

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

S631 Social Policy & Services II: Health Care (3 credits)

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I. Course Rationale & Description

The purpose of this course is to provide intensive study of a specific field of service delivery and to provide an opportunity for synthesis and application of learning in the specific social policy area the second year student has their practicum by either interpersonal or macro practice emphasis. This course is one of the curricular offerings directed toward the development of a specialization in a specific field of practice. The content of the specialized social policy course will build on the analysis of the current patterns in the provision of social services and the role of the "social policy practitioner" in helping or deterring people in the maintenance or attainment of optimal health and well-being. Opportunity for students will be encouraged for direct involvement in the political and organizational processes used to influence policy, the process of policy formulation, and the frameworks for analyzing social policies in light of principles of social and economic justice.

The study of a specific service delivery system will be focused on two levels of inquiry: (1) the theoretical concepts and skills of social policy analysis explicated in previous courses; namely, the interrelationships inherent in social need and problem definition, formulation of social policy goals and objectives, program design strategies, and realities involved in being a social policy practitioner on social policy issues of a specific service delivery system; and (2) the critical thinking and political realities involved in being a Social work practitioner on social policy issues of a specific service delivery system.

## II. Objectives

### A. Common Objectives

In this course, students are expected to demonstrate achievement of the following objectives:

1. Develop specialized knowledge in one field of service delivery with focus on:
  - a. the dimensions of the problems affecting the population served;
  - b. the structure, organization, funding of services, and intergovernmental relationships involved in dealing with the problems;
  - c. the legal frameworks with influence and govern services;
  - d. trends and issues which effect service delivery in the specific field;
  - e. differential social work roles and interventions; and
  - f. effects of the service delivery system upon socially and economically oppressed populations
2. Critically analyze the adequacy, effectiveness, and cost efficiency of social policies that address problems and needs of vulnerable populations and social service delivery systems within a specific field of practice.
3. Analyze the impact of oppression and discrimination, and understand and apply strategies and skills of change in social policy practice that advances social and economic justice.
4. Choose appropriate strategies of communication and change tactics with a variety of client populations and colleagues in society within the structure of organizations, communities, and service delivery systems.
5. Analyze the impact of social policies on client systems, workers, and agencies and focus professional skills in the influence of policy formulation and change.
6. Understand and evaluate relevant research studies and apply findings to social policy issues.

7. Apply critical thinking skills within professional contexts, including synthesizing and applying appropriate theories and knowledge to social policy practice.

#### B. Specific Objectives

In the Social Policy and Services Course, the Health Care section will focus on the health care delivery system and how it has shaped social work practice by looking at the structure, organization, and components of the delivery systems to vulnerable populations. Policies and programs will be examined in the context of contemporary political, economic, cultural and social forces. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the goals, activities and strategies involved in contemporary health care problems, issues and trends. Each student is expected to:

1. Acquire knowledge of the health status and related health problems of differential populations with particular reference to elements of age, sex, ethnicity, poverty, and geographic location.
2. Understand the structure, organization and intergovernmental funding arrangements of health care delivery systems in the public and private sectors.
3. Understand the legislation (federal, state, and local) that influences the provision of health services, both historically and in the contemporary scene and the importance of the health professional's ability to analyze policy implications of a problem and prepare testimony/position papers.
4. Critically analyze the adequacy, effectiveness and cost efficiency of social policies on health care that influence resource acquisition, resource allocation (staff deployment & funding), and resource utilization.
5. Choose appropriate strategies of communication and change tactics in organizations, communities and society for the social work roles in management, administration, and interventions effective in the health care field, with vulnerable client populations and colleagues, including interdisciplinary team practice.
6. Identify and analyze trends and issues in social service delivery in the health field, including proposals for health care reform, managed care and health maintenance organizations.

7. Expand skills in analyzing alternative programs for delivery of governmental related health services, especially Medicaid and Medicare.
8. Understand and assess the functions/values of community-based health care and the other disciplines in health care and differential patterns for provision of interdisciplinary services.
9. Analyze critically the research behind the proposed national health priorities and to identify the major issues in recent health reform proposals.
10. Understand the importance of consumer's rights and participation in the delivery of health care services to avoid oppression and discrimination and to advance social and economic justice.

### III. Course Outline and Readings:

There is no basic required text for this course. Instead there are identified readings for certain topics found on reserve reading. One major component of the class will include discussion of current issues regarding health policy. Recommended review for weekly readings include: Indianapolis Star/News, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, professional and business magazines/journals.

