

Alabama Higher Education Consortium on Child Welfare Case Development Project

How to Use the Case Studies

Saved onto this disc, are twelve Case Studies. Each of these cases was developed, in partnership, by a faculty representative from an Alabama college or university social work education program and a social worker, with child welfare experience, from the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Each of the cases was reviewed by a consultant with expertise in child welfare case development for the purpose of social work education.

Each case includes a Presenting Situation, Current Situation, Background Summary, Strengths/Needs, and Resources. This part of the case can be used independently for teaching/training exercises developed by the instructor. In addition to the foundation case information, there are case scenarios and teaching tools based on the Alabama Core Child Welfare Competencies.

Example of case scenario and teaching tool:

Case Scenario:

B. Assume that Michelle goes into a deep depression and her care of Joshua deteriorates so that you must consider placing him out of the home.

Teaching Tool:

Assume in Case Scenario B that you are considering an out of home placement. Host a panel of DHR workers/supervisors to discuss the relevant policy on prioritizing potential out-of-home placements and the policy related to what must be done to remove Joshua from the home. (CWCD 4.1)

Each case scenario provides additional information or a change to the original case information. Teaching tools are developed to correspond with the case scenario. Each teaching tool corresponds with a specific Child Welfare Competency Domain (CWCD) which will be referenced at the end of the teaching tool. This will enable the user to identify which Child Welfare Competency is being addressed. In the above example, the teaching tool corresponds with Child Welfare Competency Domain 4.1 – *Knowledge of Policy, Understanding of the implication and application of policy at all*

levels of decision making (agency, state, federal). A copy of the Child Welfare Competencies is included on this disc. Each competency is referenced on a separate page of the case to enable the case scenarios and teaching tools to be paired independently with the foundation case information.

These cases were designed for use in all levels of social work education and training. Further, the goal of infusing child welfare into various aspects of social work education and training was also a focus of this project. Therefore, these cases were designed for that purpose. They provide an opportunity to expose students, in any social work related educational setting, to a realistic child welfare case example and teaching tool relevant to their topic of study.

The Alabama Higher Education Consortium on Child Welfare hopes these cases will be used to enhance both social work education/training and child welfare social work practice in Alabama.