

Task 9: Reflection

Jenna D. Pruitt

Darden College of Educational and Professional Studies, Old Dominion University

HMSV 440 W: Program Development Implementation and Funding

Dr. Sharon Silverberg

April 13, 2023

JENNA PRUITT

SPRING 2023

When I graduated high school, my ultimate goal was to be a physical therapist. It was literally all I talked about. I went through the first semester of college in a program to finish my General Studies while I waited for acceptance into the therapy program. My mother was working on her bachelor's degree in criminal justice and working at Henry Martinsville Social Services. We were talking one day about her classes, and something just told me that I should switch my majors. I have several teachers in my family, including my sister, but that just wasn't it. I knew I wanted to work with kids. As I researched what I could do, I decided I wanted to be a Social Worker. At the urging of my mother, I obtained a part time job at Social Services where she worked. I am currently working as a Human Service Associate. Shortly after being hired, I was doing so well, I got my own case load and was moved to a full-time associate. I was going to court for children and helping children to cope with their issues. This is what I wanted, and I was doing it. While I cannot be an official Social Worker until I have my degree, the concepts that I learn on a day-to-day basis, along with the things that I am learning in this program of study will most certainly make me the best that I can be.

In this course, I have learned how to successfully conduct a program evaluation. This was accomplished through interviews and surveys. During the evaluation I got to speak to the stakeholders in our agency as well as the program participants. I also learned what the stakeholders and participants were and the role that they play in our organization. The stakeholders in our agency, for this purpose are the Director, Services Director, my Supervisor and the Senior Worker for my area. They are very important to my day-to-day activities. They have my back and do the best they can to make sure that I am learning all I need to, to become

successful. The Director has recruited me to be a part of the Employee Fund Committee. She thinks with my sunny disposition, I would be the perfect fit to encourage longevity with our workers and increase morale. I hope I can live up to those expectations. My depth of learning from this course and my co-workers are demonstrated in the tasks of this course. I feel that I was most successful at the discussion boards where I could tell my thoughts and get feedback from the others in my field. The course material will come in handy when I complete home studies in my current position. The writing techniques that I have learned and used throughout this course will allow me to take better notes and write in more detail. This course went right along with my case management class and I feel this program of study will prepare me to meet and exceed the expectations set forth by the stakeholders.

I am active in the community with the local food bank. I feel this allows me to see and work together with a very diverse population. These relationships will help me in the future and in the present. For instance, there was a house fire, and the family living there were my clients. They needed clothes badly. I put a request out on Facebook that was shared by several others and in a few days, I had three bags of adult clothes and four bags of clothes and shoes for the three boys and little girl. My director suggested I put a request in the Care Portal and request monies from the agency to buy clothes, but if there are people willing to share, why would I do that? Some of these clothes came right off the Walmart rack! One lady sent me a check to buy things. Because I had enough, I used this to buy a highchair for another of my clients that has an autistic child. This is the group I want to be in. Those that are in it not for the money, but for the sole purpose of helping those that are less fortunate. This is why I chose Social Work. I want to be one that makes a difference, that the kids can call or run to when needed. This is my story.