



Analysis of COVID-19 Through the Lens of the 9 Social Work Competencies

The situation with COVID-19 is extremely dynamic. Many agencies/communities continue to monitor the spread of the virus in order to make proactive decisions necessary to protect community members. The purpose of this assignment is for social work students to demonstrate integration of the 9 social work competencies to analyze the impact of COVID-19.

Students should consult first with their Practicum (Educational and Task) Supervisor(s) about using this assignment for practicum hours. The student's Supervisor(s) and Faculty Liaison must give approval prior to this assignment being used as remote practicum hours.

Directions: Using either your agency or community placement setting, discuss the following:

1. Where applicable include what you know about the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. properties, spread, incubation, duration, fatality, etc.) and CDC guidelines for best practice during a pandemic.
2. Use the 9 social work competencies and below questions to analyze the impact across systems (micro-macro).
3. Summarize findings and recommendations for your agency and community. Describe how this assignment impacted your understanding or beliefs about the role of the profession in responding to a pandemic.

Students completing this assignment will receive 45-hours of practicum time. Students should notify their Practicum Supervisor(s) and Faculty Liaison if they choose to complete this paper. This paper should be minimum 5 pages and adhere to APA format. In addition, students must also complete a PowerPoint presentation on their findings and present to practicum supervisor(s) and/or co-workers.

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Examine and apply an ethical decision-making model to the steps being taken to mitigate the spread of the virus at the individual, local (agency), community, and State levels. In addition, students should consider the following:

- a. Policies and laws
- b. Relevant standards in the Code of Ethics
- c. Role of other professionals involved
- d. Ethical use of technology, etc.
- e. Personal and professional values – including how this pandemic has affected you personally and how you are taking care of yourself

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has created marginalization, discrimination, oppression, alienation and/or created power and privilege. Responses should also include a thoughtful analysis of:

- a. Diversity, culture, equity, and inclusion
- b. How your practicum placement has or has not responded to these issues of cultural diversity, power and privilege as a result of COVID-19
- c. How your local community and state have or have not responded to these issues of cultural diversity, power and privilege as a result of COVID-19

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Discuss the U.S. Federal government's response to COVID-19 thus far and its global impact regarding our nation's relationships with other countries. Do you agree or disagree with our government's response to COVID-19, explain? Identify strategies that may promote social and economic justice and human rights, nationally and/or worldwide. What strategies do you propose to eliminate structural barriers and ensure equity as it relates to testing and treatment of COVID-19 patients?

Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Based on a literature review, discuss research and best practices for social workers to exercise during times of national traumatic events. According to this literature, identify the pros and cons of your agency's response to COVID-19.

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Identify 1 local, state or federal policy and 1 public health policy and their role in services provided by the agency or community. Were these policies effective? Who benefitted and who did not benefit from these policies? Choose a specific agency issue relating to COVID-19 and formulate your own agency policy in response to COVID-19; how would you implement this new policy?

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Identify 2 social work engagement theories and discuss how they apply when working with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities at your agency during COVID-19. Identify the agency's strengths and needs when working with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Assess your agency or community's strengths and needs during COVID-19. Consider the following:

- a. What are potential positive outcomes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- b. Reflecting on the agency or community strengths, how can the agency/community build on that to affect more members of the community, state, nation, or world?
- c. Reflecting on the agency or community needs, are those needs being met? If so, how? If not, why?

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Identify at least 3 interventions that either your agency, state or federal government has implemented with the goal of slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Would you do anything differently? Explain.

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

How would you evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions identified above (Competency 8) and its impact on individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities? From your perspective, have these interventions worked? Why or why not?

As a practicum student, how would you evaluate your own responses to, and effectiveness in working with clients, co-workers and colleagues at the agency?