

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

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Workplace Management and Child Welfare Policy, Planning and
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Definitions of Social Policy

- Refers to both goals of collective responsibilities and to a set of services for carrying out those responsibilities.
- Set of laws and administrative rules that define the purposes of public social welfare and authorize organizations to work toward accomplishment of those purposes.
(Compton, Galaway, & Cournoyer, 2004)



Social Welfare Policy Addresses

- Societal/governmental responsibilities to each other
- Structures and arrangements that enable us to carry out these responsibilities
- The extent these responsibilities will be carried out by formal organizations



Social Welfare Policy Addresses (cont'd)

- Extent that informal and self-help networks will be used
- The relationship between formal and informal structures
- Extent that public, private non-profit, and for profit agencies will be involved in the formal social welfare delivery system



What Is Involved for Social Work Practice

- Identification of a need/issue
- Community needs assessment
- Advocacy and planning skills
- Collaboration amongst service delivery providers



Social Welfare Policy/Practice

- Issues can surface from the “practice” environment
- Initiation of legislative response to these issues/unmet needs can occur at administrative levels
- Provides a mechanism by which “fairness” and “equity” for all citizens can be addressed



Advocacy for Legislative Intervention

- Can be accomplished by Lobby groups, special interest groups, professional organizations, and personal representation.



Advocacy Can Involve

- Visits to legislators/representatives
- Written correspondence
- Testimony
- White papers
- Research findings/recommendations
- Media documentaries



Social Welfare Policy/Practice

- “Policy is not something in the abstract, it is part of a continuum.”
(B. Cornet, personal communication, 2007)
- Knowledge of the legislative process is critical to sound social work practice.



Exercise

- Identify a current unmet need within your client population. How might you introduce this as an “issue” needing legislative action?



Implementing Social Policy

■ Steps

- Laws are translated into regulations
- Regulations are dispersed from the State of California Department of Social Services
- Counties receive notice of new regulations through receipt of an All County Information Notice (ACIN), All County Letter, (ACL) or All County Fiscal Information Notice (AFIN)



Implementing Social Policy (cont'd)

- County develops procedures to implement regulations
- Monitor for compliance
- Evaluation of effectiveness
 - Can result in the introduction of amended or new legislation.



Summary

- Ability to influence and initiate action is found throughout all levels of a child welfare organization
- Advocacy for change via policy can occur internal as well as external to the agency
- Advocacy offers an opportunity for collaboration
- Social Welfare Policy/Practice can become an effective strong partnership