

SOWK 486
Fall 2021



AN OVERVIEW:
DIRECT
SOCIAL
WORK
PRACTICE

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AGENDA

- How we help
- Evidence-based practice
- Involuntary clients
- Ecological Systems Model
- Social work jobs and roles



“You can close your eyes to the things you don't want to see, but you can't close your heart to the things you don't want to feel.”

—JOHNNY DEPP



Recall a time that you were experiencing an intense emotional difficulty and were comforted and supported

- How did you "know" that person was being supportive
- What behaviors and words did that person use that were helpful to you
- Create a presentation or document to share with the class



PREVENTION

The timely provision of services to vulnerable persons, promoting social functioning before problems develop.

THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL WORK

REMEDICATION

The timely provision of services to vulnerable persons, promoting social functioning before problems develop.

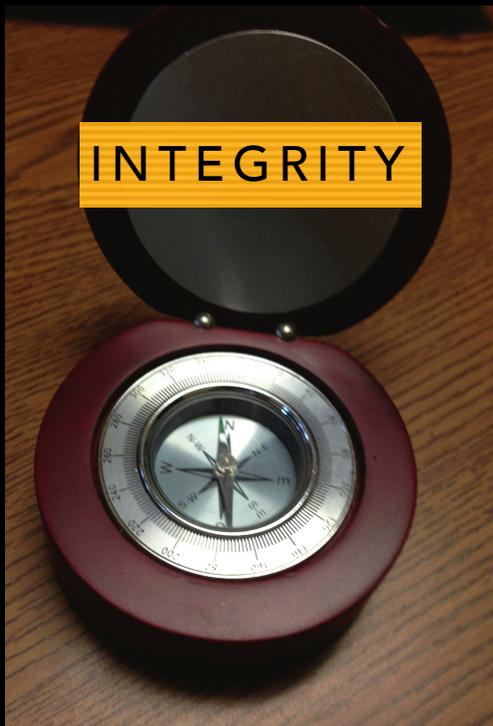
RESTORATION

Efforts to restore functioning that has been impaired by physical or mental difficulties

