Week 1 - Discussion

Lobbying and Advocacy

Based on what you have read this week describe the difference between lobbying and advocacy.  Discuss an issue that you strongly believe should be advocated for in your field or by your discipline or community.

* What data or evidence would you provide to your Congressperson, Senator or Community representative if you were going to lobby or advocate on behalf of that issue?
* Analyze the role a human service provider plays in influencing policy decisions on a Federal, State and/or local level.

Your post should be 300-350 words

Resources

Required Text

Herzberg, J. T. (2015). *Foundations in human services practice: A generalist perspective on individual, agency, and community.* Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson.   
Chapter 7: The Essentials of Advocating  
Chapter 8: Becoming a Community Organizer  
Chapter 9: Lobbying in the Political Arena

Karger, H. J. & Stoesz, D. (2018). *American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach* (8th ed). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson.   
Chapter 1: Social Policy and the American Welfare State  
Chapter 3: Social Welfare Policy Research: A Framework for Policy Analysis  
Chapter 8: The Making of Governmental Policy

Recommended References

Almog-Bar, M., & Schmid, H. (2014). Advocacy Activities of Nonprofit Human Service Organizations: A Critical Review. *Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, *43*(1), 11-35. doi:10.1177/0899764013483212

Bliss, D. L. (2015). Using the social work advocacy practice model to find our voices in service of advocacy. *Human Services Organizations, Management, Leadership & Governance, 39*(1), 57.

HumanServicesCouncil. (2011, December 15). *What is lobbying?* [Video File]. Retrieved from [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncmmmso3FLw (Links to an external site.)*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncmmmso3FLw) [*[](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncmmmso3FLw)*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncmmmso3FLw)

Lu, J. (2015). Organizational or social benefits? The progressiveness of policy advocacy in nonprofit human service organizations. *Human Services Organizations, Management, Leadership & Governance, 39*(5), 509.

McCann, K., & Kowalski, C. L. (2015). An analysis of human and community service organization directors' self-efficacy levels associated with their financial management, advocacy, and marketing skills. *Journal Of Nonprofit Education & Leadership*, *5*(2), 89-100.

Ruggiano, N., DeVance Taliaferro, J., Dillon, F. R., Granger, T., & Scher, J. (2014). Networking for policy advocacy: Identifying predictors of advocacy success among human service organizations. *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership & Governance*, *38*(1), 89-102. doi:10.1080/03643107.2013.828005

Introduction: It All Begins with Policy

A strong foundation of human service delivery begins with an understanding of the purpose, history, and process behind governmental policies. The readings in the textbooks focus on this foundational material. Building upon this foundation is an understanding of the process of legislative and community advocacy: a process where human service and professional organizations engage in lobbying efforts to encourage action on current issues affecting the provision of services, consumer rights, or professional autonomy.

You will begin to identify pertinent issues that are relevant to your specific areas of interest through:

* Researching relevant professional organization advocacy websites
* Discussing these issues with your classmates and instructor
* Identifying a human service professional with whom you will conduct an interview during the course in an effort to get some “front line” perspective on an important human service delivery

Throughout this course you will get a broad overview of the laws and regulations that govern human services disciplines. Some of you will be pursuing social services which are governed by county laws and regulations which typically stem from federal regulations. Some of you will be pursuing non-profit work which also has a different degree of governing and bylaws. We will explore how they govern and change from a state to state level and national level. In this first week, “It all begins with policy” you will gain an understanding of the foundation on which human services derives. Building upon this foundation is an understanding of the process of legislative and community advocacy: a process where human service and professional organizations engage in lobbying efforts to encourage action on current issues affecting the provision of services, consumer rights, or professional autonomy. Some of you may be able to relate it to work or agencies you are currently employed in or be able to understand how it relates to areas you wish to pursue once your degree is completed.

Some videos to get you thinking:

[https://www.povertylaw.org/clearinghouse/articles/Rasmussen (Links to an external site.)](https://www.povertylaw.org/clearinghouse/articles/Rasmussen)

[https://www.coursera.org/lecture/health-systems/advocacy-orR9d (Links to an external site.)](https://www.coursera.org/lecture/health-systems/advocacy-orR9d)

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health/advocates/>