

The Mission of Social Work Revisited: An Agenda for the 1990s

COMPLEX FORCES affect the social work profession and often result in new technologies, goals, and targets of intervention. Sometimes the mission of the profession changes—to the approbation of some and the chagrin of others.

What is and what should be the role of social work in society today? Periodic reexaminations of social work's mission can help the profession clarify its current direction or correct any inadvertent deviations in its development. Reexaminations also can help the profession face the challenges of the 1990s (Wenocur & Reisch, 1989). The following analysis offers one way to view the changes in social work and supports the proposed mission direction the authors believe social work should follow to meet current challenges.

Some recent observations of retired social work educators examining social work's mission seem appropriate. In a national study (Walt & Craft, 1988), retired social work faculty were asked for their perceptions of the changing directions in social work education and practice. The retirees cited three concerns:

1. the diminishing role of advocacy, including the apparent abandonment of service to poor people as a focal point for the profession
2. the growth of private practice and the dominance of therapy as the principal mode of intervention
3. the expansion of doctoral education, which they believed to have resulted in a weakened relationship between education and practice.

Although the concerns of the retired social workers could be dismissed as the difficulty of an old guard in passing its mantle to a new generation, they also could be heard as an alert by a council of elders signaling that the profession is drifting from its earlier mission. In either case, the replies reflect concern about changes in the profession.

Thomas Walt
Victor Groze

The forces that affect the social work profession, including the "industrial" takeover of social welfare, the expansion of the private agency, and the change in clientele served by social workers, as well as a change in the motivators of social work students, have contributed to a growing conservatism in social work. In addition, a dominant middle-class America, filled with its own problems, seems to be capturing more of social work's resources. The result has been a drift in the mission of social work and a weakening of the advocacy or political component in social work education and practice. The advocacy role proposed in this article is the clinical activist model. In the model, the clinician's role is that of data gatherer and analyst, in addition to therapist. The client becomes the centerpiece of change, revealing to the clinician the types of systemwide changes or reforms that are needed. The structural changes necessary to implement this model are discussed briefly.

Changes in a profession may originate internally or externally. Modifications in mission or direction can come from leadership and from rank and file. Epstein (1970) indicated that the objectives of divisions or specialties within the profession can shape the goals of the larger profession.

Cultural forces also influence professions. In social work, which depends on cultural support, professional self-determination is often difficult to achieve. Meinert (1980) suggested that social work is a "concrete expression and instrument" of the status quo at any given time. A profession that depends on

economic support from the government and the private sector tends to align its politics with its supporters (Wenocur & Reisch, 1989). There is little likelihood that a profession would aggressively challenge the economic forces that support its continuation (Epstein, 1970).

Several external and internal forces have influenced social work recently. Corresponding modifications in social work education and the profession's orientation can be linked to these influences. The following is a discussion of such changes and their apparent impact on the mission of social work.

The Conservative Retreat

The 1960s: Activism in Social Work

The events of the 1960s awakened a new leadership in social work. In turn, the new leadership attracted activists to the profession. Advocacy opportunities within public welfare expanded, especially under the publicly funded War on Poverty of President Lyndon Johnson (DiNitto & Dye, 1987). Social work became more focused on the needs of poor people and minority groups.

The social work profession attempted to become multicultural in the 1960s. A growing number of new professionals represented racial and ethnic minorities. Unfortunately, this trend was short-lived. In 1969, 21.6 percent of full-time master of social work (MSW) students were minorities (Council on Social Work Education [CSWE], 1969). By 1975, this percentage had decreased to 21 percent and by 1985 to 17.1 percent (CSWE, 1976, 1986).

The 1970s: Industrialization of Social Work

In the early 1970s, under the Nixon administration, social work and social welfare experienced an "industrial takeover." Public welfare had become

Social Work Revisited

Wendy Glasgow Winters, Freda Easton



Social Work Revisited:

Baltimore Revisited P. Nicole King, Kate Drabinski, Joshua Clark Davis, 2019-08-09 Nicknamed both Mobtown and Charm City and located on the border of the North and South Baltimore is a city of contradictions From media depictions in The Wire to the real life trial of police officers for the murder of Freddie Gray Baltimore has become a quintessential example of a struggling American city Yet the truth about Baltimore is far more complicated and more fascinating To help untangle these apparent paradoxes the editors of Baltimore Revisited have assembled a collection of over thirty experts from inside and outside academia Together they reveal that Baltimore has been ground zero for a slew of neoliberal policies a place where inequality has increased as corporate interests have eagerly privatized public goods and services to maximize profits But they also uncover how community members resist and reveal a long tradition of Baltimoreans who have fought for social justice The essays in this collection take readers on a tour through the city s diverse neighborhoods from the Lumbee Indian community in East Baltimore to the crusade for environmental justice in South Baltimore Baltimore Revisited examines the city s past reflects upon the city s present and envisions the city s future