Professional journals offering timely articles in the area of health policy include:

Journal of Social Policy  
 Journal of Health Politics  
 Journal of the American Medical Association  
 New England Journal of Medicine  
 Social Work in Health Care  
 Aging in Society  
 Gerontology  
 Hospitals and Health Networks  
 Health Affairs  
 Urban Health  
 Mental Health Administration  
 Journal of Community Health  
 Lancet

Additionally, a more extensive bibliography is provided and will direct the student to key books and articles dealing with health care policy and services. Specific articles will be added to the reserved reading list during the course of the semester as topics are assigned and reference materials identified to supplement topics and/or guest speakers.

The following books may be valuable "classic" references for the student in the health care area to consult:

Bartlett, Harriett M. Social work practice in the health field. Washington, DC: NASW, 1961.

Bracht, Neil F. (Ed). Social work in health care. New York: Haworth Press, 1978.

Cabot, Richard C. Social Service and the art of healing. Washington, DC: NASW (1915 Classic), 1973.

Feldstein, Paul. J. Health Policy Issues. Ann Arbor, MI: AUPHA Press/Health Administration, 1994.

Fox, Renee C. and Swazey, Judith P. The Courage to Fail, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press (1973), 1978.

Goldstine, Dora (Ed). Expanding horizons in medical social work. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (1954), 1973.

Goldstine, Dora (Ed). Readings in the theory and practice of medical social work. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (1954), 1973.

Knowles, John H (Ed). Doing Better and Feeling Worse: Health in the United States, New York: The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, W.W. Norton and Company, 1977.

Longest, Beufort B. Health Policy Making in the United States, Ann Arbor, MI: AUPHA Press/Health Administration Press, 1994.

Somers, Anne R. and Somers, Herman M. Health and health care: Policies in perspective. Germantown, MD: Aspen Systems Corp., 1977.

#### **TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

This topical outline will provide an organizing framework for the course content. Topical units, major concepts and reading assignments from the text are listed. All assignments are indicated on the **date due**. Modifications will be discussed in class, with additions or changes announced as they occur. It will be the student's responsibility to secure current knowledge if information changes and is announced in class when the student is absent.

**Session 1:** TOPIC: Introductions and Class overview  
**August 26** Select groups for task work.  
 Distribution of the following:

Reviewing Organizational Policies and Rules: Ohio Quality & Productivity Forum, 1990

Burch, Hobart A. Basic Social Policy and Planning, Haworth Press, 1996. Chapters 2 and 3: "Getting in Touch with our VIBES" and "Ethics".

**Session 2:** TOPIC: Overview of Health Policy  
**Sept. 2**

Read:

Berkman, Barbara. "The Emerging Health Care World: Implications for Social Work Practice and Education". (1996). Social Work. NASW: Vol 41 No. 5, 441-451.

Chapin, Rosemary Kennedy. "Social Policy Development: Strengths Perspective." (1995). Social Work. NASW:Vol 40, No. 4.

Congdon, David C. The Context of Health Care Policy: A Social Exchange Approach to Cost-Effectiveness. Health and Social Policy, (1995). Haworth Press.

Klarman, Herbert E. The Financing of Health Care. (1997) .

Knowles, John H. "Introduction": Doing Better and Feeling Worse: Health in the United States. 1977. Reserve reading.

Saward, Ernest. Institutional Organization, Incentives, and Change. (1977). Reserve reading list.

Wildavsky, Aaron. Doing Better and Feeling Worse: "The Political Pathology of Health Policy" 1977. Reserve reading list.

**Session 3:** TOPIC: AT RISK POPULATIONS  
**Sept. 9**

READ:

Allen-Meares, Paula and Eric M. Roberts. Public Assistance as Family Policy: Closing off Options for Poor Families. Social Work, NASW: Vol. 40, No.4, July 1995.

Callahan, Daniel. Health and Society: Some Ethical Imperatives. (1977) Reserve Reading.

Chng, Chwee Lye and Frindinger, Frederick: HIV Antibody Testing: Who Benefits and Who Loses?. (Feit) p.3.

Feit, Marvin D. Stanley F. Battle (Ed) (1995). " Medical Indigency and Inner City Hospital Care", Health and Social Policy. Binghamton, NY Haworth Press, 11-38.

Greene, Roberta, Knee, Ruth. "Shaping the Policy Practice Agenda of Social Work in the Field of Aging". Social Work. Sept. 1996, Vol.41, No.5, 553-560.

Van Soest, Dorothy and Shirley Bryant. Violence Reconceptualized for Social Work: The Urban Dilemma. Social Work. NASW: Vol.40, NO.4, .July 1995.

