

Ashley Updike

December 1, 2010

HSP 440

Self-Assessment of Internship Learning

Fall quarter 2010 was my second quarter interning at Catholic Community Services. The purpose of my internship was to further my skills as a counselor. My career goal is to be a skilled chemical dependency counselor. I would like to work with addicted mothers who are involved in DCFS. My second quarter at CCS built on my previous skills gained during summer quarter.

My first learning objective was to “learn how to conduct a chemical dependency assessment using ADSA diagnostic criteria”. My learning activities included observing the counselors’ in the process of conducting the assessment; familiarizing myself with paperwork and learning more about inpatient treatment centers in Washington State. It is important skill because assessment determines the level of treatment needed. Those learning activities should have contributed to my overall learning about the assessments. I failed to recognize the human element in my learning activities. I did not plan that clients would not show up for their assessment appointments. I underestimated the amount of individuals who “no-showed” for their appointments. In addition, it was not always appropriate for me observe the assessment. I feel that I am beginning to understand the complexities of assessments. I need to gain more assessment skills to be competent.

“Research the Chemical Dependence Professional’s role in case management with outside programs and agencies: what are the ethical/professional obligations to the client when interacting with DSHS, Family Treatment Court, Drug Court, and Probation” was my second

learning objective for the quarter. My learning activities included attending weekly Family Treatment Court sessions, read agency reports, and attend staff meeting. I attend four court sessions. I read many agency reports. I also had several conversations with counselor Lindsey who works within the Family Treatment Program. I felt that my learning activities did assist my ability to achieve my second learning objective. The role of a CDP is to advocate for the client. Also a CPD must use their professional judgments and/or assessments in making service recommendations. The service team may try to make service recommendations that are not inline with client's needs. I had the chance to observe Lindsey assert her professional opinion. I am confident that I completed my second learning objective. I would like to work as a CDP in the Family Treatment or Drug Court.

I think I did fair job as an intern. It was difficult to plan on observing assessments only to spend my time filing. I think the disappointment affected my attitude. I also improved my communication ability. I now feel more confident with my speaking up. I know that I can still improve in other areas. My third internship will be at Pioneer Center North, an inpatient treatment center. I would like to gain more coaching from my site supervisor.