

# SHOWCASING OUR SOCIAL WORK SKILLS

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THROUGH REPORT WRITING AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

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**SOCIALWORKERS**  
leaders. advocates. champions.

# ‘CAN YOU WORK YOUR ‘MAGIC?’

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- Social workers are often called upon to “use our powers.” We hear this plea every so often, typically in times of crisis. I’ll confess: these powers are just honed social work skills, and we can all develop them. To the untrained eye, they look miraculous. For social workers, it’s Tuesday
- - *Stephen P. Cummings* <http://www.socialworker.com/extras/social-work-month-2018/social-workers-three-key-powers/>

# SOCIAL WORK IS 'INVISIBLE' BECAUSE SOCIAL WORKERS OFTEN STRUGGLE TO DEFINE SOCIAL WORK

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- While social workers seldom spend time explaining exactly what social work does they frequently discuss why no one else could comprehend what constitutes social work. The research data made clear a major problem to be overcome is social workers lack of articulation about what constitutes social work.
- While relatively unaccustomed to expressing their theoretical knowledge, social workers paradoxically appeared to expect others to understand and respect the same unvoiced knowledge.
- Anita Roysum (2017) **'How' we do social work, not 'what' we do**, Nordic Social Work Research, 7:2, 141-154,

# Invisible Social Work in Mental Health?

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- Social Work can become ‘invisible’ when mental health is viewed through a ‘lens’ dominated by medical understandings. Morris, Lisa. 2016: “**Being Seconded to a Mental Health Trust: The (In)Visibility of Mental Health Social Work**”. British Journal of Social Work. Published online: March 27, 2016. doi: 10.1093/bjsw/bcw022.
- Social Work can become ‘visible’ when we demonstrate our evidence-based knowledge in writing.

## BEST PRACTICE IN SOCIAL WORK -

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1. Is **therapeutic** in its methods and impact,
2. Using skilled, **theoretically informed** approaches
3. Is knowledgeable in how it draws on **research evidence** and
4. Is **critical** and **reflective** on how power was exercised and in the deep respect shown for vulnerable people's human rights.

## BEST PRACTICE IN SOCIAL WORK -

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5. Is **authoritative**.
6. Embraces **ethical complexity**.
7. Uses **emotional intelligence**
8. Takes **Courage**.

# EVIDENCE (FACT) DOES NOT SPEAK FOR ITSELF – IT MUST BE SPOKEN FOR (PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT)

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- How we talk **about** patients – how we make sense of the problems and needs of people
- How we **build** case formulations about what caused the troubles
- How we **decide** what should be done about the problem or need
- In order to get our jobs done we must package our professional opinions for the consumption of others. We must be able to justify, account for and ‘perform’ our professional judgements for
  - The patient & their family
  - Multidisciplinary team
  - Our Colleagues in our respective departments
  - Community services and external agencies

# SOCIAL WORK – BOTH MICRO AND MACRO PERSPECTIVES

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- Social Work concerns itself with social needs, as these are encountered
  - at the individual and family level
  - at the institutional and structural level.
- The goal of addressing ‘people’ in their ‘environments’ can only be achieved when both elements are understood and **the connections between them are made.**
- Social Work’s dual focus on the individual and the environment as a quality that distinguishes social work from other helping professions

# HUMAN RIGHTS - FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL WORK ADVOCACY

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- Human Rights resolve social work's micro/macro divide by insisting on the simultaneous need for both forms of action: individuals have the right to assistance, and unjust systems require change.
- Reichert, E. (2011a). *Social work and human rights: A foundation for policy and practice* (2nd ed). New York, NY: Columbia University.
- Reichert, E. (2011b). Human rights in social work: An essential basis. *Journal of Comparative Social Welfare*, 27, 207-220.
- One Model of how this might be achieved through co-production, working partnerships between service users and families, statutory and voluntary services

# SOCIAL WORK THEORIES

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- Psychosocial and Systems Theory – ‘bread & butter’ of social work – loss, attachment, life stages of development, etc.
- Client Centred (Carl Rogers) Counselling
- Solution Focused Brief Therapy ( Miracle question, coping questions, etc )(Steve De Shazer, 1980’s)
- Strengths Based Approach (Saleebey, 2002)
- Task Centred Practice
- Narrative Therapy / Social Constructionist / Externalising, (Michael White, David Epston)
- Crisis Intervention – 7 Stages - assess safety, build rapport, identify problem, address feelings, generate alternatives, develop action plan, follow up
- Human Rights

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SUPPORT BY SOCIAL WORK MANAGEMENT OF BEST PRACTICE

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- It is crucial that we identify the best work that is going on, so that what is done well will be acknowledged, celebrated, learned from and done more often.
- The cumulative effect of more and more best practice being performed could then be the transformation of the system to a social care model of mental health service provision.

# Referral to Mental Health Social Work

CLIENTS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

REFERRER: \_\_\_\_\_(Discipline) CONTACT DETAILS: \_\_\_\_\_

REASON FOR REFERRAL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

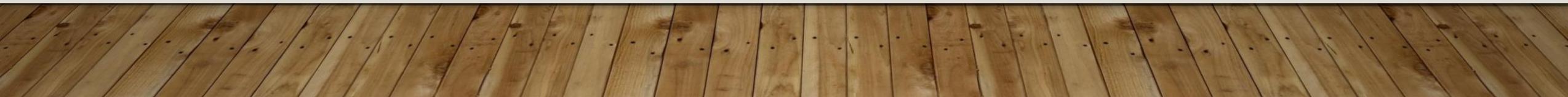
- INTERVENTIONS :    Counselling     Family Work     Complex social welfare issues   
Advocacy (other services)     Psychosocial Assessment     WRAP     Housing/Homelessness   
Legal issues     Family Tracing     Child Protection consult     Safeguarding Consult

OTHER:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Referrers Signature**



# Mental Health Social Work Discharge Summary

CLIENTS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

REFERRER: \_\_\_\_\_

REASON FOR REFERRAL: \_\_\_\_\_

- INTERVENTIONS :    Counselling     Family Work     Complex social welfare issues   
Advocacy (other services)     Psychosocial Assessment     WRAP     Housing/Homelessness   
Legal issues     Family Tracing     Child Protection consult     Safeguarding Consult

OTHER:

**PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSESSMENT: NEEDS IDENTIFIED ON ASSESSMENT:**

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**DATE FIRST SEEN:**

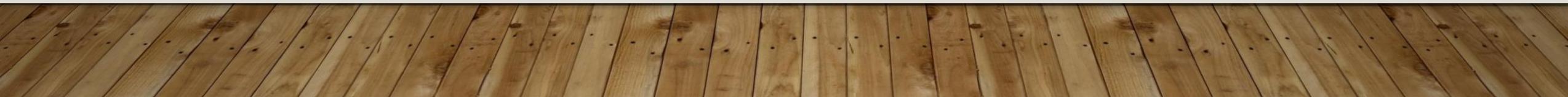
**NO. OF CONTACTS:**

**NO OF ADVOCACY CONTACTS**

**SUMMARY OF INTERVENTION & OUTCOME:**

**DATE OF DISCHARGE:**

**SIGNED:**



# **SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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## **VALUING YOUR WORK**

- STRUCTURE AND LAYOUT
- SAMPLE REPORT (RESOURCE PACK)
- THE SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE
- SOCIAL WORK ROLE