SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Navigating the Critical,
Complex Puzzle Pieces:
Field Education and Law Enforcement
Partnerships

Jennifer Hippie, Clinical Associate Professor
Serretta B. Gordon, Clinical Associate Professor
University of Southern Indiana Social Work Conference
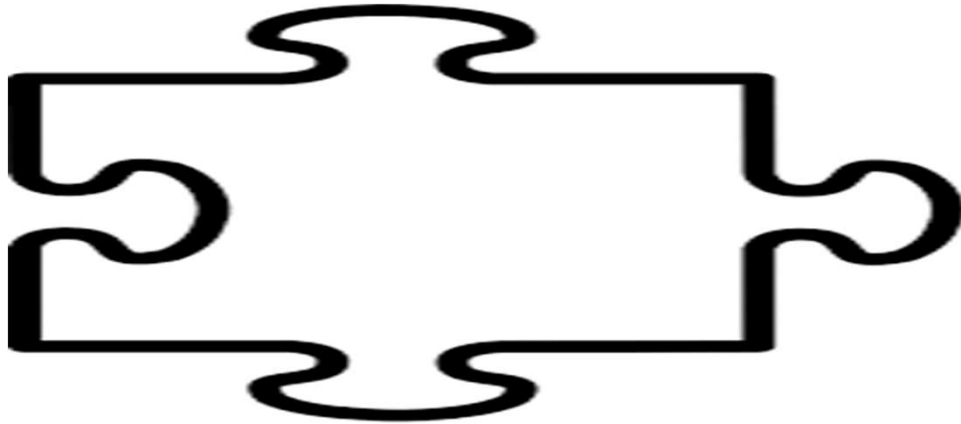March 3, 2023

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OVERVIEW

Social work and law enforcement can create positive outcomes for field education when puzzle pieces are assembled. Bridging the gap between these professions, often with competing priorities, takes consideration and acknowledging realities of the bigger picture. Lessons from putting together these essential pieces to create favorable results will be shared.

