



Social Work 1130

Case Study Exercise 2: The Malone Family

Assignment Directions

This assignment is to help you apply the knowledge you have learned thus far in the course materials and apply it to a case study. To complete this assignment, read the case study below (page 2) and answer the following questions.

1. Take a “person-in-environment” approach and consider one of the individuals and his or her social environment. Define what you believe are at least three factors that are important to and impact the functioning of the individual. Write the factors and how you believe they impact the individual’s functioning. Below are the list of factors you can choose from:
 - Biological factors such as information regarding physical functioning
 - Psychological factors such as coping capacities and affect
 - Social factors such as social roles, social functioning, social supports, financial status
 - Family factors
 - Cultural factors
 - Spiritual factors
 - Factors in the social and physical environment
2. Next, identify the resources/strengths within the individual you chose, the family as a whole and its community. Write these resources and strengths. Again, you need to address these for the individual, the Malone family, and their community.
3. What information in this case study is significant and why? What additional information would it be helpful to have and why?
4. What types of services might this family benefit from? Please also think about what services individuals in the family might benefit from. Use information from peer reviewed journal articles to support the interventions.
5. Finally, appreciate and identify the role “culture” may play in this family’s experience.



Grading Rubric

Your assignment will be evaluated using the following grading rubric out of **15** total points.

- Identification of 3 factors and how they impact the identified individuals functioning. (3 points)
- Identification of strengths for the individual, family & community in the case study. (3 points)
- Quality discussion of significant information in the case study & what additional information would be helpful. (2 points)
- Identification of services for the family. Use of peer reviewed articles to support interventions. (2 points)
- Discussion of the impact of culture and the use of peer reviewed articles to support analysis. (2 points)
- The response is organized in a meaningful manner with correct spelling and grammar, is 3 pages in length and has a title & reference page. (3 points)

Case Study 2: The Malone Family

In the United States, before the COVID Pandemic, the Opioid Epidemic was, and still is, taking a devastating toll on families. This crisis started in the 1990's, however, the U.S. saw a significant spike in Opioid use, overdose and overdose death in the early 2010's that continues to this day. Child welfare agencies have particularly borne the brunt of this epidemic as children were left without parents either due to addiction or overdose death and are left in the care of agencies across the country. According to data collected from Ohio Department of Job and Family Services through the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) special data run, January 2017, in the State of Ohio, there was an 11% increase in foster care due to opioid use, 19% increase in the length of time children spent in foster care, a 20% increase in a cost of their care and a 62% increase in the number of relatives caring for children (PCSAO, 2019).

In the report *The Ripple Effect, The Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on Children and Families*:

“Children and youth affected by familial Substance Use Disorder (SUD) are at risk themselves for disrupted lives, school problems, trauma-related anxiety, and potential use of the drugs that caused the problems in the first place. Children are often hidden



from view until a crisis in the family (overdose, death, arrest, incarceration) occurs; even then, they are seldom identified as needing help. The opioid epidemic is a multifactorial and multigenerational problem, and the solutions must recognize all these complexities.” (Brundage & Levine, 2019, p.4).

One such family is the Malone family. Ida Malone is a 60-year-old widow with one 35-year-old daughter, Karen, and a 13-year-old grandson named Chase. Ida lives in an Appalachian area of Ohio and has recently retired from a local college where she had been the director of food services. She was looking forward to traveling with friends and family in her retirement. She has always been a source of support for her daughter who was a single parent who struggled to make ends meet. Recently, she had become concerned about her daughter’s physical appearance and her living conditions, but her daughter maintained that everything was fine. Ida tried to stop by frequently to check on Chase who was often home alone, but he always covered for his mom. Late one night, she received a panicked phone call from Chase saying he could not wake his mom up and he had called 911. Ida arrived shortly after medic’s rushed her daughter to the hospital for a suspected opioid overdose. After talking with the police officer & Children’s services worker on the scene, the social worker determined it would be best for Chase to go home with his grandmother for the night until they could make a long-term plan for his care with his mom.

Karen survived the overdose and disclosed she had been using since being prescribed opioid pain killers after a back injury at work. Since she had very limited sick time, she used the pain killers to keep working. After a while, she felt like she needed them just to get through every day. When the doctor at the clinic she had gone to would no longer prescribe the medication, she turned to pills on the street and eventually heroin. The hospital social worker offered to get Karen connected to a treatment facility, but there were not many that would take her insurance. The social worker gave them a list of possible sources for payment assistance, but in the end, Ida used money from her savings to pay for her daughter’s treatment.

The Children’s Services social worker came to the hospital and recommended that Karen & Ida make a temporary custody agreement so that Chase did not have to go into foster care. Ida contacted and paid for an attorney to do that. Ida was anticipating a short-term arrangement as her daughter sought treatment. Two years later, Ida still has temporary custody of her grandson and her daughter still struggles with substance misuse. With being on a fixed income and her savings almost gone, Ida reached out to Children’s Services for assistance in providing for some of Chase’s needs, particularly counseling for some behavioral issues and getting him ready for the new school year. The agency told her that since she was a Kinship Caregiver and they did not have any role in giving Ida custody, they did not have any resources they could



provide but gave her a list of other community resources. Overwhelmed, Ida broke down crying.