**Session 4: ASSIGNMENT DUE: Reaction Paper**

**Sept. 16** Reaction Paper: Discuss the implications of a health policy situation from class discussion or otherwise known to you regarding a specific population. Who gains, who loses, what planning principles are evident, what VIBES (from Burch reading) are evident, will it create or diminish barriers between people. How is the policy administered, does it produce the desired effect? Does it recognize both suppliers and customers? Is teamwork encouraged? This is intended to be an overview of a policy you have some knowledge about, but are not expert in. Use your critical thinking skills and the hand-out on reviewing organizational policies and rules. They are applicable to the general framework. Length: not to exceed 4 pages.

Guest Speaker: Rose Popovich, MSW, CCSW, ACSW, CCM  
Account Executive  
ProHealth  
Community Hospitals of Indianapolis

TOPIC: Access to Health Care

READ: To be announced

**Session 5: TOPIC: PUBLIC HEALTH:  
Sept. 23**

READ:

Summary of Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives: American Public Health Association, 1990.

Battle, Stanley. Changing Family Roles. (Feit).

Ciffone, Jerry. "Suicide Prevention: A Classroom Presentation to Adolescents",

Halter, Anthony P. State Welfare reform for Employable General Assistance recipients: The Facts behind the Assumptions. NASW:(1996).

Fritz, Deborah L. Options for Providing Health Care for the Uninsured: Opportunities for Managed Care.(Feit)p.55

Keith, Verna M. and Jones, Woodrow. Determinants of Health Services Utilization Among the Black and White Elderly. (Feit) p. 39

Seipel, Michael. Health Care Strategies for Asian American Patients. (Feit)

Joshi, Neela P. and Battle, Stanley. Adolescent Fathers: An Approach for Intervention. (Feit).

Nolan, Patricia. Primary Prevention with the Poor: Structural Conflicts Between the Health and Welfare Systems. (Feit).

**Session 6: Managed Care Issues:  
September 30**

Read:

Hubner, John. "The Abandoned Father of Health Care Reform". New York Times, July 18, 1993.

Wise, Dan. "A Matter of Transitional Care", HMO Magazine, Sept./Oct.1993.

Enthoven, Alain. "The History and Principles of Managed Competition", Health Affairs, Supplement 1993.

"Managed Competition: An Analysis of Consumer Concerns," Group Health of Puget Sound, an unpublished paper:January 1993.

What's All This Talk About Managed Competition? Caring Magazine. March 1993, Page 18.



**Session 7:** TOPIC: The Future of Health Care  
**Oct. 7** Guest Lecturer: Greg Sipes, Ph.D., HSPP  
 CEO, Indiana Health Group,

**READ:**

"A Special Report of the Health Care Reform Task Force:  
 Society for Social Work Administrators in Health Care,  
 AHA, Chicago: August 1993.

Davidson, Dick. A trip to our Health Care Future,  
 Hospitals & Health Networks. AHA: February 20, 1995.

Morrison, J. Ian. "Railways of the Nineties", Healthcare  
 Forum Journal. March/April 1994, p.30-34.

Perez, Sarah. "Parity Revived and Energized". Behavioral  
 Healthcare Tomorrow. June 1997, 23-24.

**Session 8:** TOPIC: HEALTH SETTINGS  
**Oct. 14**

**READ:**

Ewalt, Patricia L. "Research Responds: Monitoring the  
 Impact of Social Legislation". NASW: (1996). Reserved  
 Reading.

"A Framework for Improving the Performance of Health Care  
 Organizations", Joint Commission Perspectives Insert:  
 Nov/Dec/1993, pages A1-A6.

Bergman, Rhonda. "Hitting the Mark: Benchmarking:  
 Management tool in the quest for improved clinical  
 quality". Hospitals and Health Networks: AHA, April 20,  
 1994: page 48-51.

Callahan, Jay. "The Ethics of Assisted Suicide", Health and  
 Social Work. Vol.19, No.4 Nov 1994, pages 237-244.

Kleinpell, Ruth M. "Needs of Families of Critically Ill  
 Patients: A Literature Review". Critical Care Nurse.

