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Partnership to Improve the Lives of Children across the Spectrum of Child Welfare Services: A Land Grant University's Opportunity

Crystal Collins-Camargo, PhD, MSW; Chris Flaherty, PhD; and Pamela Weeks, JD.....2

The use of Title IV-E funding for child welfare has served to create new bonds between state child welfare agencies and schools of social work. Many current university-child welfare partnerships go well beyond early efforts to train new child welfare workers. Land grant universities are charged with improving the welfare of citizens within their respective states through a triadic mission of teaching, service, and research. The expansion of university-child welfare partnerships has created a unique opportunity for maximizing the impact of the land-grant university's mission in service of the state's most vulnerable citizens.

Evaluating a Social Work Supervision Model in a Real-World Child Welfare Setting

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The Integrative Supervision Model (ISM) was implemented in a public child welfare organization to provide clinical supervision to MSW employees who desired clinical licensure, and to test the effectiveness of the ISM in a real-world practice situation. Data indicates that use of the ISM encouraged a more comprehensive review and clinical approach to child welfare cases on the part of participants, and resulted in a significant increase in their knowledge and skills as defined by the model. The findings were confirmed by LCSW Supervisors. The low response rate of child welfare supervisors will be discussed as well as other organizational and clinical implications.

The Role of Self-Efficacy in Mediating Personal and Environmental Factors that Influence Practice with Crime Victims: Implications For Professional Development

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Assistance to crime victims has emerged as a practice issue that cuts across many social work fields of practice. Based on a mail survey conducted with 1,406 licensed social workers, a conceptual model is presented that explores the relationships among personal factors, environmental factors, professional self-efficacy, and knowledge and skills for working with crime victims. Using structural equation modeling, the following conceptual linkages were supported: those with more personal experiences and more support from their practice setting were more likely to have higher levels of professional self-efficacy, and, therefore, were more likely to have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide services to crime victims. Implications for professional development include roles and responsibilities of administrators and supervisors to provide access to continuing education, in-service training, consultation, and policies that provide both knowledge and skills for working with crime victims and a supportive environment that addresses the potential for compassion fatigue.

Compressed Social Work Education: An Innovative Approach to Continuing Education

Charles Zastrow, PhD and Mary Weeden, MSW.....37

Compressed MSW education involves offering courses in a more intensive format, with the length of a course being substantially shorter than the traditional semester-long format. The compressed education format for an MSW program in the Midwest is described, and the results of an evaluative study of this format are summarized. The current students enrolled in this program overwhelmingly favor this format over the traditional semester-long format. The students also see a number of advantages in being a member of a cohort group.

Court Training for Public Child-Welfare Social Workers: An Evaluation of a Training Program

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The purpose of this study was to explore the influence of a forensic child-welfare social work training program. We sought to assess whether the professional ability of public child-welfare social workers was improved as a result of their participation in the training program. The program provides public child-welfare social workers with training in courtroom procedures and practices to improve workers' effectiveness in the juvenile court. The research team found that increased training was the most salient influence on the workers' perceptions of their improved professional ability.