**SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES and MICRO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE ACTIVITIES**

**SECTION II. MICRO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE**

Section II focuses on micro social work practice. Micro social work practice is defined as practice with individuals (Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2018). According to Miley, O’Melia, and Dubois, 2017, micro practice focuses on fostering changes within personal functioning, in social relationships, and in the ways people interact with social and institutional resources (pp 8-9).

Professional competencies drive social work practice. Social work student interns and medical social workers ascribe to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) professional competencies before, during, and after engagement with families. In addition to CSWE competencies, however, other doctrines with which to be aware are important. For example, and especially because the Maynor Castillo scenario involves an international and undocumented DACA student, social workers may consider the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) ethical principles and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The following sections each contain a table containing a core principle, on the left, and synthesizes ways the principle may be operationalized in the vignette, on the right. Because Maynor is an international and undocumented DACA student, social workers may consider the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Ethical Principles and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The following sections each contain a table containing a core principle, on the left, and synthesizes ways the principle may be operationalized in the vignette, on the right.

**SOCIAL WORK CORE VALUE – COMPETENCE**

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| Competence | Professional social workers often hold undergraduate or graduate degrees in social work, but a fair amount of their knowledge comes from gaining on-the-job experience. As part of the social work values outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics, each social worker must practice within their scope of competence and avoid misrepresenting skills or experience to potential clients. Social workers must constantly strive to expand their knowledge base and competence in order to make meaningful contributions to the profession and those they serve. Social work is a lifelong learning commitment, and continuing education can take the form of any activity that expands a social worker’ knowledge and skill set: conducting personal study and research, attending webinars and conferences, or pursuing additional  licenses or degrees (Tulane University School of Social Work, 2021). |

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|  | This means that the social worker of the Healthy Relationship Program must inform clients of the scope and limits of the social worker role. The social worker has a duty to become familiar with community agencies and programs and assist all clients in obtaining resources to meet their needs in order to be competent in their role. Social workers have a responsibility provide full disclosure about confidentiality and the limits to that confidentiality. Social workers respect and work in accordance with people’s rights to confidentiality and privacy unless there is risk of harm to the self or to others or other  statutory restrictions (IFSW). |

**SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES – COMPETENCE - MICRO PRACTICE ACTIVITY**

CSWE Core Principle: **Social Workers Practice Within Their Areas of Competence and Develop and Enhance Their Professionalism Expertise**

Social workers continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills and to apply them in practice. Social workers should aspire to contribute to the knowledge base of the profession.

Foundation activity: Consider the CSWE Core Principle above. As a social work intern at the Healthy Relationships Program, state in a one or two sentence verbatim two steps you can take to ensure you are practicing within your scope when working with victims of sexual and gender based violence.

IFSW Core Principle: **Respect for Confidentiality and Privacy**

Social workers respect and work in accordance with people’s rights to confidentiality and privacy unless there is risk of harm to the self or to others or other statutory restrictions. Social workers inform the people with whom they engage about such limits to confidentiality and privacy.

Advanced Activity: Consider the IFSW Core Principle above. In two or three sentences, state how you would explain the concept of confidentiality to your client. Furthermore, how would you explain the limits of confidentiality to your client?