

LEARNING LOG #5

Student Name Kevin Hull

Hours completed this week: 32

Total hours to date: 196

I. FIELD INSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES:

List and briefly describe your field instruction activities during the weeks covered by this Learning Log.

3/22

On March 22, I had a very full day. I started the day off in Holyoke with an intake meeting with a new family. I often go into the intake without knowing much about the case, so I get to hear the clients side of the story without any bias then I go back to the office and read the extensive assessment done by DCF. After the intake, Eric and I had a meeting with one of his clients and DCF. DCF wanted to call this meeting because she has not been showing up to Parent Education (Eric usually meets with her only on Fridays so I do not know much about her). After the meeting with DCF, Eric and I had to go pick up the client's children and bring them back for the visit, which took up until about 4 pm. My visit with my client at his after school program was canceled, because he had to stay late after school.

3/24

I got to the office and completed notes from the March 22nd visit. I then prepared for a parent education at 10:00 with a new client that Eric recently did the intake with; within this PE we discussed common goals and talked about what he wants to get out of PE. After the parent education the client had a visit with his child that I supervised. After the visit I had a meeting with Eric about multiple cases and their current status. After this meeting with Eric I inputted notes about the PE and supervised visit earlier in the day.

3/29

I start the day off in Holyoke with a parent education meeting we a new family. This was the first PE after the intake so I wanted to get more information about the case from the family. I asked multiple questions around the incident and the behavioral history of the child. After this PE I went back to the Springfield office and began to create a crisis plan outline I could fill out with the family during the next PE. I then created a lesson plan around baby nutrition for another one of my clients that I meet with on Thursday. To end the day I met with a child of one of my clients at his after school program for a quick check in about school and well-being.

3/31

I conducted an intake with Eric in the morning with parents that have recently taken in a child as foster parents and now are very overwhelmed. After the intake, I went back to the office and created a file for the client on the computer, and I read through all of the client's child's early intervention reports. I then worked more on the crisis plan for the client I talked about above. Lastly, I was told that we are closing with the client that I have been with since September and I would have to complete a treatment plan and discharge form on Tuesday April 5.

4/7- supervision

Write an "O" (observed) next to all the social work roles/functions that you observed others doing at your agency. Write an "S" (self) next to all the social work roles/functions that YOU performed.

<u>Micro</u>	<u>Mezzo</u>	<u>Macro</u>
Assessment _S___	Family Assessment _N/A___	Advocacy _N/A___
Counseling _S___	Family Counseling _S___	Lobbying _N/A___
Referral _N/A___	Family Advocacy _N/A___	Community Organization _N/A___
Advocacy _N/A___	Family Education _S___	Programming _N/A___
Education _S___	Group Facilitating _N/A___	Community Education _N/A___
Case Management _S___		Administration _N/A___
Other _N/A_____		

II. KNOWLEDGE/VALUES/SKILLS

1. Values/Ethics: Reflect back on the experiences you have had with clients and at your field placement agency in general. Also take a brief look at your Personal Code of Ethics assignment, completed in Fall 2014. Discuss what has changed – if anything – in the values that are most important to you and/or which guide you in your day-to-day life, based on either the personal or the professional experiences you have had since you wrote this paper. Explain how your experiences in field placement have strengthened (or weakened, or changed) your commitment to the core values of the social work profession (service, social justice, importance of human relationships, dignity and worth of the person, and integrity, and competence). Give a specific example to illustrate how your personal and/or professional values have changed, as a result of your field placement experiences.

While looking back on my personal code of ethics there are no values, principles, or obligations that I would change, but there are values that have strengthened. For instance, through my time at the Children's Study Home I have seen people not given the equal opportunity to pursue happiness and I have realized that it affects more than just the client but also the client's family and community. I have learned that if you just listen to what the client has to say it can make a big change in their life.

I believe that the most important aspect of the NASW Code of Ethics core values is importance of human relationships. As a social worker it is crucial to build a relationship through trust before you talk about anything personal, and if you do not have a strong

relationship with a client they are less likely to open up to you. Also, I have always felt that I would struggle to show clients that have abused or neglected their child dignity and worth, however, through my time at The Children's Study Home I have learned that parents make mistakes like all people or they honestly did not know better because that is how they were raised. Yet, I would still struggle to show dignity and worth to clients that sexually abused their child.

2. Skills: Which SPECIFIC interviewing skills do you think have been most suited to your field placement role/responsibilities at your field placement? Explain. How have different clients/different situations required you to draw on different interviewing skills? Discuss how you have used at least 2-3 very different interviewing skills, based on the very different client contexts, giving a brief example for each.

The most important aspect of interviewing in my opinion is active listening. With one of my clients that I had since September the most important thing was for him to have someone to talk to. He has shared with me that it is important for him to have a person to talk to because at home it is only him and his 13 year old son.

On the other hand, one of my other clients was much different and did not like to talk so I had to initiate conversations and focus on using open ended questions so I would not get one word answers back. I remember a parent education meeting between this client and myself, when we discussed his housing situation and I really had to ask open ended questions otherwise he would give only one word answers.

Lastly, I learned the importance of vocal qualities, such as tone of voice and volume of voice. I cannot remember any specific encounter with a client, but through my time at The Children's Study Home I have learned that with different clients you have to use different tones of voice, such as with parents and with children.