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GIVING HOPE *and* **CHANGING LIVES**
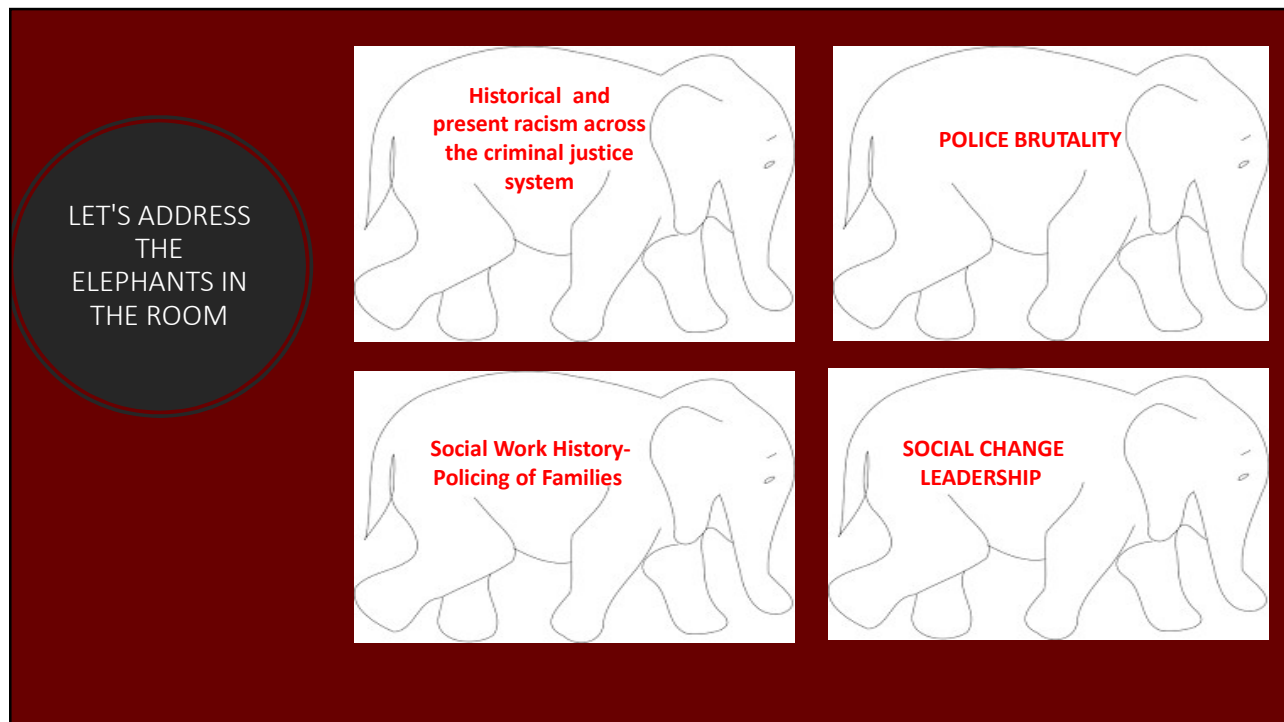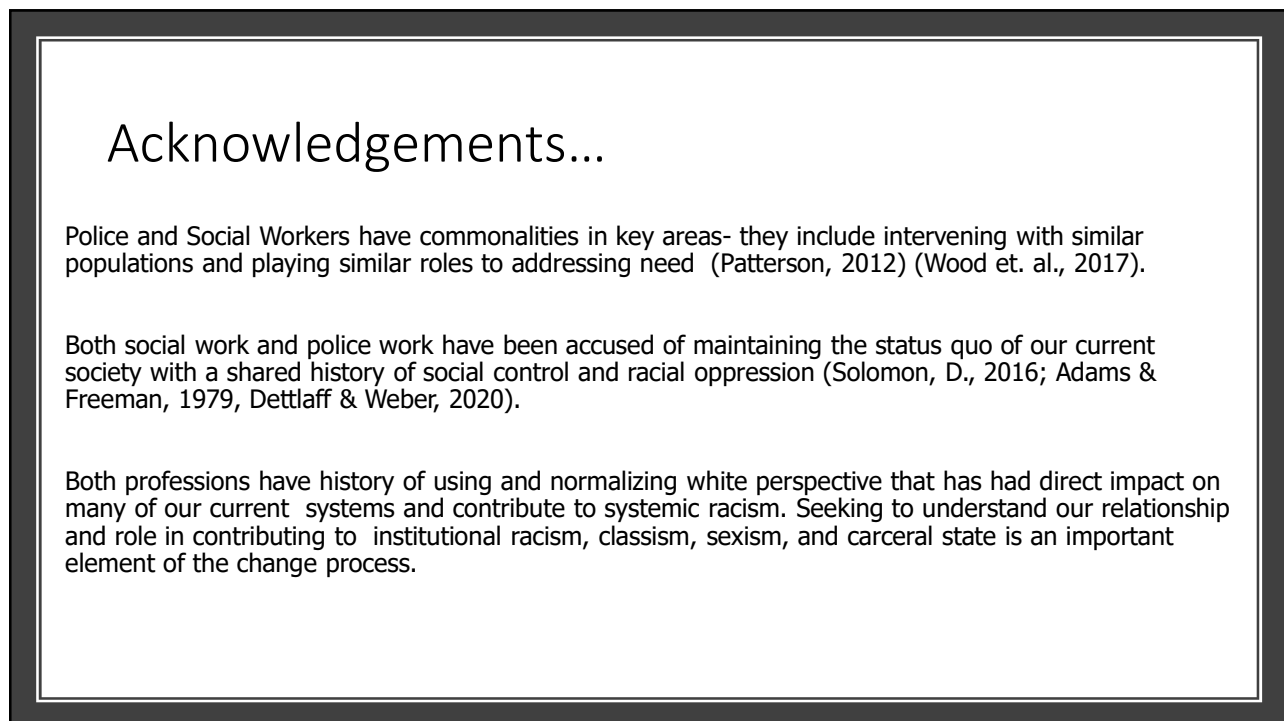
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YOU ARE PART OF THE BIG PICTURE OF THE PUZZLE!

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Learning Objective(s):

1. Participants will be able to describe the historical and present intersectionality and entwinement of law enforcement and social work.

2. Participants will be able to identify essential pre-field and ongoing practicum placement requirements for a law enforcement setting which can often have competing priorities and/or divergent goals from the profession of social work.

3. Participants will be able to identify current models and their impact/outcomes at the community and individual level.

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LET'S ADDRESS THE ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM

Historical and present racism across the criminal justice system

POLICE BRUTALITY

Social Work History- Policing of Families

SOCIAL CHANGE LEADERSHIP

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Acknowledgements…

Police and Social Workers have commonalities in key areas- they include intervening with similar populations and playing similar roles to addressing need (Patterson, 2012) (Wood et. al., 2017).

Both social work and police work have been accused of maintaining the status quo of our current society with a shared history of social control and racial oppression (Solomon, D., 2016; Adams & Freeman, 1979, Dettlaff & Weber, 2020).

Both professions have history of using and normalizing white perspective that has had direct impact on many of our current systems and contribute to systemic racism. Seeking to understand our relationship and role in contributing to institutional racism, classism, sexism, and carceral state is an important element of the change process.

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Shared history.......

