp.16), it is prohibited to use the AI generated language models for fieldwork courses.’**

Suggested guidelines of the placement tasks:

1st placement:

- Case only: at least 4 cases
- Case + group + program: 2 cases + 1 group + 1 program
- Group + program: 2 groups + 1 program
- CD project: 1-2

Suggested guidelines of the placement tasks:

2nd placement:

- Case only: at least 5 cases
- Case + group + program: 3 cases + 1 group + 1 program
- Group + program: 2 groups + 1 program + 1 project(at least 2-3 sections)
- CD project: 2

Important dates

Orientation visit and service sharing :

(1) 10 Oct 2023 (Tue) HKFYG Media Counseling Centre

-BSW(AM) , MSW(PM)

-SKH Li Ping Secondary School & Diocesan Boys' School (AM)

(2) TBC

Mid-term sharing :

19 Dec 2023 (Tue) 9:30-12:00noon (tentative) HKU

Setting coordinator

Irene Law (CJT 553, 39172985)

irenehklaw@hku.hk

Q & A

Thanks!