**ASSIGNMENT I: Term Paper**

[ASSESSMENT FOR (EP2.1.2 – PB2.1 – PB2.4); (EP2.1.4 – PB4.1 – PB4.4); (EP2.1.5 – PB 5.1, PB5.2 & PB5.3); (EP2.1.6 – PB6.2); (EP2.1.7 – PB7.1, PB7.2); EP2.1.8 – PB8.1, PB8.2); (EP2.1.9 – PB9.1, PB 9.2); (EP2.1.10 – PB10.1 -10.13)]

For the term paper, begin by identifying a community or a social welfare organization with which you are familiar. These may be contexts in which you have worked or have had field instruction placements. Within these systems you should clearly identify a social welfare problem that is not currently appropriately addressed.

This assignment is designed to address learning content from Unit II: developing analytical skills regarding communities in relation to specific populations and their needs. In this part of the paper you will discuss a need in relation to a specific population (e.g. long term care for frail elders; child care and single working parents; domestic violence and immigrant women) within an arena (a community in which you are either placed in field or in which you have lived, worked or volunteered).

Based on content in chapters 3, 4, 9,10, & 11 in Netting, Kettner, McMurtry, & Thomas (2012) as well as required readings posted on D2L and scholarly references and government documents/data to build your case for change, choose a project that you can accomplish this semester (or a larger project that can be accomplished next semester, that is planned this semester that you intend to accomplish in the fall), or one that you can imagine accomplishing. (See the instructor for project approval.) Begin immediately by describing the population and working on an overview of the need, including the data that assesses need. Create a plan for change, including what your hypothesis is for intervention, and your change approach, rationale for the change strategy you are using, and your goals and objectives for change.

Based on this, write a focused 12-20 page paper that does the following:

* Provides a description of the population and an overview of the related need. The discussion should be guided by the frameworks in Netting, Kettner, McMurtry, & Thomas’ Chapters 3 and 4. (about 3 pages)
* Examines the relationship between the need and the population within the particular community arena. The analysis should be based on the frameworks in Netting, Kettner, McMurtry, & Thomas’ Chapter’s 5 and 6 regarding communities. (about 3 pages)
* Summarizes your problem analysis -- Cite relevant literature on both the target population and the stated problem (theory, research, evaluation, and practice findings); supporting data, relevant historical incidents, and potential barriers to problem resolution; include target population perspectives; and speculate about the etiology of the problem. (2 pages)
* States your intervention hypothesis (based on your analysis). (1 statement)
* Describes the organization in which the problem is occurring, list participants according to systems, and describe what role(s) the social work change agent will play in the change episode. (1 page)
* States your change approach (policy, program, project, personnel, or practice) and why you have selected this approach, including political and interpersonal considerations, resource considerations, and the likelihood of success. (1 page)
* Discusses and provides a rationale for the strategies and tactics used, including why you consider this to be a focused or a transformative change. [[1]](#footnote-1) (1 page)
* States goals and objectives that you used to evaluate your intervention -- at least one goal with two outcome objectives (at least one outcome objective and three process objectives and one set of activities). (1 page)
* Reports the actual strategies and tactics that you used, the objectives that were met/unmet, and the general consequences (planned and unplanned) for your intervention. (3 pages).

Include a reference page.

You do not have to have achieved all the results that you intended to achieve, but you need to have helped someone and tried your hand at community/organizational intervention.

The assignment will be graded as follows:

1. Organization and Clarity of Writing Style (25 points)
2. Addresses the assignment in a focused, logical, consistent, and clear manner
* Uses correct grammar, spelling, sentence and paragraph construction
* Adequately addresses each part of the assignment
* Uses appropriate scholarly references and data

1. Quality of Analysis (75 points)
* Ability to write analytically and the logic of intervention hypothesis
* Understanding of power dynamics in the change process
* Insightfulness about strategies and tactic
* Understanding of outcome-based measurement and how to write goals, objectives, and activities.
* Ability to critique the process and discuss emergent alternatives
* Ability to present the interventions used clearly and completely
* Ability to present the outcomes and findings from the interventions.

This assignment may be modified by the class after projects have been chosen in order to accommodate creative and meaningful projects approved by the instructor.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)