

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE PSCSW AWARDS FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**

(These guidelines are applicable to students working in all field settings, including those offering single session or short term case assignments, as well as those providing opportunity for ongoing client and/or family contact. They are applicable to the student's role as primary service provider or support team member, and to interventions with individuals or families. Judges will take into account the written quality of the paper including style, grammar, organization, focus and flow.)

### **I. Introduction to Practice Setting**

- A. Description of the practice setting and focus of service.
- B. Community context, socio-economic and socio-cultural description of the population served.

### **II. Case presentation**

- A. Presenting problem/precipitating event that triggered individual/couple/family contact with the practice setting.
- B. Bio-psycho-social assessment of the individual/couple/family.
  1. Biological: age, sex, physical appearance, physical health, level of intellectual functioning, cognitive deficits. If the client is a child, include developmental history. Other disorders that may have biological effects such as eating disorders and substance abuse.
  2. Psychological: mood/affect, level of psychological functioning, evidence of psychopathology, family history of mental illness, substance abuse, history of trauma, in individual, couple or family.
  3. Social Functioning: client's familial and social relationships, sexual and gender identity, ethno-cultural identity, economic situation.
- C. Clinician's initial assessment of client and client's problems including DSM V if indicated. Clinician may choose to include a systemic model for assessment of a couple or family.

### **III. Review of the literature**

- A. Carefully documented theories relevant to case study.
- B. Clinical approaches and techniques utilized by presenter.
- C. A rationale for treatment approach chosen for this client based on clinician's assessment and the literature review.

### **IV. Process of treatment**

- A. Treatment goals and expectations of progress (including limitations pertaining to the function of the practice setting, the role of the clinician, the treatment time frame, client's motivation, etc.).
- B. Description of the clinical relationship, including examples of the working alliance from clinical sessions, clinician's use of self, transference and counter-transference. These concepts can be applied to clients utilizing brief interventions or ongoing social work services.
- C. Description of collaboration with other treatment team members, or professionals, if applicable.
- D. Discussion of client's response to treatment noting intrapsychic and interpersonal growth and changes in external functioning.
- E. Discussion of how the NASW/PSCSW Code of Ethics was able to be integrated into the social work intervention process.

### **V. Use of Supervision**

- A. Description of case-related questions, self awareness, self growth and guidance within the supervision process.
- B. Relationship with the supervisor including, if applicable, any challenges within the supervision process and how those were negotiated.

### **VI. Conclusion**

- A. Evaluation of clinical work. What might you have done differently; what went well, what might your goals/expectations be if you could continue to work with this client?