- Police and Social Workers have traditionally worked with similar populations and in conjunction to address individual and community needs. (Patterson, 2012) (Wood et. al., 2017).

- People often call the police for intervention with issues associated with domestic violence, child abuse/maltreatment, mental health issues, and drug use/abuse (Lamin, and Teboh , 2016).

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What does the NASW say on this issue?

Reimagining Policing: Strategies for Community Reinvestment

NASW Social Justice Brief, October 2020

The nation is demanding an immediate review and overhaul of the role of law enforcement in maintaining public safety. Simply stated, the purview of policing can no longer be all-encompassing—certain functions currently carried out by the police should be assumed by other professional

https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=GjXJr6rDzss%3d&portalid=0

- Wilson, A., Wilson, M., & (NASW), N. (2020, October). Reimagining Policing: Strategies for Community Reinvestment Pre-Arrest Diversion; and Innovative Approaches to 911 Emergency Responses (Issue brief). Retrieved November 17, 2020, from National Association of Social Workers Social Justice Brief, website.

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Begins with a speech in 1919 by August Vollmer, "father of American policing"

Vollmer police chief at work around 1925. (Photos courtesy of retired Sgt. Michael J. Holland of the Berkeley Police Dept. Historical Unit)

- Speech- The **"Policeman as a Social Worker"** to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (Oliver, 2008).
- **Vollmer detailed a police and social service collaboration that he felt would work as a crime prevention strategy.**
- He coined the phrase "police social work" and "social police work" (Oliver, 2008).
- **Vollmer outlined those social problems he considered to be related to crime:**
  poverty, alcohol use, unemployment, illness, an inadequate home environment, as well as poor peer relationships (Patterson and Swan, 2019).
- Vollmer called for police to partner with churches, schools, hospitals, and community centers to address these social issues (Patterson and Swan, 2019).

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History of Police Social Work is the History of Female Police Officers…

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Women in Civil Rights: First black police officers with JPD

Eight women were hired on as school crossing guards at segregated schools.

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Social Work and Law Enforcement Models

- Numerous cities have taken steps to address public safety and health issues in their communities based on a working relationship between social work and police.

- Such programs exist in Austin, Texas, Los Angeles and Oakland, California, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Arlington, Virginia, Denver, Colorado, and many others (Vasilogambros,2020).

- Indiana- Griffith, Bloomington, Fort Wayne, St. Joseph County, W. Lafayette, Cedar Lake, Valparaiso, Crawfordsville

- Other States Include: Michigan, Kentucky, Utah, California, Connecticut (law passed that police and SW have to collaborate): Article

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Research on Social Work and Police Collaborations

- **2019 first extensive literature review of police social work and social service** collaborations meant to address social problems was completed (Patterson & Swan)

They reviewed 81 programs across 18 countries - found that:

- police social work collaborations primarily include work to address interpersonal violence, mental illness, crime, juvenile delinquency, alcohol and substance use, and abuse (Patterson and Swan, 2019).

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When it comes to placing students....

Many pieces to consider......

What is the impact on Field Education......

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PUZZLE PIECE ONE:
PLACEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Big Picture Considerations:

Vetting of Site- Doing your homework, ask questions, be aware of multiple layers and ranks of the site.

FIELD EDUCATION TEAM Considerations:
- Field Interviews
- Student Experience
- Goodness of fit

LAW ENFORCEMENT SITE Considerations:
- Start with the Chief/Person in Charge
- Political climate
- Climate and Culture of Site

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Insights From Those in the Field....

(Feedback from a social work police officer in Indiana)

Social Work Educators need to know that:

- "Students that are placed in a police department should learn how to use the skills they are being taught."

- "Students should see how life situations are handled, especially when it comes to mental health issues such as, suicide ideation, anxiety, bipolar, etc."

- "Along with documentation and data learning, students should have hands on experience."

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Insights From Those in the Field....

(Feedback from an African American social work police officer in Indiana)

"When a social worker works for a police department, you are unlimited in using your skills because you are not focused on one areas of social work. We are in the community at community events. We are on many community committees. We work with all nationalities, race, genders, economic levels, religious beliefs. We stay true to the Social Work Code of Ethics."

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Insights From Those in the Field

(Responses given by current social worker for a university police department)

What made you decide to work for a law enforcement department?

- "My desire was to be an advocate for change. Being a Public Safety Social Worker, this new subcategory of the social work profession allows me to advocate and be an agent for change in the law enforcement line of work. I have started building a bridge between the two professions and how they intertwine with the individuals we serve. I also met another social worker that works here. Their work and data proving the worth of their position inspired me."

