SWK 3480 Social Welfare Policies and Programs Reflection

Social Problems Paper

One of the reasons I chose the topic of the policy on TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is because I have worked in this unit at the Scotland County Department of Social Services for about 2 years. I was interested in learning more in depth about how the program was started and what drives the policies within the program. Although the policies have changed many times over the years I feel that there are more improvements to be made. Although TANF is a program in which a client is under no obligation to apply for, I personally feel that under the current policies, the program does not benefit clients by helping them become self-sufficient. There are still obstacles that clients who receive these benefits face such as inadequate child care, limited transportation, and the inability to rise above the poverty income limits.

While writing this paper I was able to learn about how policies can be changed and that we as social workers have the ability to advocate for policy changes. The ability for us to research the policy, to find limitations within the policy, and to determine why the client’s needs still are not being met are all ways to begin the change. While clients who receive TANF are oppressed, it is the social workers job to treat them with dignity and self-worth. Competence of the TANF policy is also an important aspect when working with these clients. We must also remember that they have the same values and morals as any other person and that they we must show empathy and build rapport with our clients.