

Three Rivers Community College

Spring 2011

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HSE K241

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Human Service Agencies and Organizations

Course Description: An introduction to the study of community organization as a method of social work practice, which has as its major objective, the practice, planning and implementation of programs directed toward some aspect of community change. The skills, methods and functions of community service workers will be explored and integrated into other skills and methods of social science practice, which are a part of a student’s overall learning experiences in the social service program.

Required Text:

Rivera, F.G. and Erlich, J. L., *Community Organizing in a Diverse Society, 1992.*

Learning Outcomes:

- . To understand the historical, social, economic and political context of community organization as a social work method of practice;
 - . To demonstrate various settings in which community organization practice is used;
 - . Help students to understand the centrality of demographic data, as well as race, gender and social class in community planning and politics;
 - . To help students to understand the various roles of the professional social worker (enabler, broker, advocate, activist, etc.) in community organizing;
- To demonstrate and make practical applications of theory and practice, as it relates to community organization; and
- . To distinguish among the three (3) major models of community organization (locality development, social planning and social action).

Social Issue: Mental Health over the Life Span

Assignments:

1. A 2-3 page paper describing the availability and provision of mental health services in a selected town or city in our Region (S.E. CT). Report must include a color-coded map indicating location and level of service for teens, young adults and older adults (55+) in selected town or city.

Due Date: Saturday, February 19, 2011

2. A 10-12 page community analysis that includes:
 - . History
 - .Form of government
 - . Demographic/population data
 - . Employment/labor data (major employers)
 - . Housing issues
 - . Schools and taxation issues
 - . Social service organizations
 - .Recreational resources

Each paper will address the availability of mental health programs and services in the selected community as it relates to the needs of children and teens, young adults and older adults.

Due Date: Saturday, May 7, 2011

3. All students are responsible for the group planning, development and facilitation of a public forum on topic selected (Mental Health Over the Life Span).