- "The final portion is the ability to immediately aid individuals in crisis. I have a dispatch policy that allows me to respond to certain scenes/situations to provide immediate support and resources. I have the opportunity to aid individuals who are in crisis and support them through their journey. Also, I am creating a new experience for myself and others to (hopefully) model one day."

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Insights From Those in the Field

(Responses given by current social worker for a university police department)

What are some changes you have seen in your community/department since you started?

- "One significant change I have witnessed with the PD is the department's immediate consideration of my experience/expertise in Social Work. They truly value the work that I do and the things that I have to offer the department. They allow me to do wellness programming for officers, be a part of training that officers and cadets receive to deepen mental health knowledge, and respect the work I do for those we serve. They have also changed portions of their protocol because of my dispatch policy, allowing me to use my skills and intervene to provide alternative outlets for individuals experiencing a crisis."

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PUZZLE PIECE TWO:
THE PRACTICE MODEL- What will the practicum look like?

Big Picture Considerations:
- Consider and have conversations on what the practicum will look like?
- What will it entail?
- How will competencies be operationalized?
- What are other models that are being used in your area or those you can reach out to for information?

FIELD EDUCATION TEAM Considerations:
- Selection of Field Instructor, internal or external
- Who will provide support and mentoring?

LAW ENFORCEMENT SITE Considerations:
- Agreement on practice Model
- Who will provide support and mentoring?

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Not Sure Where to Start? Helpful questions to assist in vetting and design

Co-constructing Community Together

1. What problems can be identified in the community?

2. What will the community look like if these problems were solved?

3. What do we need to do to get there?

4. Who needs to be involved to get it started to co-creating community that is safe, healthy and benefits all?

5. What role does social work have in co-constructing community

- Maschi, T (2017). Reclaiming our Roots. Forensic Social Work Practice and Education as a Strategy to Promote Human Rights and Social Justice in Schools and Communities. Presentation GASSW.

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PUZZLE PIECE THREE:
THE OUTCOMES OF PRACTICUM

Big Picture Considerations:

- **Start with the end goal in mind- what is the goal for this practicum?**
- **How will success be defined and by who.**

FIELD EDUCATION TEAM Considerations:

- **Learning Plan Success**
- **Impact on Community**
- **Reflection on Model Used**
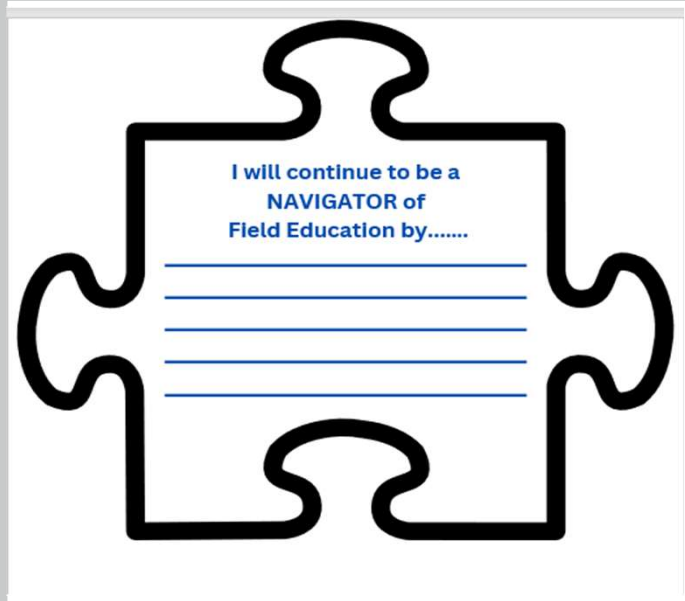- **Any changes in department**

LAW ENFORCEMENT SITE Considerations:

- **Impact on Community**
- **Impact on Calls**
- **Ongoing commitment to this work**

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In Session Field Discussion Activity.....

Feel Free to share your thoughts!!

I will continue to be a
NAVIGATOR of
Field Education by.......
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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TAKE OUR POST-TEST AS WE BRING THE PRESENTATION TO THE END

The **greatness of a community** is most accurately measured by the **compassionate actions** of its members.

—— Coretta Scott King ——

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Questions

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Contact Information

Serretta Brooke Gordon, MSSW

Interim MSW Program Director and Clinical Associate Professor for IU Southeast Campus

MSW Field Coordinator IU Bloomington Campus

Indiana University School of Social Work

Crestview Hall #036

4201 Grant Line Road

New Albany, Indiana 47150

sergordo@iupui.edu

Jennifer Hippie, LCSW, LCAC

Clinical Associate Professor of Field Instruction

Indiana University School of Social Work

MSW Direct Online Program

University Hall – IN AD 2020F

301 University Blvd

jhippie@iu.edu

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