Coun503 Position Statement II

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My original position statement was based on personal vision and values; these have not changed. In that paper I stated that I had grown up amidst a family and a societal time of upheaval which gave me a deep sense of justice and possibility. I recounted my personal experience of childhood trauma and how it informs my decision to work with children, adults and families, and trauma. I hoped that my counseling degree would support my current work with families of children with autism, and that my age informs my decision to advocate for young counselors locally. All of these core truths are unchanged; my desire to accomplish them has been strengthened because of this introductory counseling class.

I have noted, however, my dawning sense of the enormity of the counseling task. My original position statement reflected no particular consideration of, for instance, the specificity and weight of the code of ethics, nor the reality of having clients with suicidality or homicidality. Supporting a wide range of individuals’ mental health is becoming real to me. I have a background in working with families; reaching out for supervision and collaboration has always been helpful to me. As a result of this class, I have redoubled my awareness of the need for consultation, especially in the face of working with clients in crisis.

The outline of my sense of myself as a counselor has started to fill in as a result of this class. I can see the value of regular private counseling for myself. I am also struck by the value of staying up to date on current standards through ongoing education. Finally, I am buoyed by the sense of passion I felt from the members of the panel we had in class. I felt the nobility and strength of their compassion. I truly feel that all of these components, challenging and supporting, act as a neon arrow indicating that I am going the right way.