

## 5. SWRK 281 Guidelines for Observing the Dynamic of a Group Meeting

Conduct an analysis of a board or committee meeting at your field placement agency. Discuss your findings during supervision with your field instructor.

In your analysis address the following questions:

1. What is the demographic composition (age, social class, education, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability status) of the board or committee? How does it differ from the demographic profile of the people who actually attended the meeting, the organization's staff, and the clients?
  2. What types of decisions does this board or committee make for the organization? Where does this board or committee "fit" in the organizational chart? Based on the board or committee's location in terms of the organizational chart, how much power do you think it has to determine policies or procedures for the organization?
  3. Based on what you've observed (for example, body language or patterns of communication) or what you've learned from agency documents or personal interviews with organization participants, are there obvious conflicts or alliances among board members?
  4. How were decisions made during the meeting? Did it appear that specific rules were used to guide the decision process?
  5. In what way did these decisions pertain to organizational mission, goals, services, structure, policies, funding, or people served by the organization?
  6. What was the role of the executive director or lead staff person (for example, the city manager or county administrative officer) during the meeting?
- Did specific individuals or groups appear to have more input from others into the decisions made during this meeting? Please explain.