

2024-25 Setting Description

Placement Setting: Services for Children and Youth

Target Group(s):

- Mainly young people aged 6 to 24 years old
- Some differences in the clientele characteristics in different service settings:

Services:

1. **Center Services (ICYSC):** Integrated Children & Youth Services or Integrated Youth Services (ICYSC) or Children & Youth Centers
2. **Youth At-risk (YR)** including:
District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams, Community Support Service Scheme for young people who are placed on probation order or under the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme (PSDS), arrested youth, or those who completed 1-year aftercare service after their discharge from detention or rehabilitation centers in the youth support service; Services for Drug Abusers (residential or counselling center) and Correctional and offender services.
3. **Residential Services (RS):** Mainly for children or young persons between 7 and under 21 years of age with behavioural or emotional problem

Nature and Purpose of Service:

From remedial to developmental, to reduce their maladaptive behaviours and the likelihood of being drawn back into the criminal system, to foster socially acceptable behaviour, to facilitate their personal development, to strengthen the family and other personal relationships, to develop their community and international perspectives

Nature of work:

- Casework: Guidance and counselling service for individual and the family
- Group work: Therapeutic, social, developmental, educational groups, etc
- Mass program: With a great variety, of educational, and recreational programs, e.g. camping, outing, visits, talks, workshops, exhibitions, games' day, etc.
- Outreaching: Providing reach-out services for schools, home visits and spot work to reach out the at-risk youth
- Networking: Inter-disciplinary cooperation, e.g. with police, school social workers, teachers, probation officers, etc.
- Enquiries: Mainly in center service of youth integrated service
- Rehabilitation program: Residential care for youth drug abusers or young people with different behavior problems and lack family support and guidance

Nature of Fieldwork Assignments and Learning Opportunities:

Typical work assignments: 2 to 3 cases; 1 group and 1 mass program, but for Centre Services, the main duties will be group and programs

There is flexibility according to the agency requirement and the community characteristics

Working Hours:

Evening service is common among the Centre Services, Youth-At-Risk Services and Residential Services. If full-time students go for Centre Services, they commonly join the school team to provide school support programs, such as the Understanding Adolescent Project (UAP) in primary schools or other purchased programs in secondary school.

Students should prepare themselves for working odd hours including evenings, Friday nights, Saturdays and occasionally on Sundays and public holidays

Special Characteristics/ Requirements:

To work with children and teenagers, be prepared to work with parents.

To work with teenagers and youth, students need to be initiative and patient, with high acceptance, perseverance and creativity.

Expected to work with children and youth with SEN features.

Self-reflection on own values is important as clients' misbehaviours may greatly challenge students' value systems.

Programs and groups are the major working approaches in integrated youth service while casework approach is less emphasised, so students may need to put extra effort into identifying cases by themselves. Children-oriented programs are more dominant in Centre Services, as recruiting adolescents to join programs and groups may be difficult.

Students should be ready to work in unstructured settings, such as streets, parks fast food shops, etc. in Youth Outreaching Services.

Useful Websites: http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_young/

Examples of placement agencies:

The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group

Hong Kong Christian Service

Caritas Hong Kong

YMCA of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Young Woman's Christian Association (YWCA)

Society of Boys' Centers

Hong Kong Student Aid Society

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