Davitt, Joan K. "Supporting Patient Autonomy: Decision  
 Making in Home Health Care". NASW: (1996). Reserved  
 Reading

**Session 9:** TOPIC: Legislative and Political Action  
**October 21**

GUEST LECTURER: Polly Jones, ACSW, CCSW  
 Director of Quality Resource Management  
 St. Joseph Hospital's and Health Center  
 Kokomo, Indiana

READ: To be announced

**Session 10:** TOPIC: Rehabilitation Issues  
**October 28**

Guest Lecturer: Mike Hedden, Region Manager  
 Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Read:

Sackelprang, Romel W. and Salsgiver, Richard O. "People with Disabilities and Social Work: Historical and Contemporary Issues". NASW: (1996). Reserved reading.

**Session 11:** Topic: To be announced  
 November 4

**Session 12:** Topic: Occupational Social Work Policy Issues.

November 11

Panel: Phil Hess, Mary Ann Shepard,  
 Francine Carter

Conti, Daniel J. and Wayne Burton. "The Economic Impact of Depression in a Workplace". Journal of Occupational Medicine. Vol.36, No.9, Sept. 1994.

Curley, Robert. "Congress' Post-revolutionary Doldrums/The calm before the storm". Behavioral Healthcare Tomorrow. June 1997, 45-46.

Greenberg, Paul E., Finkelstein, S. and Berndt, E. "Calculating the Workplace Cost of Chronic Disease", Business and Health. September 1995.

"Special Report: The Economics of Depression", The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, Vol.54 No.11, November 1993.

Straussner, Shelia. "Occupational Social Work Today", Occupational Social Work Today. Haworth Press, New York: 1990.

Yandrick, Rudy M. "High Demand/Low Control: Jobs Reduce Productivity and Increase Workplace Disability Cost". Behavioral Healthcare Tomorrow, June, 1997, 41-44.

**Session 13:** No Class today  
**November 18** Students are to work on papers and testimony due the following week.

**Session 14:** ALL Papers Due  
**November 25** Current Events

Testimony Presentations

Reading:

Kilty, Keith et al. Social Work and the Convergence of Politics and Science. NASW: Vol.40, Number 4, July 1995.

**Session 15:** Testimony Presentations  
**December 2** Current Events

**Session 16:** Final Exam, complete course evaluations.  
 December 9

#### IV. Course Format & Assignments

Each student will be evaluated upon their performance on five dimensions of course activity which are to be completed by the specific due dates. NO assignments will be accepted late, without previous discussion and arrangements with the instructor. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Students are expected to be adult learners, following the expectations for responsibility for assignments, self-directed learning. All papers will be typed, double spaced with bibliography in APA format.

1. Class Participation	20%
2. Class Presentation (Current Events)	10%
3. Reaction Paper	20%
4. Final Exam	20%
5. Oral Testimony	10%
6. Position Paper	20%

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

Each student is responsible for his or her own readings, and class preparation. Students are required to attend class, and attendance will be taken. Class participation will count for 20% of the course. Discussion with guest lecturers and participation in class discussion will be the major components for the grade.

Current events discussion: WSJ, WP, NYT, professional journal, business journal. Small groups will be assigned for each week, and will bring current events articles in for class presentation/discussion regarding health policy. The discussion shall include a summary of the issue, an analysis of how this is a social work issue. Specific areas for consideration include but are not limited to: advocacy, ethnicity, at-risk populations, ethical considerations and values. This will take place the first 45 minutes of class. A specific presentation format will be introduced to assist development of self awareness during class/oral presentations. This format will be used for the position paper presentation as well.

**REACTION PAPER:**

At the beginning of the fourth (4th) class each student will be responsible for a reaction paper to address the health policy learnings to date.

**POSITION PAPER/TESTIMONY:**

The Position Paper will be due on November 25, 1997, and will consist of a written paper of 8-10 pages. See attached sheet for format and instructions. In addition, all students will present a 3-5 minute presentation to the class as it would be presented before a conference committee or before the general assembly for a policy statement or testimony to impact and influence thought.

The paper shall include:

1. Abstract (1 page)  
Title of paper, recommendations and an overview of analysis/testimony.
2. Body of Paper
  - A. Why is this an issue?
  - B. What are the findings?
  - C. What are the possible options/alternatives in addressing this problem?
  - D. What is your recommendation for addressing this problem?

Further discussion regarding these key points will be discussed throughout the course.

#### V. Course Policies, Evaluation and Grading

Throughout the course we will be evaluating each session. This evaluation will be centered on a quality philosophy to discuss the format, what went well, what we would like to change and what we learned. This will also be accompanied by the course evaluation at the end of the semester.

Student grading is as follows:

100-98	A+	83-81	B-
97-94	A	80-78	C+
93-91	A-	77-74	C
90-88	B+	73-71	C-
		70--	Failing