

University of Northern Iowa

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INSPIRE Student Research and Engagement
Conference

2020 INSPIRE Student Research and
Engagement Showcase

Apr 17th, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Iowa Department of Human Services

MacKenzie L. Dallenbach
University of Northern Iowa

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Agency Information

It's vision is to make a positive difference for the individuals in Iowa the department serves. It's mission is to help the people of Iowa achieve a safe, healthy, stable and self-sufficient life with the use of their programs and services.



Location: 1407 Independence Ave., Waterloo, IA 50703

Client Base

- Children
 - newborns to 18 years
 - Transitioning youth
 - Court-ordered juvenile detention centers
 - Foster care
- Families of the Children
- All races/ethnicities, genders, socioeconomic status, mental functioning



Days & Hours of Internship

- Hours of Operation
 - Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 440 hour internship
- 28 hours per week



Intervention Analysis Project

Signature Assignment during this course was to conduct a literature review of an intervention that is currently being utilized currently or could be utilized in the future. The point of this assignment was to look into prior research and create a detailed analysis of the decided intervention

Internship Experience

- Attended Family Team Meetings (FTM), home visits, Foster Care Review Board (FCRB)
- Conducted social history interviews and wrote up social history
- Attended Court Hearings:
 - Termination of Parental Rights
 - Adjudications, Dispositions, Contested, Permanency
 - Adoption hearings
 - Removal hearings
- Assisted in transporting clients to and from various locations
- Attended staffings
- Worked with Family Safety, Risk and Permanency (FSRP) and BHIS
- Shadowed various tasks for SWII
- Filed case folders
- Observed various procedure(s), such as how to help a child be admitted into a PMIC placement
- Completing case notes
- Much more. . .

Lessons I Learned About This Population

A child's love for their parent(s) is unconditional.

Resilience and strengths exist in every single individual.

Nothing is as it seems. Cases are complex and difficult. What seems like an easy case, may bring hidden challenges.

Everyone is capable of change if they are given the tools and support.



Positions at DHS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ● Social Work Level II | ● Social Worker Level III |
| ○ Case Manager | ○ Assessment Worker |
| ○ Adoption Specialist | ● Social Work Supervisor |
| ○ Transition Planning Specialist | |

Lessons I Learned About Myself

Self-care is critical!

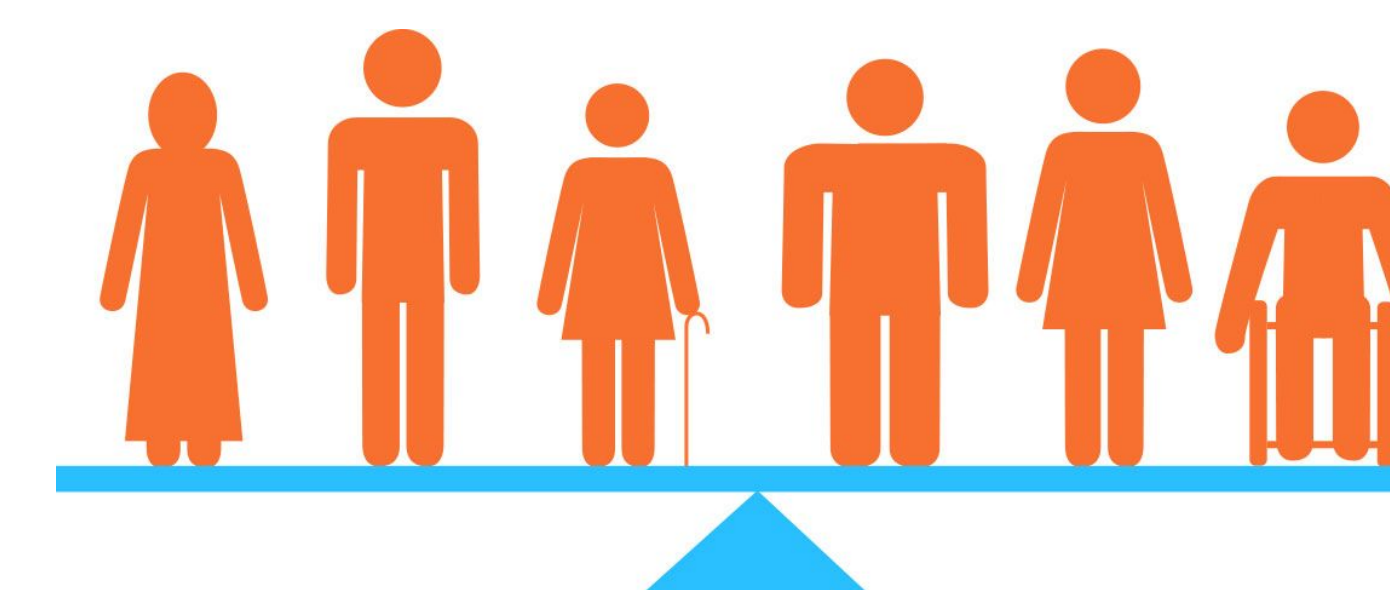
Always keep an open mind and kind heart, but tough skin.

Patience and the ability to ask questions is a gift.

Things are not always black and white, it is important to use critical thinking and empathy to help guide you along.

Leave work at home!

Everyone is human, even you.



Acknowledgements

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Thank you to Julie Pitzen, Christy Ancell, Lindsay Brown, Michelle Cooper, Wendy Markey, Diane Thompson, Christine Weber, and Sydney Zaruba for allowing me to shadow and learn from you all.

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Last and never the least, thank you to everyone I have come in contact with at DHS for the support, teachings, laughs, and smiles through a difficult occupation.

Services DHS Help With

Family Independence Program (FIP): cash assistance for families with dependent children



Medicaid ("Title Nineteen")

Protective Daycare



Substance Abuse/Mental Health Referrals