

SECTION II. MICRO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice	None of the medical staff in the ER speak fluent French and are unable to fully communicate with Mbaye and his family. Social justice involves advocating for the human rights of all persons, including patients. For the social worker, this means locating and accommodating Mbaye and his family with a French translator. The use of translators in hospitals is common. However, some hospitals use a telephone translation service while others use an audio/video translation service. The social worker makes sure to inform the doctor, as much is known, about the story regarding Mbaye's injuries when speaking to Mbaye's parents. Dr. Nathan speaks French but finds the translation of medical jargon to be a problem. The social worker sets up the translation service between Dr. Nathan, Mbaye, and his parents at and speaking directly to the parents and not the translators. When all else fails, the social worker may download a language app and attempt to translate. This is not the optimal method of translation but may be necessary in an emergency situation when all other methods fail.
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SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES – SOCIAL JUSTICE - MICRO PRACTICE ACTIVITY

CSWE core principle – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social workers pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people. Social workers' social change efforts are focused primarily on issues of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and other forms of social injustice. These activities seek to promote sensitivity to and knowledge about oppression and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers strive to ensure access to needed information, services, and resources; equality of opportunity; and meaningful participation in decision making for all people

Foundation activity: Consider the NASW definition above, list two (2) strategies where you, as a social work intern, would perform social justice advocacy for, with, or behalf of this family by, according to Wilkerson, making the family the hero (instead of the usual medical staff, like doctors and nurses) of their own circumstance (Wilkerson, 2020, chapter 4).

IFSW core principle – PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social workers have a responsibility to engage people in achieving social justice, in relation to society generally, and in relation to the people with whom they work (Challenging Discrimination and Institutional Oppression, Respect for Diversity, Access to Equitable Resources, Challenging Unjust Policies and Practices, and Building Solidarity).

Advanced activity: Consider the IFSW definition above, list two (2) strategies where you, as a social work intern, would evaluate your or the hospital's ability to effectively promote social justice in a medical setting by centering the family in decision making and discharge.
