Careers in Aging: Social Work

Careers in Aging in Iowa

Collaboration among:
- Iowa State University
- University of Northern Iowa
- Des Moines Area Community College
- University of Iowa

Inspired by AGHE – Association of Gerontology in Higher Education: http://www.aghe.org/

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Iowa’s Population

- Population (2012) 3,074,186
  - Rank among states: 30
- Urban and rural population (2010)\(^2\)
  - Urban: 64.02%
  - Rural (total): 35.98%

Population 65 years and over: 15.0% (US-13)
Population 85 years and over: 2.5% (US 1.8)

Iowa

- Race and Hispanic or Latino (2011)\(^3\)
  - White alone: 91.5%
  - Black or African American alone: 2.9%
  - American Indian and Alaska Native alone: 0.4%
  - Asian alone: 1.8%
  - Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone: 0.1%
  - Two or more races: 1.4%
  - Hispanic or Latino (of any race): 5.0%
- White alone, not Hispanic or Latino: 88.4%

Ancestry (single or multiple) (2011)\(^4\)
- German: 37.8%
- Irish: 14.5%
- Other: 47.7%
Case Study

When the OA is living with functional impairments:

- What are the needs agreement
- Can needs be met in current setting
- What is decision to move
- Discussing LOS plans
- Adjustment to new setting: adaptation of current
- Emotional and social issues
  - Grief and loss
  - Meaning-making
- Decisions, resources, communication, self-determination, game plan, assess working, according to OA and family.

Mrs. E.

Former cook. Mother of 4, values independence, decision-making, enjoys socializing, is dealing with COPD, diabetes.

The Mission of Social Work

“...to enhance human well-being and help meet basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.”

Source: NASW Code of Ethics
http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp

NASW

- National Association of Social Workers
- National organization
- State chapters
- Journal, newsletter, website, factsheets, Facebook, LinkedIn, twitter
- “Social Work Speaks”
- Practice standards
- NASW SW Encyclopedia

SW Perspective

“A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession’s focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.”

NASW Code of Ethics

Six Core SW Values & Principles

1. Service
   - Help people in need, address social problems
2. Social justice
   - Challenge social injustice
3. Dignity and worth of the person
   - Respect the inherent dignity and worth of each person
4. Importance of human relationships
   - Recognize the central importance of human relationships
5. Integrity
   - Behave in a trustworthy manner
6. Competence
   - Practice within areas of competence and develop and enhance professional expertise
Professional social workers are found in every facet of community life—in schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, elected office, private practices, prisons, military, corporations, and in numerous public and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need.

**Important Qualities**

- Committed to advocacy
- Openness to enhancing own cultural competency

**College Education**

- BSW BASW - undergraduate (4 years)
- MSW – graduate “terminal degree” for practitioners
- PhD (DSW): research and scholarship

**Professional Licensure**

**SW Educational Programs in Iowa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13 BASW/BSW</th>
<th>3 MSW (Masters)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Briar Cliff - Sioux City</td>
<td>Ambrose - Davenport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buena Vista - Storm Lake</td>
<td>UNI-Cedar Falls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clark College - Dubuque</td>
<td>UI – Iowa City</td>
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<td>Dordt College - Sioux Center</td>
<td>– Des Moines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loras College - Dubuque</td>
<td>– Sioux City</td>
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<td>Luther College - Decorah</td>
<td>– Quad Cities</td>
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<td>Mount Mercy – Cedar Rapids</td>
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NASW website

• Mental Health Therapy - over 50% are SW
• Disaster Relief – over 40% Red Cross trained MH volunteers are SW
• Military Social Work
• Rural Social Work
• Adoption & Foster Care
• Child Welfare Services
• Family Preservation Services
• Homeless Family Assistance
• Eating Disorders
• Genetics

NASW website

• Community Mental Health
• Employee Assistance
• Private Practice
• Veterans Services
• Child Abuse & Neglect
• Domestic Violence
• Political Development
• Parent Education
• Family Planning
• HIV/AIDS
• School Alternative Programs
• Difficulties in School

NASW website

• Gerontology Services
• Community-Based Services
• In-Home Services
• Dementia and Alzheimer’s
• Addictions Prevention/Treatment
• Criminal Justice
• Housing Assistance
• Public Welfare
• Employment Services
Gerontological Social Work

Work related to well-being of older adults
- Individuals
- Families
- Neighborhoods
- Communities
- Cities
- State
- Country
- Global

Variety of settings

ROLE AND FUNCTION OF SOCIAL WORK IN AGING

- Depends on setting
- Advocacy
- Assessment
- Planning
- Care management
- Counseling

ROLE AND FUNCTION OF SOCIAL WORK IN AGING
Continued

- Family support
- Education
- Group work
- Milieu/crisis intervention
- As part of a multi-disciplinary team

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES AND DIRECTIONS

- Technology and coordination of care
- Life course planning
- Caregiver issues
- Culture change
- Community planning

BLS Job Outlook - SW in General

25% increase by 2020

Employment of healthcare social workers is expected to grow by 34 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations. As baby boomers age, they and their families will require help from social workers to find care, which will increase demand for healthcare social workers.

Employment of mental health and substance abuse social workers is expected to grow by 31 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth is expected as more people seek treatment for mental illness and addiction.
Book by Grobman & Bourassa

44 professionals tell stories from “real life” social work practice with older adults.

Publisher: White Hat Communications

UI Aging Studies Program

- Certificate = 21 semester hours
- Undergraduate Minor = 15 semester hours

http://www.uiowa.edu/~socialwk/agingstudies/

Thank you.

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