

6. SWRK 280 Organizational Assessment of Placement Agency

Developing clarity about the social work role and purpose in your field placement agency setting requires understanding how your agency functions. It is helpful to gather information from many different sources in your process of learning about your agency (e.g., other students, staff, field faculty, agency literature, etc.). You may want to speak with other professionals within the agency as a way to gather the needed information. The process of gathering and assessing this information, as well as discussing it in supervision, is one of the required assignments in the SWRK 280 learning agreement.

I. Name of agency:

II. Type of Field of Practice (e.g., mental health, health, family and children's services, corrections/forensic, etc.):

III. Describe the following:

- Brief description of the agency setting, (e.g., hospital, rural/urban, department of adoptions, child protective services, etc.)
- Organizational Auspices: Is the organization a public agency, a nonprofit organization, or a for-profit (private business) organization
- Location
- Service Area: Does the agency serve the surrounding community, a portion of a city or town, the entire city or town, the county, or an entire region.
- Access to public transportation, parking, etc.
- Ambience of the reception area

IV. Describe the following:

- What is the philosophy of the agency?
- What assumptions does it hold regarding their client population?
- What values are reflected in the services to clients in the agency?

V. Describe the following about the agency purpose:

- What are the agency's specific, identified goals and objectives?
- What is the mission statement?

- Is this information readily available?
- In what form is it available (e.g., brochure, policy manual)?
- If it is not available, what did you do to gather the needed information?
- What is the role of social workers in this agency?

VI. Describe the following regarding services:

- What services are provided to what populations (identify)?
- What geographical areas are served?
- How services are provided (e.g., free for eligible applicants; fee for service, sliding scale fee)?
- Describe service accessibility and availability to culturally diverse clients/consumers.