

S634 Group and Community Based Practice with Children and Families (3 hrs.)

I. Course Rationale and Description

This course will examine the development of and build skills for the implementation of a wide range of prevention and intervention strategies to support child well-being provided at the community level. Special attention will be given to the philosophy of empowerment-oriented and client-driven service models. This course will provide content to build skills in developing and implementing mutual aid and self-help groups to support and educate children and families on issues such as parenting, domestic violence, grief/loss, conflict mediation and child abuse issues. The course will explore the community as a resource and discuss strategies of collaboration and advocacy services for families and children to prevent out-of-home placement or involvement in other formal child protection/juvenile justice services, such as models of community-building, youth development and family group conferencing/restorative justice. The course also provides frameworks for identifying and analyzing best practices in group and community-based services for children and families.

II. Objectives

Through active participation in the learning experiences and completion of the readings, assignments, and learning projects offered throughout this seminar, learners are expected to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Analyze the ethical and values bases of several models of community-based interventions in child welfare practice.
2. Evaluate the formal and informal services available and their impact on families and the community.
3. Engage, assess and intervene with communities to advance the social and economic well-being of children and families.
4. Engage, assess and intervene with children and families using mutual aid/self-help groups for child welfare practice.
5. Analyze the impact of oppression on child welfare practice.
6. Advocate strategies for promoting family and community development.
7. Integrate the empowerment perspective into community-based child welfare practice.