SWK 2000 Introduction to Social Work Reflection

Volunteer Experience

The volunteer experience required for this course gave me a firsthand look at what social workers do. I completed my volunteer experience hours in the Child Welfare Services department within Scotland County Department of Social Services. While completing those hours, I was able to attend at least two events that were held with the foster care children and their foster families. This was an eye opening experience to see the challenges that the children, the foster families, and the staff face from day to day. Everyone involved on the Child Welfare team work together to make sure that the children are safe while also providing services such as therapy, incentives for doing well in school, meeting their basic needs by placing them with loving families who give them a sense of stability.

Personally I gained a better understanding of how the foster care system works and how much time is put in to make sure that the children are cared for. As a parent, it also made me grateful to know that I am able to provide for my children and give them a safe and loving environment. When we are on the outside looking in, we sometimes judge people about why their children are in the foster system but when having a hand in the department for only a little while, I realized that bad circumstances are sometimes out of our control. Some of these parents are doing the best that they can with the cards they have been dealt. With the help of social workers they are able to obtain the services needed to become self-sufficient parents who are able to care for their children.