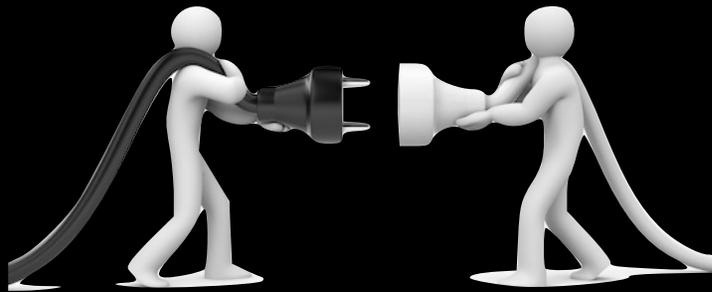
NASW CORE VALUES



DIGNITY & WORTH



SOCIAL JUSTICE



RELATIONSHIPS

NASW CORE VALUES ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

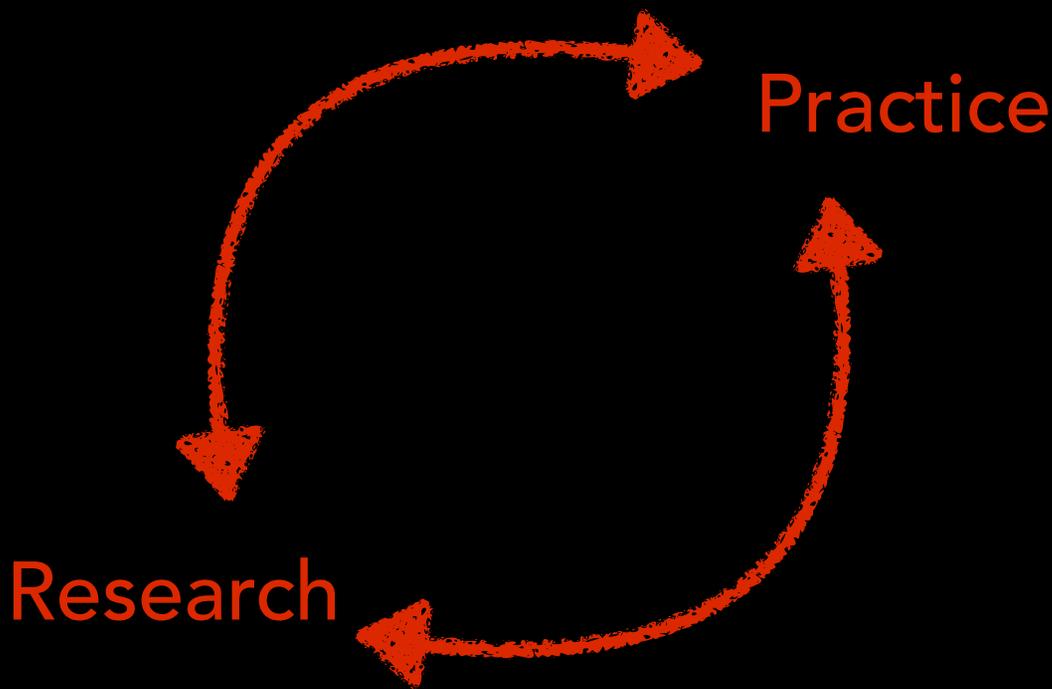
(National Association of Social Workers, 2017)

- Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems.
- Social workers challenge social injustice.
- Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person.
- Social workers recognize the central importance of human relationships.
- Social workers behave in a trustworthy manner
- Social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise.



WITH A PARTNER,
DISCUSS THESE
ETHICAL
PRINCIPLES AND
HOW THEY
RELATE TO YOUR
LIFE OR HOW
YOU CONNECT
WITH IT.

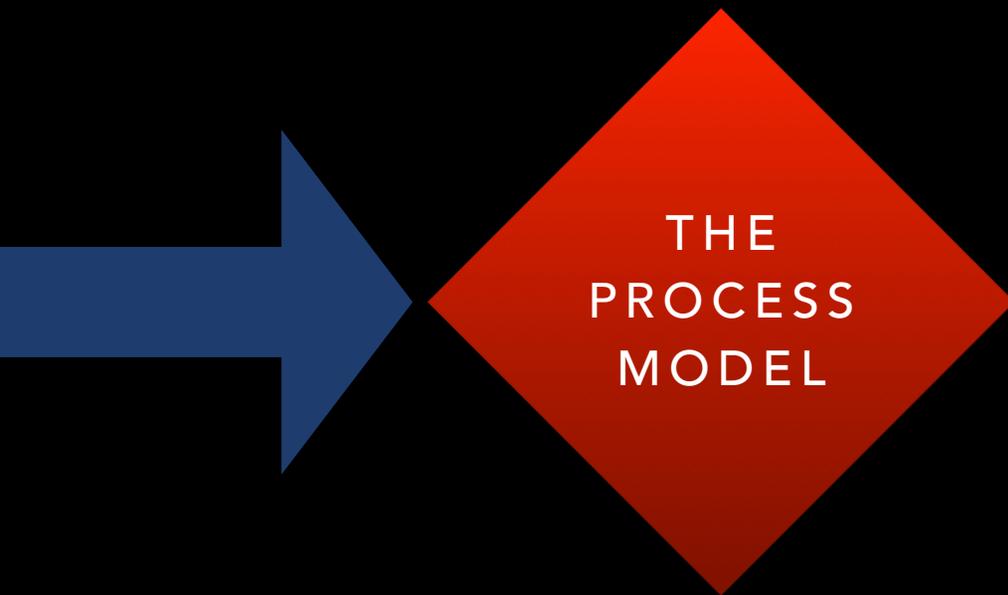
RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE AND PRACTICE-INFORMED RESEARCH



- Choosing effective interventions
- More effective individual practice
- Development of profession



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE



A form of evidence-based practice in which the individual practitioner formulates a question about his or her work with a client that is answerable with data, consults the appropriate empirical literature, assesses the evidence, shares it with the client, makes an informed collaborative decision, implements the intervention, and assesses its effectiveness.

