

Policy Critique Paper

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The Prince Edward Department of Social Services has various policies that are used and enforced in order for Social Workers and employees to provide the appropriate services to clients. This agency helps ensure that families, children and clients are offered services that strengthen the family. Policies are in place to help clients live more productive lives by supplementing their income, providing health care or by obtaining needed medical treatments. Policies help Social Workers make differences on their client's lives. In this paper the author will discuss the use and effectiveness of the Family Engagement Policy within the agency. This paper will discuss the pros and cons of the policy and how it impacts the lives of clients, faculty and staff.

This policy statement explains that Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) are responsible for developing policies and procedures, including those that govern any Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) and or authorized multidisciplinary team (MDT) within their jurisdiction, to "provide for family participation in all aspects of assessment, planning and implementation of services". This policy is set in place to ensure that families are supported and offered appropriate services in order to live a healthier life. The Family Engagement policy shines light on many different values such as, all families have strengths, families are the experts on themselves, and families deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. These values all ensure that the family's well-being is put first. The values that are included within this policy are similar to those of the Social Work values. Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems. Social workers elevate service to others above self-interest. Social workers draw on their knowledge, values, and skills to help people in need and to address social problems (NASW, 2021).

Multidisciplinary teams are organized as services to meet the needs of individuals who need assistance and care. Multidisciplinary teams bring together the different skills, ideas, characteristics and expertise that is needed for each particular field. Professionals in Multidisciplinary teams often come together to tackle a common problem and they have a common agenda. They do this by working together jointly and collaborating with different ideas and efforts. This policy enforces that multidisciplinary teams are responsible for family participation and involvement.

This policy includes many pros that impacts clients and families. Family involvement and participation are most effective when the process is guided and driven by the family. One pro of this policy is that it allows the family to be apart of the decision-making process which is important because the families are the experts on themselves and they know what is best for them. This advantage gives families sense of power and say within their decision-making process and services. A disadvantage for this policy would be that the family may not always have the same beliefs or plans that the members of the agency workers may have. These differences in beliefs or ideas can perhaps draw conflict between the workers and the families. There can be many problems involved within these multidisciplinary teams and that may be status, power, and confidentiality. This policy involves professionals who come from different backgrounds, so some members may try to overstep others boundaries. One dilemma thats involved within these multidisciplinary teams is the balance of power. Each profession plays an important role within these teams and some may think their role is more important than another which can create power struggles between the teams. As Social Workers confidentiality is an important value that Social workers abide by so confidentiality can be violated in many ways because of how many people are involved within these multidisciplinary teams.

This policy can be effective in many different ways, participation is an effective way when the family identifies the certain strengths and needs as it helps ensure that the family are being provided the appropriate services and assistance. Another reason why this policy can be effective is because outcomes improve when families are involved in the decision-making and a team is often more capable of creative and high quality decision-making than an individual.

The Family Engagement Policy impacts the staff of the agency as it affects the way they implement services to families. Faculty and staff members of the agency have to work with other professionals within teams in order to provide appropriate services to clients and families. Ways to ensure families are provided participation in all aspects of planning. Workers have to communicate with other professionals from different backgrounds about planning, assessments and services that are needed for families.

Overall this policy is useful and would not need to be modified in any way. This policy is very strong and has the ability to strengthen families in many different ways. MDTs are effective and can benefit families in positive ways. Social Workers can play a huge role in these Multidisciplinary teams as they are experts in understanding individuals and the problems they may face or experience. Social Workers contribute to multidisciplinary teams as they place emphasis on the strengths and coping abilities in the assessments of families and individuals.

Citations

Home. Home - Virginia Department of Social Services. (n.d.).

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