

Identifying Opportunities and Building Competency

Integrating Advocacy and Policy
Practice into your Field Organization

Advocacy and Policy Practice Opportunities Throughout Contracts

- Advocate for client access to services
 - Brick walls to advocacy agendas
- Ethical decision-making
 - Resource allocation, means v. ends, informed consent
- Oral and written communication
 - LTEs, policy briefs, internal case statements
- Understand factors that underlie clients' problems
 - Root cause analysis, story collection
- Collaborate to improve problematic conditions
 - Coalitions, Advocacy Days

Crafting Projects

- “Analyze, Formulate, and Advocate for Policies”
 - Review/propose agency policies re: access, due process, eligibility
 - Seek client guidance on policy obstacles
 - Research context re: funding source
 - Compile best practice information for policy change
- “Collaborate for Effective Policy Action”
 - Connect with state/national advocacy organizations
 - Organize clients to address policy concerns
 - Work with colleagues to propose internal change

Scaling Learning Commensurate with Student Ability

- Leading/Initiating
 - Designing evaluation of an advocacy strategy
 - Assessing advocacy capacity
 - Facilitating staff learning session on root cause/context
 - Testifying
 - Identifying advocacy priority
 - Facilitating client writing LTE
 - Using brief in policymaker meeting
 - Presenting on advocacy issue to Board
- Participating/Joining
 - Reflecting in group
 - Journaling about ethical issue in policy practice
 - Presenting to clients on policy issue
 - Going to hearing
 - Researching an identified priority
 - Collecting client stories in practice
 - Writing brief
 - Documenting impact of policy

Assessing Your Organization's Advocacy Capacity

- [Where could you strengthen your advocacy capacity?](#)
 - Goals, plans, and strategies
 - Structures and implementation
 - Advocacy avenues
 - Resources and sustainability
- How can students help?
 - Assessing what peer organizations do
 - Staffing advocacy committee
 - Exploring a new approach (regulatory, judicial, legislative)
 - Researching grant options for advocacy

Scanning the Landscape for 'Natural' Openings

- Advocacy coalitions around your issue areas
- State/national advocacy organizations
- Peer organizations with advocacy efforts
- Reauthorization debates over funding streams
- Budget negotiations
- Advocacy capacity-building efforts by local foundations
- Client concerns re: internal and external policies

Getting Help

- ACOSA (includes readings, videos, and other resources)
 - www.acosa.org
- Journal of Policy Practice
- Journal of Community Practice
- AFJ's Bolder Advocacy (advocacy capacity, legal regulations)
 - www.bolderadvocacy.org

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