Focus

This portion of the training focuses on how agency field instructors can set the stage for enhancing policy practice learning for their students.

The following video was produced by Tom Weir, MSW, Associate Executive Director for Carriage House and Kerri Baker, MSW, LSW a former MSW student who completed her practicum at Carriage House.

The video will provide an example of how a field instructor imparted policy practice content into an MSW student’s practicum.

The video also illustrates the impact of policy practice knowledge on the student’s learning and the student provides her words of wisdom on how field instructors can enhance policy knowledge for students in their agencies.

Tom Weir, MSW, Carriage House & Kerri Baker, MSW, LSW (YouTube Video Presentation)

Outcomes

The outcomes of this portion of the training are;

1. Participants will understand what policy practice is and various activities that accompany policy practice.
2. Participants will understand how they can foster policy practice learning with their students.
3. Participants will be able to know how to promote policy practice learning on micro, mezzo and macro levels.

Working Definition of Policy Practice

“Efforts to change policies in legislative, agency, and community settings, whether by establishing new policies, improving existing ones, or defeating the policy initiative of other people” (Jansson, 1999, p. 10, as cited in Sullivan, n.d.).

Influencing Public Policy

Policy Advocates Must:

- Educate Legislators: On issues, needs and priority areas.
- Present Facts: Issues must tangibly supported with facts and evidence.
• Policy Efficacy: Effectiveness of policy recommendations must be presented in very simple & clear terms.
• Enlist Partners: Create opportunities for direct contact with colleagues, partners and legislators.
• Supporters & Adversaries: Know your audience, know your opposition and build healthy, working relationships.

(Sullivan, n.d.).