What Were We Thinking? Lesson Learned from the Development of MSW Capstone Curriculum

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California State Background

- Shortage of social workers throughout the state
- 1.7 social workers per 1000 people
The Inland Empire

- Poverty, single parenting, child abuse and neglect, and human trafficking rates are all higher than the state average.
- Geographic and ethnic/racial diversity
- High caseloads
- Growing aging population
- Current professionals retiring
Capstone Models

- Leadership
- Research
- Evaluation/Quality Improvement
- Product
Follow the Guidelines
Capstone Course Requirements

- Capstone I
  - Capstone Project Proposal

- Capstone II
  - Capstone Product
  - Final Paper
  - Poster Presentation
Capstone I Assignment

• Capstone Project Proposal
  • Needs assessment (identify agency need)
  • Literature review
  • Intervention plan and how Project will be evaluated
  • Development of Project timeline
  • Identify collaborators/partners supporting project efforts
  • Identify resources available to support Project
  • Identify barriers and ways to overcome them
  • Develop a sustainability plan

• Approval by Agency Representative and Capstone Instructor
12 Grand Challenges of Social Work

1. Ensure healthy development for all youth
2. Close the health gap
3. Stop family violence
4. Advance long and productive lives
5. Eradicate social isolation
6. End homelessness
7. Create social responses to a changing environment
8. Harness technology for social good
9. Promote smart decarceration
10. Reduce extreme economic inequality
11. Build financial capability for all
12. Achieve equal opportunity and justice
Capstone II Assignments

- Product Development and Delivery
  - Training and presentation materials
  - Binder with group curriculum
  - Individual treatment manual
  - Evaluation materials

- Produce a Final Paper

- Poster Presentation
Roles and Responsibilities
Student

• Assess need of agency
• Identify a Plan to meet the agency need
• Collaborate with Agency Representative to develop and carry out Capstone Project
• Evaluate their Project
• Complete all written assignments
Capstone Instructor

- Primary point of contact
- Assess feasibility of Project ideas
- Guidance on Proposal development
- Approve Project Plans
- Provide oversight of Projects
Agency Representative

- Consultant in the development and implementation of Project
- Ensure adherence to Agency Protocols
- Approve Project Plans
- Provide feedback on student performance
Faculty Field Liaison and Faculty Mentor

- Consultant role
- Facilitate supportive discussions about project development and implementation
Agency Challenges

- Lack of awareness of Capstone Project requirements
- Lack of capacity to complete Project at agency
- Delays in project implementation
- Limited time of Agency Representatives to assist and guide students in their projects
Faculty Challenges

- Limited orientation provided to Capstone courses
- Needed to invest extra time to educate students on applied research and data analysis
- Student collaborations across Capstone courses
- Role confusion between Capstone Course Instructor and other Faculty
Students Challenges

• Change in project expectations due to change in MSW Director

• Limited knowledge about applied research concepts and methods

• Students did not have the same instructor across Capstone I and II
Future Directions
Project Requirement Changes

• Development of a new intervention or substantive modification of an existing intervention

• Demonstrate at least 3 advanced practice behaviors associated with the social work competencies

• Complete in 4-6 weeks during Spring semester

• Launch within 1 week of the start of the Spring semester
Adjustments to Course Structure

• Capstone I
  • emphasis on program evaluation concepts and methods
  • draft sections of proposal due throughout course

• Capstone II
  • emphasis on implementation science
  • requires weekly meetings between student and agency representative
  • Capstone Poster Review Committee
Clarification of Roles/Responsibilities

- Removal of Faculty Field Liaisons and Faculty Mentor from consultative role

- Specified expectations of student, agency representative and Capstone Instructor in Capstone Manual
Questions?


References (cont.)


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