

SOCIAL CASE WORK IN A WORLD AT WAR
(June 1, 1943--Sara A. Brown)

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Granada Project
Amache, Colorado

PART I

Description of Study Groups and Assignments

Study groups will deal with social case work as one method of assisting families and individuals. At first study will focus on basic philosophies, and principles of social case work and their application in present day practice, then certain emphases and aspects of social case work theory and practice will be selected for more intensive analysis and study.

Through group discussion, assigned reading and study of social case records, we will consider; the philosophical concepts underlying social work and in particular social case work practice; the cultural, social, economic and community setting of present day social case work experience; new emphases which changing situations are contributing to practice; the influence of mental hygiene and psychiatry on the understanding of human behavior and its meaning, and how to work constructively with people.

Certain technical processes generally accepted in sound social case work practice will be considered, such as; early contacts, social study, exploratory or acquaintance period, analysis of and interpretation of the meaning of the information, social diagnosis, treatment, continual evaluation and re-evaluation.

Certain techniques evolving from practice are continually sharpening and refining their effectiveness under a wide variety of present day experiences. Particularly we will study; the interview, the conference, observation, consciously directed relationships, case recording, and social treatment directed toward economic, environmental and personal need.

New developments in responsibility for administration are emphasizing new functions in present day practice, such as new functions for; intake service, accepting and not accepting applications, case statistical accounting, opening and closing cases "under care" financial bookkeeping, and a wide range of inter-agency relationships, responsibility and practice.

Assignments

The reading list is designed to give a comprehensive idea of the field of social case work, the history, changing philosophies, methods, techniques and present day practice. In order to keep it up to date, current material will be added from time to time. A minimum amount will be assigned as required reading and in addition a wider range from which selections may be made, according to special subjects and individual interest.

Book Review

During the next three months, select an article or a book of fiction depicting human behavior and relationships, especially family and community relationships. Indicate in a brief review some of the strengths present in particular situations and the skills evidenced by different persons in some of the situations and experiences.

Biographical Statement

During the next three weeks prepare a statement of your special interests and activities in school and elsewhere. What in your experience do you think will be of value to you in your social work now and to your understanding of human relationships in the future. Indicate your special interests at this time in the broad field of social work practice as you know the field at this time.

PART II

Outline for the First Year Study of Social Case Work

1. Development of social case work in U. S. A.
Basic purpose and ultimate test of all social work.
2. What is meant by social case work?
Certain concepts accepted in theory and practice.
Definitions, current and historical.
The distinguishing concern, the goal.
3. Social case work today as one method useful to people in meeting their troubles and as one form of social work practice.
4. The needs and rights of people as human beings.
5. The content of social case work.
Integration of philosophies, principles and methods through reading, discussion and case material.
Practical adaptation through supervised field work.
Learning tested by experience.
Conditioning factors.
6. Generic factors in social case work.
7. Information basic to case work study.
 - A. The "area" of practice
Factors contributing to the inability of people to be self-supporting and self-directing.
How people react to experiences.
 - B. Technical methods and the How something is done about it (processes and techniques)
 - (1) Selection of situations suitable for case work and those for which the agency is equipped.
Function of the agency
Professional equipment of worker
The case situation
 - (2) Social study begins (investigation)
Early contacts
First application
Interviewing developing as a fine art
Purpose
A few techniques of the interview
Factors contributing to a satisfactory interview
Therapeutic value of interviews
Analysis of interviews from social records in different setting

- (3) Social study continues throughout
 - The interview at "intake"
 - Observations
 - Selection of collaterals or "secondaries" for interviewing
 - Selection and use of social resources within and without the case situation

 - (4) Recording (emphasized throughout)
 - Purpose and content
 - Recording of: early contacts
 - the interview at intake
 - the social study as it continues
 - what the social study reveals
 - A few essentials for recording
 - What the record reveals as to:
 - the agency
 - agency function
 - changes in methods and techniques
 - emphases and trends

 - Different forms in general use

 - (5) Social case work analysis, interpretation, evaluation and re-evaluation (social diagnosis)
Changes in terminology and approach as evidenced by:
 - Mary Richmond Charlotte Towle
 - Gordon Hamilton Leah Feder
 - Fern Lowry Margaret Bristol

 - (6) Social case treatment
 - Objectives and philosophies
 - Four general areas in which treatment may focus
 - Developing and carrying out plans JOINTLY--with participation of client, worker and community.
 - Certain criteria which are helpful

 - (7) Social resources, analyzed and emphasized in different setting.
8. Body of Knowledge drawn from many fields--some of major and some of minor import.
 9. Study of social evidence and rules of evidence.
 10. Social case work practice today in governmental-public and voluntary-private agencies
 - A. History of trends and philosophies
 - B. Functions and present day emphases

C. Joint responsibility

D. Administrative functions such as: Case accounting
Inter-agency
relationships
Central index and
master file
Knowledge and use of
specialized services

11. Communications by letter, wire, and telephone.

12. Social treatment of economic need.

A. Fundamental "wants" or need
Standard of living
Family finance

B. The meaning of money
What is "income", what its "real sources"?
How people react to money

C. Two kinds of dependency
Physical subsistence
Emotional satisfactions
Relief as one aspect of relationships

13. Social treatment directed toward environment of "opportunity" need.

14. Social treatment directed toward personal attitudes involving relationships, environment and community.

15. Social treatment directed toward psychological need should be correlated with a course in "Psychiatric Information."

16. Social case work practice in a variety of setting.

A. Urban community with services available through voluntary-private case work agencies. Emphasis on similar situations in rural and urban communities with no formal organization of voluntary services.

(1) Marginal family situations

(2) Insufficient income with threatened loss of home and employment

(3) Church counseling on marital relationships. The church and social services in any community.

(4) Unmarried parents with their social, economic, and emotional experiences.

(5) The handicapped child with resultant social and emotional attitudes and relationships.

- B. The school and visiting teacher makes use of the case work method.
 - C. Legal services make use of social case work in present day practice.
 - D. Relation of physical health to social efficiency. *le*
 - E. Relation of mental health to social efficiency correlated with a course "Psychiatric Information."
17. The goals of social case work in relation to the community, with emphasis on certain obligatory and optional areas of responsibility for the agency and the worker.
 18. The relation of agency function, the total situation, the worker and the community in the practice of general social case work.
 19. Class and field experience related to the realities of present day practice and basic philosophies of social well being of all people in the U. S. A.