



North American Association of Christians in Social Work

A Vital Christian Presence in Social Work

PO Box 121
Botsford, CT 06404

www.nacsw.org

888.426.4712

**INNOVATIONS AND CHALLENGES IN ADMINISTERING A FIELD
PROGRAM**

By: Lawanna Lancaster

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Innovations and Challenges in Administering a Field Program

Lawanna Lancaster
Northwest Nazarene University
MSW Field Director
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ABSTRACT

This presentation will include an explanation and discussion of innovative strategies, such as the use of an online monitoring system and the management of field placements for distance students, and challenges encountered in administering a field program, such as faith-based placements, students of faith in secular placements, and rural placements.



OBJECTIVES

- Understand how an online monitoring system can enhance the administration of a field program.
- Identify strategies for monitoring field in a hybrid distance program.
- Describe some of the unique situations encountered in rural field placements and how to address those situations.
- Identify strategies for addressing challenges encountered in faith-based placement sites and with students of faith in secular placement sites.



INTRODUCTION

- History of NNU's program
 - B.A. since 1978
 - MSW began in 2000
 - Focus on Rural Christian emphasis
- My background
 - Title IV-E
 - Research
 - Field
- Program Expansion
 - Distance hybrid cohorts
 - Field challenges



CHALLENGES

- Faith-based Placements
 - Agency within a faith tradition
 - Agency restrictions vs. code of ethics
- Students of Faith
 - Personal ethical dilemmas
- **Dignity and Worth of the Person**
 - Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers promote clients' socially responsible self-determination.



CHALLENGES CONT.

○ **Integrity**

- Social workers act honestly and responsibly and promote ethical practices on the part of the organizations with which they are affiliated.

○ **1.05 Cultural Competence and Social Diversity**

- (c) Social workers should obtain education about and seek to understand the nature of social diversity and oppression with respect to race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, and mental or physical disability.



CHALLENGES CONT.

- **1.07 Privacy and Confidentiality**
 - (h) Social workers should not disclose confidential information to third-party payers unless clients have authorized such disclosure.
- **4.02 Discrimination**
 - Social workers should not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, or mental or physical disability.



CHALLENGES CONT.

○ 3.09 Commitments to Employers

- (a) Social workers generally should adhere to commitments made to employers and employing organizations.
- (d) Social workers should not allow an employing organization's policies, procedures, regulations, or administrative orders to interfere with their ethical practice of social work. Social workers should take reasonable steps to ensure that their employing organizations' practices are consistent with the *NASW Code of Ethics*.



CHALLENGES CONT.

- Rural Placements
- **1.06 Conflicts of Interest**
 - (c) Social workers should not engage in dual or multiple relationships with clients or former clients in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client. In instances when dual or multiple relationships are unavoidable, social workers should take steps to protect clients and are responsible for setting clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries.
- **2.01 Respect**
 - (a) Social workers should treat colleagues with respect and should represent accurately and fairly the qualifications, views, and obligations of colleagues.



CHALLENGES CONT.

○ **2.02 Confidentiality**

- Social workers should respect confidential information shared by colleagues in the course of their professional relationships and transactions. Social workers should ensure that such colleagues understand social workers' obligation to respect confidentiality and any exceptions related to it.



INNOVATIONS

- Visitation and communication
 - “Blitz attacks”
- Skype, conference calls, Polycom
 - “Classroom” management
 - Cost
- Unique placements
 - Kenya orphanage
 - Teaching
- Online tracking system
- Flash drives/digital signatures



CONCLUSION

- Summary statements
- Questions

○ Lawanna Lancaster

208-467-8372

lklancaster@nnu.edu

Northwest Nazarene University

Nampa, ID



- <http://www.naswdc.org/pubs/code/code.asp>

