Assignment 1: Week 5 Blog - Policy Context

Social policy developed during the Progressive Era, Jane Addams and other reformers argued that government had obligations to protect poor women and children, who were seen as victims of industrialization (Herrick, 2013). The define for social policy according to Herrick (2013), social policies are created and function in dynamic social, economic, and cultural contexts. Conflicting ideas and interests exist over what kinds of policies are needed to address social problems and human needs.

South Bend School Corporation (SBSC) have several policies for the staff, parents, and students. The policy that I have been dealing with due to a student not coming to school is truancy. The student has only been in school so far, this school year five days out of twenty-three. Student attendance at school is the primary responsibility of the parent/legal guardian and student. It is the South Bend Community School Corporation's responsibility to develop and implement sound procedures that contribute to this growth. According to SBSC (2015), excessive absence places a student in danger of failing a course or repeating a grade. Unexcused absences and truancies resulting in a total of ten (10) days or more per semester will be a significant factor in recommending retention and/or loss of credit. Chronic absenteeism will be referred to the appropriate legal authority.

As a social worker, it will be important to me to understand and support social policies that support vulnerable populations because they do not possess political power (Garthwait, 2017). I have called this student to get her back to school as well calling her for a wakeup call which only worked one time but other than that with no envy alone with the SAMP principle. One of the healthy organization that comes out to see students that are enrolled in their program has stated that the student has no desire to be in school. I have spoken with my field instructor regarding this student attendance and I was told that in the State of Indiana once any student turned sixteen the student at that time can drop out of high school. If a student hasn’t drop out of high school the next step is to refer students to a SBCS school called Rise Up Academy or Young Adult Services (YAS). My last effort is to get the student into YAS before she turns twenty-two because Rise Up is for those that are behind on credits not attendance issues. Her mental health has been an issue in the past but according to her she is fine. Tomorrow her parents will be contacted by me about the decision to drop her from the program due to chronic truancy per the SBCS attendance policy. If she was fifteen than I could call a referral to the Department of Children’s’ Services chronic truancy.

References

Garthwait, C. L. (2017). The social work practicum: A guide and workbook for students (7th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson

Herrick, J. M. (2013). Social Policy: Overview. Encyclopedia of Social Work. doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780199975839.013.607

South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCS). 2015. Code of Conduct. Retrieved from http://www.sb.school/students/student\_code\_of\_conduct