(Rubin, 2007)



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

Focuses not just on knowing about the intervention but on acquiring the skills necessary to carry it out effectively



(Rubin, 2017)



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

Common Elements Approach

In evidence-based practice, examining commonalities across effective interventions.

(Chorpita, Daleiden, & Weisz, 2005)

Common Factors Approach

In evidence-based practice, emphasizing broad factors shared by different intervention approaches, such as strength of relationship or alliance.

(Duncan, Miller, Wampold, & Hubble, 2010)

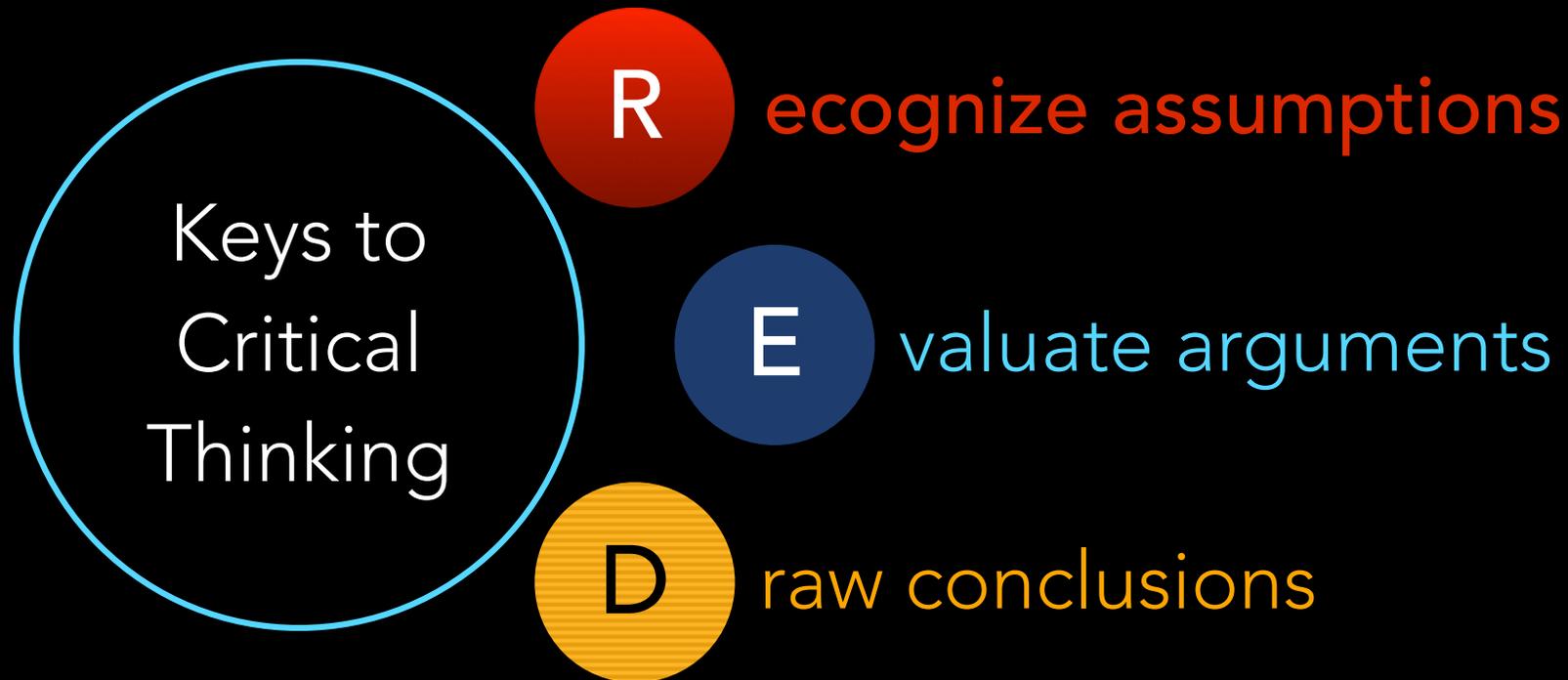
DECIDING WHEN AND HOW TO INTERVENE WITH CLIENTS IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

