Week 6 - Assignment

Final Paper: From Policy to Delivery

**Topics** (Choose one topic from the following list as a focus for your research project):

Your final assignment will be to write your research paper related to the topic you selected in Week 2: Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse, and discuss how it transcends from policy to delivery. Please review the bullet points carefully and be sure you are addressing each area in a comprehensive manner. While you will summarize the current laws and regulations and their impact on services, make sure you don’t miss the discussion on what future policies/laws and regulations would be needed to address this issue adequately. Additionally, make sure you utilize a minimum of eight scholarly sources to support your analysis

Here is the topic selected for my final paper and I have attached my week 2 assignment paper down below:

1. **Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse**: Laws requiring the mandated reporting of child abuse have been enacted in every state in the United States. Mandated reporting laws cross disciplines (counseling, psychology, medicine, nursing, education, etc.). Some professionals have criticized these laws on the basis of interfering with their professional relationship with children.
2. **Mental Health Parity**: Mental health parity laws and regulations have been enacted at the state and federal level. This “hot” issue affects not only the mental health community, but also the welfare and traditional healthcare sectors.
3. **Prison Diversion**: Many states and counties have developed court-based diversion program to provide an alternative to prison time for minor offenses, drug offenses, and offenses committed by juveniles or mentally ill individuals. There are several facets of this issue that can be examined from a cross-disciplinary perspective.
4. **Prescription Privileges for Psychologists**: There are efforts by both the state and federal level focused on granting psychologists the right to prescribe psychotropic medications to patients. This controversial issue crosses several disciplines.

After you have selected a topic, you will prepare a comprehensive 4,200-5,250 word (12-15 page) paper that analyzes all of the following areas from a cross-disciplinary perspective:

* Define the human service policy topic you have chosen from a cross-disciplinary perspective. What are the problems, areas, and disciplines that you will explore in your paper? (2-3 pages)
* Briefly summarize and review the relevant federal and state regulations, laws, or court rulings relevant to your topic. (2-3 pages)
* How do these laws and regulations impact the provision of services? Ensure you address the impact the development of budgets, management of staff and volunteers, the ability to engage in advocacy efforts in this analysis.  (6-8 pages)
* What future research/policies/law/regulations are needed to address this issue adequately? (2-3 pages)

APA 6th edition format is required for this assignment. You must use a minimum of eight scholarly sources including the textbooks to support your analysis. You may include recommended and required readings.

Resources

Required Text

Herzberg, J. T. (2015). *Foundations in human services practice: A generalist perspective on individual, agency, and community.*Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson. ISBN: 9780205858255; eISBN: 9780205982233   
Chapter 3: Interviewing: A Human Services Practice

Karger, H. J. & Stoesz , D. (2018). *American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach* (8th ed). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson. ISBN: 9780134628127; eISBN: 9780134543468  
Chapter 15: Child Welfare Policy

Recommended References

ChildHelp. (n.d.). Child Abuse Statistics & Facts. Retrieved from [*https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/ (Links to an external site.)*](https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/)

Henderson, K. L. (2013). Mandated reporting of child abuse: Considerations and guidelines for mental health counselors. *Journal Of Mental Health Counseling*, *35*(4), 296-309.

Some videos to get you thinking!

[https://study.com/academy/lesson/failing-to-report-suspected-child-abuse-neglect-as-a-mandated-reporter.html (Links to an external site.)](https://study.com/academy/lesson/failing-to-report-suspected-child-abuse-neglect-as-a-mandated-reporter.html)

[https://drugfree.org/mental-health-parity/ (Links to an external site.)](https://drugfree.org/mental-health-parity/)

[https://www.nami.org/Videos/What-is-Mental-Health-Parity (Links to an external site.)](https://www.nami.org/Videos/What-is-Mental-Health-Parity)

[https://vimeo.com/274036072 (Links to an external site.)](https://vimeo.com/274036072)

An article:

[https://csgjusticecenter.org/courts/media-clips/do-jail-diversion-programs-really-work](https://csgjusticecenter.org/courts/media-clips/do-jail-diversion-programs-really-work/)

(Week 2 paper) Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse

Every U.S state and all territories have laws that require “mandatory reporting of child abuse” and sufficient laws that identify individuals required to report these cases to the appropriate agencies. Mandatory reporting statutes impact different disciplines including education, nursing, medicine, psychology and counselling. Many professionals criticize mandatory reporting laws because there contradict their professional requirements and relationship with their clients. Some of the agencies that handle child abuse issues include law enforcement agencies and Child Protective Services (CPS) (Falk, 2017). Individuals may use a too-free hotline designated for reporting child abuse concerns. Although some states may include nonprofessional citizens, mandated reporters of child mistreatment include law enforcement officers, teachers, and mental healthcare workers. The “U.S Department of Health and Human Services” gives guidelines on how and when each state should report child maltreatments. Reporting of child abuse does not involve only confirmed cases but also suspected cases of child maltreatments.