III. AGENDA ITEMS FOR SUPERVISION DURING THE NEXT 2 WEEKS (in addition to those you and your Field Instructor identify)

1. Take some time in supervision to discuss your Process Recording. Ask your Field Instructor to elaborate about 3 or 4 of the comments that she/he made on your Process Recording. Discuss at least one other approach you could take with the client (or group) in the meeting you wrote about in the Process Recording. Share with your Field Instructor the intervention (what you said or what you did, as reflected in the Process Recording) that you think was MOST EFFECTIVE. Share what you said or did (as reflected in the Process recording) that you think was LEAST EFFECTIVE.

Kim and I did not get the chance to discuss the comments within the process recording together

because I already handed it in by the time we met for supervision. However, from what Kim wrote I feel I did a great job with making the topic of sex education comfortable. Yet, there were times that Kim felt I may have overwhelmed the client. Also, she thought when I said, “Within this talk however, you have to talk about more than just consequences and safety, but STDs, abortion, menstruation, homosexuality.” This may have been too much all at once, and I should have focused on just the basics to begin with.

2. Review your Learning Activities, noting what you still need to complete this semester. Discuss what you will need to do in order to complete your activities and achieve your learning objectives. Make a specific plan to monitor your progress toward completing the learning activities (preferably with specific check-in dates).

At the start of the semester there were many practice behaviors that I still had to complete. The first one was practice behavior 1.5 (Engage in career long learning). I completed this practice behavior when I attended a workshop on February 25, 2016 about grief and bereavement. The next learning activity I needed to complete was 3.2 (Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evolution). I feel that I accomplished this practice behavior through my everyday work with clients, as well as my case presentation, process recording, and research project. I completed practice behaviors 5.2 and 5.3 (Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice; and engage in practices that advance social and economic justice) by brainstorming a policy issue within the Children’s Study Home then acting upon that issue by writing a letter to the board discussing my concerns. The next practice behavior I had to complete was 7.1 (Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the; process of assessment, intervention & evaluation). I feel that I completed this practice behavior by completing my case presentation and process recording. I also had to complete practice behavior 8.2 (collaborate with colleagues and clients for effective policy action) and I believe I covered this behavior when I wrote the letter to the board because it is about policy action and Eric and Kim helped me through the process, so it was done in collaboration with colleagues. Lastly, I needed to complete all of competency 9 and I did this by completing the ideal agency presentation.

Summarize the discussion(s)/answers/responses to the above items. Also briefly summarize other topics discussed during supervision.

April 7

In this supervision meeting with Kim we talked about practice behaviors that I still need to complete, which I talked about in detail above. We also talked about my research project and that I am creating an evaluation for the new parenting journey program. Lastly, we talked about many of

my cases and that a couple of my cases have closed.

IV. REFLECTION:

1. **What aspects (or activities/tasks) of your field placement have been most interesting, engaging, or intriguing to you? What is it about these activities that make them most interesting to you? What do you suppose this tells you about your professional and personal interests/goals/"natural style"? Does this information provide you any direction related to your next steps post-graduation (whether in graduate school, the workplace, service, etc.)?**

The most interesting and enjoyable part of my field placement at The Children's Study Home is actually meeting with clients. When I meet with clients I feel that I actually make a difference and feel accomplished.

2. **What aspects of your field placement have been the least interesting/most boring/most confusing? What is it about these activities that make them least interesting to you? What do you suppose this tells you about your professional and personal interests/goals/"natural style"? Does this information provide you any direction related to your next steps post-graduation (whether in graduate school, the workplace, service, etc.)?**

The least interesting thing of my field placement is the paperwork that goes along with the job. I understand that paperwork and documentation is important but it just boring. I usually do it as soon as possible so that I do not have to worry about it when I am meeting with clients.

3. **What could YOU do to make the most out of even the less interesting aspects of your placement? How can you turn the less engaging aspects of the work into an opportunity for learning/growth?**

Even though the paperwork and documentation is boring and tedious, I have learned a lot about how social workers document and it will help me a lot in the future.

V. LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Select TWO Learning Activities to include in your supervision agenda each time you meet with your Field Instructor (so 4 Learning Activities for each Learning Log). BRIEFLY note what your chosen activities were and any progress you have made with them so far. Note any major obstacles to learning activity completion as well, and describe what you plan to do to overcome these obstacles.

1. Student will do a presentation that recommends changes to enhance the quality of services provided by their field agency.
 - I completed an ideal presentation that included both the strengths and weaknesses of the Children's Study Home family program as well as changes that I would make to the agency to make it an "ideal agency."
2. Student will use preparatory empathy to anticipate strategies, necessary tasks, and potential challenges to engagement with client systems.
 - Through my time at Western New England I learned that to be able to show empathy towards a client you have to be able to understand where the client is coming from.
3. Student will monitor how personal values affect her/his practice with clients and discuss values issues with Field Instructor in supervision.
 - I have learned that my personal values affect the work that I do with clients, and it is crucial to learn more about my values and not let it affect my engagement with the client. Judgment is impossible to avoid, however, you have to learn not to present or show that judgement.
4. Student will develop goals with clients/client systems that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely
 - I have learned the importance of creating mutual goals with clients. It is important to create mutual goals with the client because if the client has a say in the goals there is a better chance that they will work towards completing that goal.

VI. QUESTIONS & CONCERNS:

Learning Log #5 Covering weeks of 3/21 & 3/28 Due week of April 4

List any questions or concerns that your Field Seminar Instructor/Field Liaison should be alerted to
I do not have any major concerns or questions currently about my field placement. I have learned a great amount of information about engaging with clients and creating my “own style.”