The Practice of Social Work in Schools

Wendy Glasgow Winters, Freda Easton, 1983 **Social Workers' Desk Reference** Lisa Rapp-McCall, Al Roberts, 2022 The Social Worker s Desk Reference fourth edition remains the definitive resource for social work students and professionals Expanded sections on current hot topics such as white nationalism gaming disorder substance abuse LGBTQ populations suicide sexual violence in the military and vulnerable populations make the fourth edition a fully updated and essential reference

Practicing Social Justice Ellen Burkemper, William J Hutchison, Jan Wilson, John J Stretch, 2013-04-15 Examine new research and innovative programs targeted to serve vulnerable populations This collection highlights innovative programs and interventions targeted toward underserved vulnerable and marginalized populations including the homeless immigrants refugees female ex offenders people with developmental disabilities who are entering the criminal justice system homicidal youth and children whose parents are involved in high conflict custody disputes In addition Practicing Social Justice raises critical questions on how society should justly provide for the economic well being of our most valuable human asset our children with an incisive look at the Temporary Aid for Needy Families legislation and its long term impact on disadvantaged children This book also evaluates the Bridges Across Racial Polarization Programs and explores a wide selection of important social justice issues that the social workers of today and tomorrow need to understand Specifically this well referenced book details the mission and guiding principles of the Emmet and Mary Doerr Center for Social Justice at the Saint Louis University School of Social Service with a focus on the Center s innovative partnered approach examines nine models theories of justice with varying philosophical sectarian and nonsectarian orientations illustrates innovative approaches to community economic development for previously neglected poor communities including an inclusive community plan structured to bring about home ownership macro enterprises and the accumulation of capital

through savings documents the rise of homelessness in the state of Missouri in spite of an unprecedented period of economic growth and general prosperity explores social justice concerns for immigrants and refugees entering the United States with a focus on providing positive community commitment and response describes an empowering strengths based program that can help female ex offenders to find and develop support from the community champions the social rights of people with developmental disabilities who are entering the criminal justice system proposes systemic reform for homicidal youth in terms of prevention intervention and remediation describes a program designed to provide a safe environment for the supervised visitation of children in high conflict custody disputes providing security for both parents and children advocates for innovative inpatient staff participatory decision making in mental health hospitals offering an approach designed to increase patient control over decisions directly affecting their well being and more

Field Instruction in Social Work Settings Toba Schwaber Kerson, 2014-01-14 *Field Instruction in Social Work Settings* explores the relationship between field instruction and the setting in which it occurs The book asserts that certain aspects of social work including laws funding political climate organizational policies and values affect the relationship between student and field instructor and shape teaching and learning The book explores dimensions of the student field instructor relationship such as goals and expectations development of professional identity uses of the self issues of diversity authority dependency autonomy value dilemmas and the structure of supervision It presents a framework for teaching field instruction and uses the framework to explore its relevance meaning and use in the following settings perinatal AIDS program public child welfare child advocacy agency public school occupational health and safety project family service psychiatric hospital case management program for the elderly day center for the elderly *Field Instruction in Social Work Settings* is the only book available relating field instruction to the specific context in which it occurs It recognizes the social work field's diminished budget and increased demands and points out the critical necessity of students learning to address and manage policy and organizational issues as they develop their social work skills This book is an aid to field instructors balancing increases in enrollment and curriculum content and decreases in placements and budgets It integrates all of these concerns with field practice and seeks to provide a model for those working in the field as instructors and students *Field Instruction in Social Work Settings* applies classroom material to social work settings and emphasizes the value of field instruction by relating it to the branches of child welfare mental health and health care It allows the reader to integrate social work policy and advocacy with field work and it provides the reader with an appreciation of how social work and field instruction can work together directly