- Increase decision making
- Assess environment
- Sensitive to diversity
- Evidence based practices
- Critical thinking



DEFINE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS AND APPLY THEM TO PRACTICE

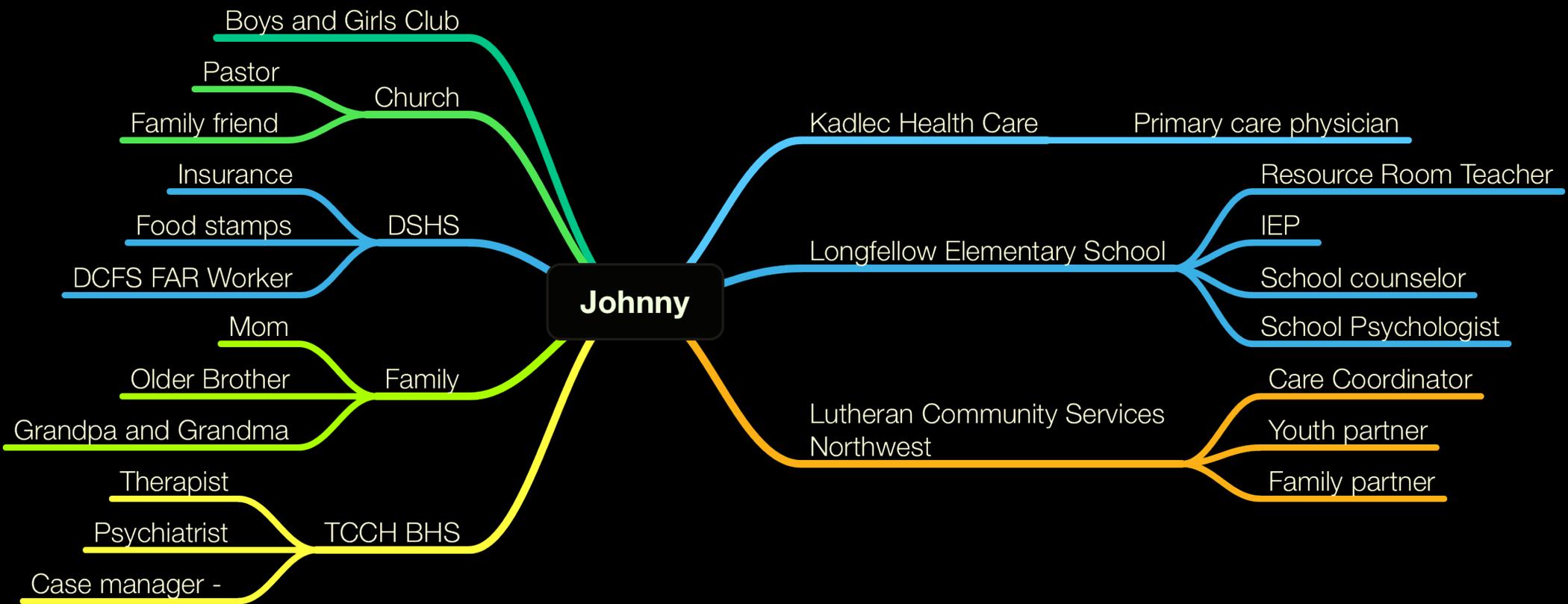
To think critically, think **RED**



(Watson-Glaser, 1925)



ECO-MAP



TYPES OF CLIENTS

LEGALLY
MANDATED

VOLUNTARY

NON
VOLUNTARY



INVOLUNTARY CLIENTS

- Acknowledge to yourself that the client is indeed voluntary.
- Try to put yourself in the clients shoes.
- Label and help the clients express their negative feelings.
- Clarify your role for the client.
- Know the limits of your authority, and in effect power over the client.