Maltreatment of children occurs in many ways including neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and emotional mistreatment. Emotional abuse occurs when caregivers intentionally depict that a child is worthless and valueless or unlovable. Neglect is a type of abuse where caregivers fail to meet the emotional, educational, physical, and mental needs of a child. Physical mistreatment of kids refers to the intentional use of force that may cause injuries or has the potential to cause injuries (Kenny & Abreu, 2016). On the other hand, sexual abuse involves completed or attempted sexual acts, sexual exploitation of a kid by caregivers. Both AACAP (“American Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry”) and APA (“American Psychological Association”) include child abuse reporting in their code of conduct and ethics besides publishing other guidelines concerning child abuse. Nevertheless, reporting of child abuse is increasingly becoming complicated while fraught with enormous practical and ethical dilemmas.

Complexities and ambiguities in child abuse often impede the reporting process. A recent study on child abuse reporting established that mandated child abuse reporters hesitated to report child abuse cases mainly due to confusion concerning less explicit cases of maltreatment such as emotional, mild physical maltreatment, and other forms of maltreatment among children with disabilities (Falk, 2017). Mandatory reporters also hesitate from reporting suspected child abuse cases but prefer to report only cases where they have solid evidence such as broken bones, bruises, and injuries, or a complete change of behavior. Sometimes, reporting sexual abuse of kids may be harmful to the kid or lead to re-traumatization. For instance, re-traumatization may occur in instances where the reporting extends to the public and the abused child is “unnecessarily subjected to invasive medical procedures and forensic interrogations” that might be different forms of child abuse.

Reporting of child abuse may be harmful to the child because the mandated reporter has no control of the findings of the child’s welfare agencies such as Child Protective Services (Kenny & Abreu, 2016). After reporting child abuse, for instance, CPS may come into the home and conduct investigations on the issue, establish the cause for suspicion or determine the issue as unfounded, and then leave without consequences. The agency may also decide not to carry out any investigations. In some instances, family members may not be notified that the Child Protective Services agents had been notified of the matter. Conversely, one is always worried that the coming of Child Protective Services agents will further abuse the child or the child will have limited protection. However, none of these questions mitigate the duty to report any suspected or actual child mishandling. The bottom line is that mandated reporters of child abuse must inform the CPS because they must do so as per the law.

A major challenge of mandatory reporting is that “the threat of reporting may discourage many families from seeking help.” Besides, mandatory reporting has a significant impact on the therapeutic relationship between psychiatrists and their clients. Most psychiatrists are unwilling to breach confidentiality protocols demanded by the profession because reporting compromises therapeutic relationships with some of the parents (Tufford, Bogo, Katz, Lee & Ramjattan, 2019). Reporting may also disrupt treatments among family members already under mental health therapeutic programs. However, some studies suggest that complying with mandatory reporting guidelines has a positive impact on therapeutic procedures and does not ruin the relationship between the psychiatrists and their clients. Some studies established that clients receiving mental health therapies may consent the disclosure of some of their confidential information if they understand that therapists are mandated by the law to disclose such information.

Mandated reporting of child abuse is very important to therapists, children, and parents as well as the Child Protective Services agency. Children should be informed before commencing therapies that although therapeutic processes must demonstrate high levels of trust, confidentiality may not be guaranteed (Kenny & Abreu, 2016). In situations where therapists feel that the child is in danger, they might be forced to disclose the child's confidential information to protect the child.

In conclusion, both parents and children must understand the importance of consent documents in cases of the disclosure. Although many people would not wish to reveal to legal agencies, psychiatrists would report information concerning children and adults seeking therapies for abuses they endured in their childhood.

References

Falk, G., (2017, November 29). *The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant: A Legislative History (Links to an external site.).* Congressional Research Service. Retrieved from <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44668.pdf>

Kenny, M. C., & Abreu, R. L. (2016). Mandatory reporting of child maltreatment for counselors: An innovative training program. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Counseling*, *2*(2), 112-124.

Tufford, L., Bogo, M., Katz, E., Lee, B., & Ramjattan, R. (2019). Reporting suspected child maltreatment: Educating social work students in decision making and maintaining the relationship. *Journal of Social Work Education*, *55*(3), 579-595.