The Mission of Social Work Revisited Cindy St. George, 1997 *Ethics and Values in Social Work* Allan E. Barsky, 2009-10-14 In a unique and student friendly package *Ethics and Values in Social Work* offers a series of learning modules that will ensure graduates receive a comprehensive ethics and values education Designed to be easily incorporated into any curriculum each module helps students integrate the knowledge skills self awareness and critical thinking abilities required for dealing with ethical

issues From applying basic ethical standards of practice to managing complex ethical dilemmas this textbook equips readers with a range of tools and strategies for responding to ethical questions and concerns Traditional ethics textbooks provide students with a model for ethical decision making This breakthrough textbook goes beyond ethical decision making by providing students with a strategic framework for managing ethical issues that includes guidelines for engaging others in ethical discussions and using conflict resolution theory to promote collaborative solutions Some textbooks introduce students to ethical theories such as deontology teleology and virtue ethics This textbook goes beyond describing these theories by providing students with opportunities to apply compare and contrast these approaches as they relate to various contexts of social work practice A wealth of case scenarios discussion questions and role play exercises make this an engaging thought provoking teaching and learning tool At a basic level this textbook teaches students the essential principles and standards that define ethical practice At a more profound level Ethics and Values in Social Work inspires students to reach for the highest values of profession service dignity and worth of the person human relationships integrity competence social justice human rights and scientific inquiry

Interprofessional Perspectives Of Mental Health Crisis: For Nurses, Health, and the Helping Professions Kris Deering, Joanne Williams, 2022-03-04 There is plenty in this book to get your teeth into and help us think about how we work with people in mental health crises and how we might best make a difference Alan Simpson Professor of Mental Health Nursing Health Service and Population Research King's College London UK Any one of us could experience a mental health crisis However a high quality interdisciplinary response can be lifesaving and life changing This book is an important contribution to the literature as it has examples of good practice for all professionals both on the frontline and in service development Dr Adrian James President Royal College of Psychiatrists UK This publication is a valuable and timely resource given the increasing recognition of the impact of mental health needs in a range of different professional settings Victoria Sweetmore Acting Discipline Lead for Mental Health and Learning Disability Nursing University of Derby UK Interprofessional Perspectives of Mental Health Crisis improves the care of those experiencing a mental health related crisis by providing insight into the roles different UK statutory services have and the need for collaborative mental health care For those studying and working in the field of mental health crisis this vital work will bridge your understanding by offering a cross discipline perspective of the different services their role in aiding service users and the ways we can work more collaboratively together to meet the mental health needs of those requiring care Throughout the book Promotes understanding of the various roles each of the key services play within the crucial first 24 hours of a mental health crisis and the challenges they face Fosters interprofessional collaboration to create a whole system approach to crisis care Helps professionals to understand good practice and the challenges of other services when aiding a person in crisis Critically evaluates service provision and ways to improve crisis care Explores recovery and collaboration with service users experiencing a crisis and their significant others The book is timely and essential in its promotion of high quality

interdisciplinary response and emphasis on integration and collaboration between service providers Kris Deering is Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing and the module lead of Working with a Person Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis at UWE Bristol UK Including working as a senior practitioner for a mental health crisis team Kris has over 15 years of mental health nursing experience Jo Williams is Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing at UWE Bristol UK Her clinical practice experience includes civilian and military nursing supporting people living with co existing mental health and substance misuse issues The Approved Mental Health Professional Practice Handbook Stone, Kevin, Vicary, Sarah, 2020-07-09 Approved Mental Health Professionals are specialist professionals authorised to make ethically complex and difficult decisions on the behalf of people with severe mental health difficulties In this complex and challenging role AMHPs must possess and deploy a range of skills knowledge and values This invaluable handbook considers these challenges and provides in depth guidance on all key aspects of the role including working with mental health law risks and challenges in a Mental Health Act assessment staying safe as an AMHP resilience as a trainee and practitioner Packed with helpful features such as illustrations chapter summaries discussion questions and further reading lists this clear and concise book will be invaluable to students on AMHP and Best Interests Assessor programmes as well as for professionals in the field **Documents of Life Revisited** Liz Stanley, 2016-05-13 The cultural and narrative turn has had a considerable impact upon research in the social sciences as well as in the arts and humanities with Ken Plummer s Documents of Life constituting a central text in the turn towards to narrative biographical and qualitative methodologies challenging and changing the nature of research in sociology and further afield Bringing together the latest research on auto biographical and narrative methods Documents of Life Revisited offers a sympathetic yet critical engagement with Plummer s work exploring a range of different kinds of life documents and delineating a critical humanist methodology for researching and writing about these A rich examination of the methods and methodologies associated with contemporary research in the social sciences and humanities this book will be of interest to those concerned with the use and importance of biographical and narrative sources and documents of life investigations As such it will appeal to sociologists social anthropologists and geographers as well as scholars of cultural studies and cultural history literary studies and library archive and cultural management social policy and medical studies

Social Work Revisited Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become more apparent than ever. Its capability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is truly remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Social Work Revisited**," compiled by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound affect our existence. Throughout this critique, we will delve to the book is central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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