10 TIPS FOR
WORKING WITH
MANDATED CLIENTS

(Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2015)



INVOLUNTARY CLIENTS

- Give them as many choices as possible including minor options.
- Figure out what you can do for the client that he or she wants.
- Use pro-social modeling and reinforcement in order to encourage and promote client pro-social values and behaviors.
- Allow the client to gain trust in you and in the intervention process.
- Accept the fact that, ultimately the client has the right to choose whether or not to cooperate with you.

10 TIPS FOR
WORKING WITH
MANDATED CLIENTS

(Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2015)



(Heptworth, et al., 2017)

ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODEL

A model of interacting elements that enables social workers to examine strengths and weaknesses in transactions between persons, families, cultures, and communities as systems.



(Heptworth, et al., 2017)

ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODEL

Habitat

The physical and social setting
and cultural context within which
a person lives.

Niche

The status or role
occupied by a member
of the community.



(Heptworth, et al., 2017)

ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODEL

Habitat

The physical and social setting and cultural context within which a person lives.

Niche

The status or role occupied by a member of the community.

The Diverse Systems

- Subsystems of individual
- Interpersonal systems
- Organizations, institutions, communities
- The physical environment

ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODEL

Habitat

The physical and social setting and cultural context within which a person lives.

The Diverse Systems

Niche

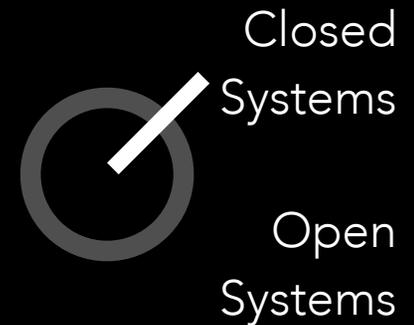
The status or role occupied by a member of the community.



Target System



Action System
(agency system)



The system that has the intervention happening to it

The system that is doing the intervention

(Heptworth, et al., 2017)

ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODEL

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The Diverse Systems

Niche

The status or role occupied by a member of the community.

The Development of
Needed Resources



(Heptworth, et al., 2017)

ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODEL

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The physical and social setting and cultural context within which a person lives.

The Diverse Systems

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The status or role occupied by a member of the community.

The Development of Needed Resources

Mutual Influence of People and Environments

Equifinality & Multifinality



DIRECT SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AND COMPONENTS



Work with Immigrants



Housing or
Financial Services



Hospital and Health
Services



Working with
Aging Clients



Mental Health Services



School Social
Work



Disability
Services



Child Welfare



Child, Youth, and
Family Services



Chemical and Substance
Abuse Services

LEVELS OF CASE MANAGEMENT

**Less
Clients**

**More
Clients**



Intensive

Blended

Resource
coordination

Administrative

(Summers, 2015)



DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDER

- Individual casework or counseling
- Couples or family therapy
- Group work services
- Educator, disseminator of information

SYSTEM LINKAGE ROLES

- Broker
- Case manager, coordinator
- Mediator, arbitrator, advocate

ROLES SOCIAL WORKERS PLAY

SYSTEM DEVELOPER

- Program developer
- Planner
- Policy and procedure developer
- Advocate

RESEARCHER & RESEARCH CONSUMER

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE ROLES

- Organizational analyst
- Facilitator, expediter
- Team member
- Consultant / consultee
- Supervisor