

SECTION IV. MACRO LEVEL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

SOFT SKILLS - MACRO LEVEL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

A 2018 National Association of Social Workers survey found 82% of social work programs focus on micro practice while 9% focus on macro social work practice (NASW, 2018). It is no wonder why there are more micro practitioners than macro practitioners.

Section IV focuses on macro social work practice. Macro social work practice is defined as practice with or in organizations and communities (Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2018). Austin, Anthony, Tolleson Knee, & Mathias (2015) identify the following domains of macro practice:

1. Organizing services and programs and community groups.
2. Planning, monitoring, and evaluating community development and human services programs.
3. Collaboration among nonprofit, public, and private organizations, as well as community interest groups.
4. Development of organization and communities (social, economic, and sustainable).
5. Advocacy, policy practice, social justice and human rights.

A recent study by Jardim, 2022, validated the Soft Skills Inventory (SSI) to assess soft skills in higher education students, namely self-determination, resilience, empathy, assertiveness, social support, and teamwork. Others include the following to define aspect of soft skills, self-confidence, and self-care (Fixsen, Cranfield, & Ridge, 2018).

This section requires social work students to practice their use of soft skills within an organizational and or community context.

Foundation Activity: The social worker is the leader of the Healthy Relationships Program. The social worker understands that members of the community and other agencies and local organizations need to know about the Healthy Relationships Program. The social worker has been busy posting flyers at local businesses and providing brochures at the following local agencies, police departments, colleges and community organizations. The social worker has also created profiles on the most popular social media sites for the Healthy Relationships Program. The social worker's purpose is to spread awareness of sexual and gender-based violence to the community and to inform the public of the available services of the Healthy Relationships Program. It is also the social worker's role to build good working relationships with community partners. All local agencies and community organizations thus far have been open in supporting the goals of the Healthy Relationships Program. The social worker's next step is to prepare a presentation at the next city council meeting.

Instructions: Write a two-minute conceptual statement that, if given a chance, you would present at the City Council meeting. Your statement should integrate learning from sections II (social work competencies and values) and III (theoretical frameworks) and include the following:

1. A well-articulated issue that includes a grievance,
2. A set of demands (no more than 3) that address that grievance,
3. An institutional target at whom the grievance is directed.

My conceptual statement included use one or more of the following soft skills:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empathy | <input type="checkbox"/> Assertiveness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Analysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based Education |

Advanced Activity: The social worker is the leader of the Healthy Relationships Program. You recently learned that State Senator Dave Min, D-Irvine, introduced Senate Bill 373 and Senate Bill 374. As many as three in four female victims say their abusers tried to force them to get pregnant or otherwise control their reproductive choices, leaving survivors with higher rates of unwanted pregnancies, abortions and sexually transmitted infections (The Orange County Register, 2021).

Fifty-two percent of domestic violence survivors report experiencing coerced and fraudulent debt of over \$10,000 per year. The debt and poor credit score resulting from economic abuse impact can have long-term consequences for survivors that create barriers to education, housing, and employment opportunities (California Legislative Information, 2021).

Under Senate Bill 373, domestic violence survivors who can show they have been coerced into taking on debt would be guaranteed financial protections. If a judge agrees, creditors and debt collectors would not be allowed to collect the debt and consumer credit reporting agencies would be banned from including it on victims' credit reports. Senate Bill 374 would make California the first state in the country to recognize "reproductive coercion" as a form of domestic abuse. SB 374 would add "reproductive coercion" to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, which would ensure victims could use examples of their abuser tampering with their birth control to try to get them pregnant, trying to force them to terminate a pregnancy or otherwise interfering in their reproductive decisions as the basis for getting restraining orders or seeking other legal relief (The Orange County Register, 2021).

You as the social worker have made multiple phone calls and sent several emails to your district state senator's office over the past few weeks and you finally received a call back. You are told the senator is available next week at 9:30am and has about ten to fifteen minutes to meet with you.

INSTRUCTIONS: Prepare a ten-minute political advocacy statement you would present to your state representative to advocate your position. Your statement should synthesize the scenario, learning from sections II (social work competencies and values) and III (theoretical frameworks), and include the following:

1. Background and introduction of the issue and its impact.
2. Explanation of the bill and its impact.
3. A final statement asking the legislator for their vote.

My political advocacy statement included use one or more of the following soft skills:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empathy | <input type="checkbox"/> Assertiveness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Analysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based Education |