

## **Development, Facilitation, and Evaluation of a Client Group**

(Points – Refer to last paragraph of this document)

In some field education placements, Social Work field students will have the opportunity to provide services to clients through group work. The Association for Specialists in Group Work has described four major types of groups:

- Task / Work groups
- Psychoeducation groups
- Support groups
- Psychotherapy / Process groups

Groups can also be defined by structure:

- Closed groups (no new members admitted after the first group)
- Open groups (new group members can join at any time\_
- Single Session groups

Development and facilitation of a client group generally involves a sequence of events that include:

- Conducting a needs assessment for a specific kind of group
- Developing a written proposal for the group which includes the selection or development of a curriculum for each group
- Developing a structure for each group session
- Planning specific agendas for each group including topics, subjects, activities, and interventions
- Developing a plan for termination / closure of the group including any post-group activities
- Developing a plan to evaluation group effectiveness
- Recruiting and selecting group members
- Facilitating the group sessions which includes the implementation of the topics / interventions for each group
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the interventions and activities
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the facilitator or co-facilitators

Field students may participate in groups in the following ways:

- Participate in some or all of the activities described above
- Function as a single facilitator or as a co-facilitator.
- Observe a group led by another professional.

Work with groups provides a number of opportunities for Field Assignments. Examples of potential Field Assignments include:

1. Develop a written proposal for a group including the following (1 point):
  - The purpose of the group
  - A description of the client population the group is intended to serve

- The number of sessions
  - The length of each group session
2. Develop a written plan (agenda) for the activities and interventions for each group session (1 point)
  3. Facilitate or co-facilitate a single group session with a written summary of the one group including the following (1 point):
    - A description of the structure (agenda) used for the one group
    - An analysis of the effectiveness of the interventions and activities utilized in the one group
    - An analysis of the field student's strengths and weaknesses as a group facilitator or co-facilitator
  4. Facilitate or co-facilitate an overall number / series of individual group sessions with a written summary of the overall group sessions including the following (1 point)
    - A description of the group structure (agendas) for the overall series of group sessions
    - An analysis of the effectiveness of the interventions and activities utilized in the overall series of group sessions
    - An analysis of the field student's strengths and weaknesses as a group facilitator or group facilitator throughout the overall series of group sessions
  5. Completion of field assignments 1 - 4 will constitute a Major Assignment and count as 5 points.